

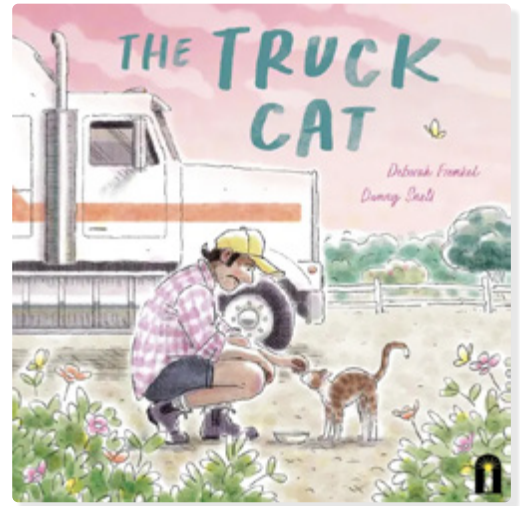
# THE TRUCK CAT

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## At home resource

### About the book

|                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Title               | <i>The Truck Cat</i>               |
| Author              | Deborah Frenkel                    |
| Illustrator         | Danny Snell                        |
| Publisher           | Hardie Grant Children's Publishing |
| Date of publication | 2024                               |
| ISBN                | 9781761215766                      |
| Category            | Picture book                       |
| Pages               | 32                                 |



### About this resource

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Suitable for         | Parents and caregivers  |
| Themes               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relationships</li><li>• Belonging</li><li>• Trucks</li><li>• Travel</li><li>• Friendship</li><li>• Immigration</li><li>• Identity</li><li>• Home</li></ul>  |
| General capabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Critical and creative thinking</li><li>• Intercultural understanding</li><li>• Literacy</li><li>• Personal and social capability</li></ul>  |
| Unit writer          | <p><b>Libby Baker</b> is a classroom teacher, teacher librarian, and literacy consultant. Her research and consultancy focuses on teaching functional grammar for critical literacy using multimodal texts in the primary years. Libby has taught across all age groups in the primary years during her 14 years of teaching, and has worked as a literacy and EAL/D specialist. She is currently a TL, a classroom teacher, and an ALEA ACT Local Council executive. © ALEA 2025</p> |

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Information Association

Hardie Grant  
CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING

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[readingaustralia@copyright.com](mailto:readingaustralia@copyright.com)

# Literature and context

## Connecting to prior knowledge

### Cat community walk

Before reading *The Truck Cat* with your child, go on a community walk around your neighbourhood and look for cats. While walking, ask your child about the cats they know. These might be their friends' or family members' cats, or ones they have seen in books, television shows, etc. Discuss how each of these cats might be different or similar.

Following this search for cats in your community, write a list of the cats you know, including their name (if known) and a distinctive trait. Use the template on the next page to record the cats and what makes them special. If you don't know the cat's name, write their distinctive trait. For example:

| What is its name? | What makes it special? |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Bob               | Loves pats             |
| Wookie            | Scared of people       |
| Street cat        |                        |
| Bell cat          |                        |
| Bird-chasing cat  |                        |

## Exploring the text in context of our community, school, and 'me'

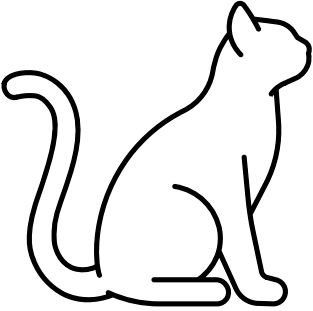
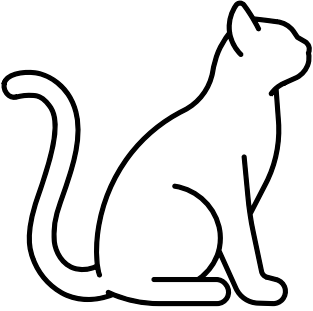
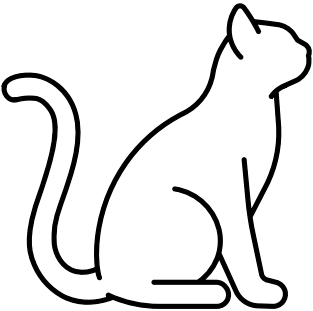
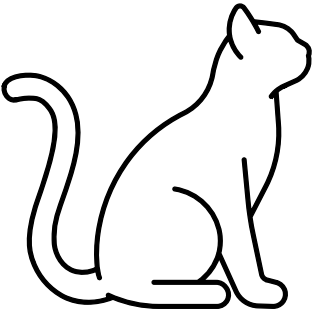
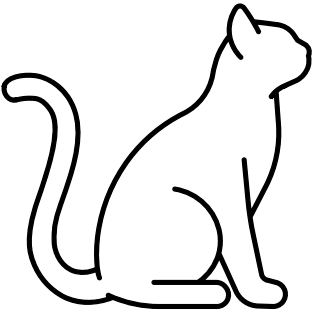
### Truck search

Take note of any trucks you and your child see while walking or driving in your community. Allow your truck sightings to become an opportunity to discuss the work of truck drivers. Ask your child questions such as:

- I wonder who is driving that truck?
- Where do you think that truck is going?
- Where do you think that truck has come from?
- What could be in that truck?
- Do you think that truck is driven by someone who lives close or far away from here?



## Template for cat community walk

| Colour the cat  | What is its name? | What makes it special? |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|
|    |                   |                        |
|   |                   |                        |
|  |                   |                        |
|  |                   |                        |
|  |                   |                        |



# Responding to literature

## Responding to the text

### Imagine the illustrations

Read *The Truck Cat* to your child. At different points throughout the story, ask them to close their eyes and imagine the illustrations that might accompany the words you are reading. After your child has imagined those pages, ask them to explain what they were picturing in their heads. Then reveal the illustrations to your child and point out what was similar and different to their imagination.

## Exploring plot, character, setting, and theme

### A map for Tinka

NOTE: For the purpose of tracking page numbers, the first page of the story is considered p. 3.

Make a map of Tinka's journey from Yacoub to Mari, using pp. 16–21 as a guide. Begin on p. 16, when Tinka leaves the truck to chase the butterfly, and draw the objects that he navigates until Mari rescues him (e.g. the rubbish bin, grass, fences, tree, houses, bridge, people, cars).

Reread pp. 16–21 with your child and, using a red pencil or pen, mark Tinka's route on your map. Note the prepositions in the text: 'over' and 'under'. Together, talk about Tinka's journey and think of other prepositions that provide clues about how he moves around obstacles. For example:

- across (the grass)
- onto (the bin)
- through (the fence)
- between (the legs)

Other prepositions you can choose from include:

|        |        |         |       |         |        |
|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------|--------|
| about  | above  | after   | along | among   | around |
| at     | before | behind  | below | beneath | beside |
| beyond | by     | down    | in    | inside  | into   |
| near   | on     | outside | over  | past    | toward |
| under  | until  | up      | upon  | with    |        |

# More resources

## About the book, author, and illustrator

- *The Truck Cat*:
  - » [Hardie Grant Children's Publishing](#)
- Deborah Frenkel:
  - » [Hardie Grant Children's Publishing](#)
  - » [Website](#)
  - » [Instagram](#)
  - » [Facebook](#)
  - » [Australia Reads](#)
- Danny Snell:
  - » [Hardie Grant Children's Publishing](#)
  - » [Website](#)
  - » [Instagram](#)

## Related texts

- *I'm Australian Too* by [Mem Fox](#), illus. Ronojoy Ghosh
- *My Two Blankets\** by Irena Kobald, illus. Freya Blackwood
- *Teacup\** by Rebecca Young, illus. Matt Ottley
- *Songbird\** by Ingrid Laguna
- *Way Home\** by Libby Hathorn, illus. Gregory Rogers
- *Stay for Dinner* by Sandhya Parappukaran, illus. Michelle Pereira
- *Words That Taste Like Home* by Sandhya Parappukaran, illus. Michelle Pereira

## Books about special friendships with animals

### Lower primary (F–2)

- *Come Down, Cat!\** by Sonya Hartnett, illus. Lucia Masciullo
- *John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat\** by Jenny Wagner, illus. Ron Brooks
- *Boss Cat* by Sarah Speedie, illus. Tom Jellett
- *When Billy Was a Dog* by [Kirsty Murray](#), illus. Karen Blair
- *Eat My Dust!* by Neridah McMullin, illus. Lucia Masciullo

### Upper primary (3–6)

- *Loyal Creatures\** by Morris Gleitzman
- *Fog a Dox\** by Bruce Pascoe

\* Reading Australia resource available

