

Ready to Read Update May 2019

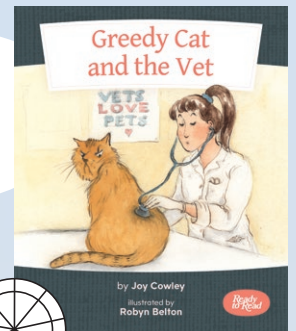
Further adventures of Greedy Cat! Five new books for guided reading

The Ministry of Education is delighted to bring you five new Greedy Cat books by Joy Cowley and Robyn Belton. As well as the shared book *Greedy Cat*, there is now a Greedy Cat story for guided reading at every level of the colour wheel.

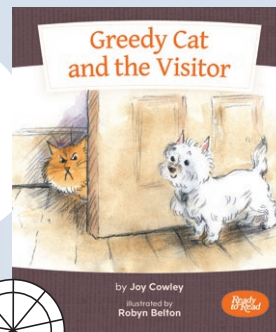


These entertaining and humorous stories continue to explore Greedy Cat's antics with an expanded range of characters. All Ready to Read books are trialled in schools before publication. Here are some teachers' comments about these engaging new books.

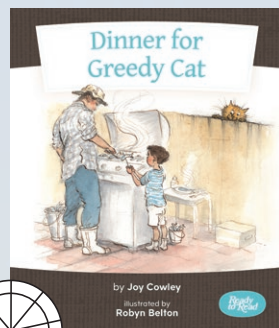
The children thought it was really funny when he reached for the rat, and they liked the sign that said "VETS LOVE PETS".



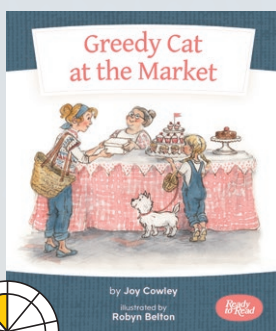
The dog in the bag was hilarious. And Greedy Cat's face is priceless. The students inferred how he was feeling and had fun predicting what he might do about the situation. Lovely to see the students bouncing ideas off each other and starting to discuss the plot.



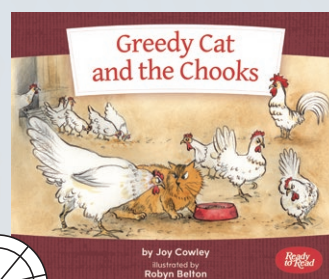
The students thought it was a fantastic text – their eyes lit up, and they pored over the illustrations and the story.



This text lends itself so well to visualising. There are some great words and phrases that help build a really clear image. A very good text for making links to writing.



Loved it. So rich. Lots of great teaching points and a well-loved character.



The students relished the descriptive language – one child said that she liked how Joy Cowley put "wow" words in it, and another said she just loved the word "furious".

Developing readers

Having five more books about the same character provides an opportunity to demonstrate the changes in text features that help students develop expected reading behaviours from Green to Gold. Across these levels, the stories become longer and more complex, often including literary language, with more text per page and less support from illustrations. There is a greater variety of sentence structures requiring students to attend to punctuation, linking words, and the overall context of the sentence or paragraph to track ideas and clarify meaning. These Greedy Cat stories provide opportunities for students to strengthen and consolidate their reading processing systems, build vocabulary and a love of language, and develop “stamina” in reading longer, more complex texts. They support students to develop as “confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners” (*The New Zealand Curriculum*, 2007, page 7).

The new adventures

Greedy Cat and the Vet (Green 2)

It’s time for Greedy Cat to go to the vet for his check-up and flu injection, but he’s not happy about it and makes his feelings known!

Greedy Cat and the Visitor (Orange 1)

When Nan comes to stay, she brings her little dog Poppy with her. Poppy is yappy and bouncy and wants to play with Greedy Cat, but Greedy Cat is not interested. His back goes up, his tail goes up, and his claws come out. How will Greedy Cat cope with this visitor?

Dinner for Greedy Cat (Turquoise 1)

Delicious smells are wafting over the fence from the barbecue next door, and Greedy Cat just can’t resist ...

Greedy Cat and the Chooks (Purple 1)

Katie and Greedy Cat visit Aunty, who insists that Greedy Cat must stay outside with the chooks. This proves to be a big problem for Greedy Cat, a problem he is determined to overcome.

Greedy Cat at the Market (Gold 1)

When Greedy Cat decides to join Katie, Mum, and Poppy the dog at the market, the result is chaos!

Teacher support material (TSM) and audio

All five books are accompanied by TSM and audio versions. The Ready to Read TSM describe key text features and provide suggestions for how teachers can support students to develop expected reading behaviours.

The TSM and audio versions are available at www.readytoread.tki.org.nz



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