

Oh, the Pets You Can Get!

by Tish Rabe

An award-winning television producer and writer takes us off to the faraway land of Gerpletz where they know quite a lot about caring for pets – especially cats, dogs, guinea pigs, birds, and bunnies!



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How many of you have to care and feed your pet?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if the Cat in the Hat really has all those pets?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Oh, the Pets You Can Get!*

- canary: a small yellow songbird
- detergent: a chemical substance, either a liquid or a powder, that is used to clean things
- expert: a person who knows a lot about one special thing
- hutch: a house for rabbits or other small animals
- parakeet: a small parrot with a long, pointed tail and bright feathers
- patience: the ability to react calmly to mistakes or delays
- shelter: a place where an animal who is lost or doesn't have a home can stay
- tangled: knotted together in a twisted mess
- understanding: the ability to feel and show sympathy
- veterinarian: a doctor who treats animals

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is the name of the faraway land with lots of pets?
- What was the name of the first place they visited in Gerpletz? Have you ever been to a pet park?
- Why did Gerpletz not let the pets play with string?
- What do Guinea pigs like to play on? Do you or have you ever had a Guinea pig?
- Where did the pets go to eat? Finer Pet Diner?
- What kind of food do birds eat? Do any of you have a bird?
- What should you do if your pet gets lonely? Do you have more than one pet? How many?
- When is a kitten called a cat? How should you carry your kitten/cat?
- Why do cats purr?
- What kind of rabbit has only floppy ears?
- Can you tell me which canary sings? The male (boy) or female (girl)?
- What kind of animal requires little space? Guinea pigs?
- When you go on vacation, who do you get to care for your pet(s)?
- What should you always do after you have cleaned the bird cage, changed the kitty litter box?
- Should pets eat your houseplants? Why not?
- If possible, where should you go to find a new pet?
- How often should you take your pet to the vet? Why?
- Why should you take your time in deciding if you want a pet or not?



Do

Field Trip to an Animal Shelter

Take the children on a field trip to an animal shelter to observe how the pets are fed, bathed, exercised, etc.