

The logo for 'The Cat in the Hat' features the character's iconic red and white striped hat positioned above the title. The title 'THE CAT IN THE HAT' is rendered in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font with a slight 3D effect, set against a solid teal background.

THE CAT IN THE HAT

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The Cat in the Hat character is depicted on the left side of the page. He is a tall, slender black cat with a white belly, wearing his signature red and white striped hat and a red bow tie. He is standing on his hind legs, leaning forward with one hand on his hip and the other pointing upwards, looking towards the viewer with a wide, toothy grin.

Discussion Guide for Young People, Families, and Mentors

THE CAT IN THE HAT

Only in Theaters

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Welcome, and thank you for exploring the world of *The Cat in the Hat* with us.

This movie is a fresh take on the playful and slightly mischievous Cat in the Hat. The Cat, an employee at the Institute for the Institution of Imagination and Inspiration, LLC, seeks to lift his clients' spirits by helping them discover the things they love. The Cat is faced with a challenging case, one that might also force him to lose his job and magical hat if he does not succeed. On this adventure, as The Cat brings play and wonder to two disheartened children, he teaches us all to play, lift up others, and practice resilience through problem solving.

Movies like *The Cat in the Hat* help us see ourselves, others, and the world around us in new ways. Through the discussion, prompts and turnkey activities in this guide you can connect with the lessons and themes in *The Cat in the Hat*.

How to use this guide:

Each section in this guide highlights a key theme and character(s) from *The Cat in the Hat* and is divided into two parts: **Connect** and **Create**.



Connect

Includes questions you can use to engage in meaningful conversations to understand elements of the movie.

Create

Includes a fun activity that brings action to the concepts unpacked in Connect.



Feel free to complete a full section or pick and choose the discussions and activities that speak to you. You can share the fun by asking someone in your life, like a friend or family member, to complete these discussions and activities with you. Most importantly, we hope these ideas inspire you to bring the joyous spirit of The Cat to life.

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The Cat and His Hat

The Cat in the Hat's greatest strength is his ability to cheer up those in their saddest times through his playful spirit. His positivity helps others see the upside to tough times and rediscover the things they love.

Connect

Use the questions below to talk about and find personal connections to The Cat in the Hat.

- In the beginning of *The Cat in the Hat*, how do Gabby and Sebastian feel about moving to a new neighborhood, and why do they feel that way?
- How does The Cat in the Hat try to help them see their situation and their mom in a positive light?
- Think about a time when someone in your life was feeling sad and you tried to help them feel better.
 - Who did you cheer up, and why were they sad or upset?
 - What things did you try to do to help them feel better? Do you have a strength, like The Cat's endless sense of play, that you used to do this?
 - If you can't recall a time when you cheered someone up, do you have a special skill like The Cat's playful nature that you could use to bring someone joy?



Create

Find your own special way to spread joy, just like The Cat in the Hat.

- During the movie, The Cat pulls out many fun objects from his giant red and white striped hat like confetti, animals, games, and balloons. These objects fit perfectly with The Cat's playful nature. Now imagine you have a magical hat full of endless objects just like the Cat.
 - What would your hat look like? Maybe it's covered with your favorite shapes and colors.
 - Who in your life would you like to help cheer up or bring more happiness to?
 - What are strengths you possess that could help someone feel better?
 - What are objects connected to your strengths that you could use to help the person you want to cheer up?
 - Use the worksheet on the next page or a blank piece of paper to draw a picture of the outside of your hat. Feel free to cover it with all your favorite shapes and colors. Then draw and/or write all the things you would keep in your hat to help people feel good.



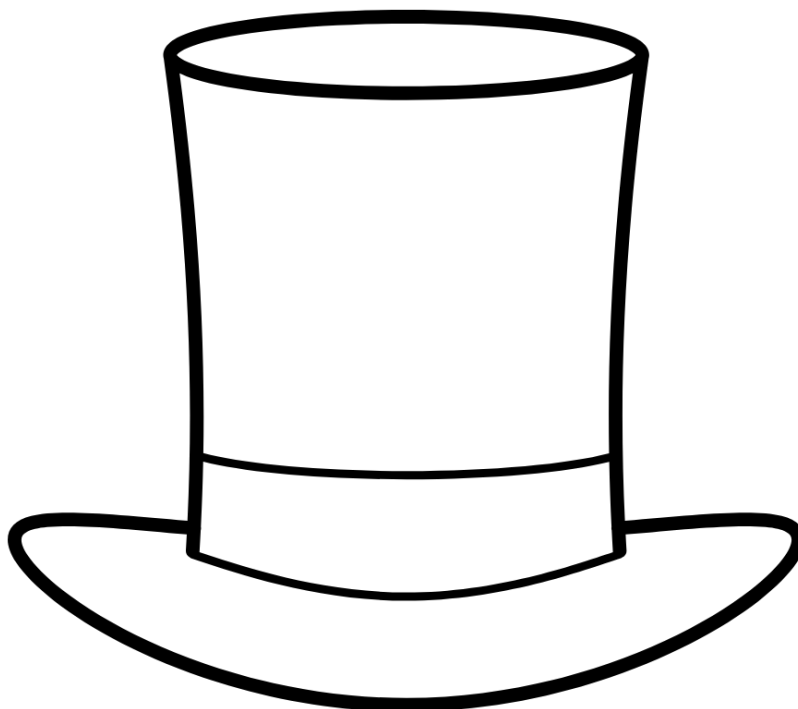
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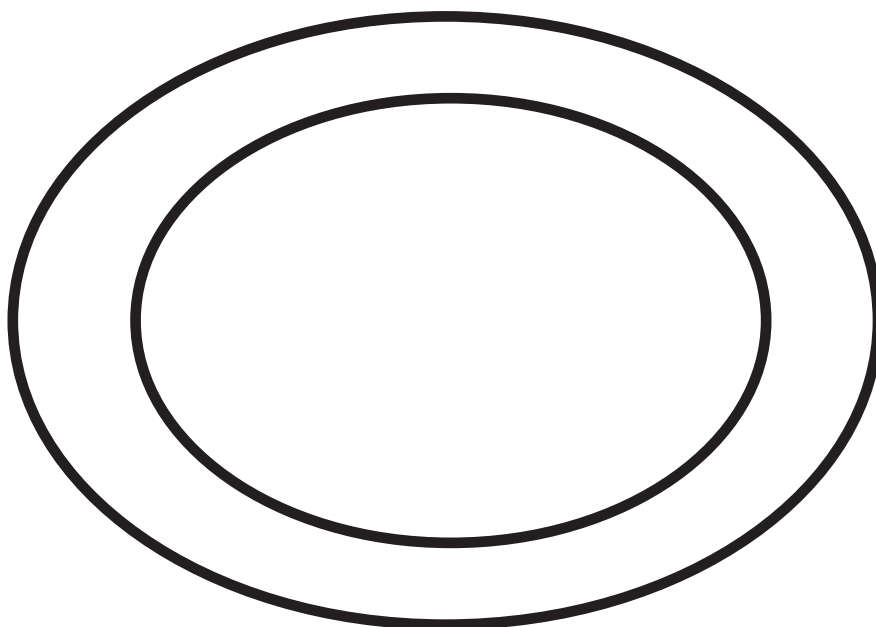
Young
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The Cat and His Hat

Use this hat guide or use a blank piece of paper to create your own hat!



The outside of your hat



The inside of your hat



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Discovery Box



In the movie, The Cat takes Gabby and Sebastian on an amazing adventure by going through moving boxes full of personal objects. This adventure helps them relive some of their favorite memories, reminds them of the things they love, and allows them to learn new things about their mom, Carmen.

Connect

Use the questions below to better understand and connect with what Gabby and Sebastian discover in their boxes.

- Think about the objects Gabby and Sebastian saw in their mom's box.
 - What objects did they expect to see in their mom's box?
 - What objects did they find in their mom's box that surprised them?
 - What did they learn about their mom?
- Think about a time when you learned something that surprised you about someone you thought you knew.
 - What did you think you knew about this person? What words would you use to describe them?
 - What did you learn about them, and why did it surprise you? Did it change the way you saw them?

Create

Use your imagination to create your own special box of meaningful objects.

- If you were filling a box with 3-5 meaningful objects, what would you put in it?
 - Think about things that are important to you and things you enjoy doing. What are objects that represent those things? Write the items down and why they're important to you on the following worksheet.
 - Now, think about what the important people in your life know about you. What on your list do they already know are important to you?
 - Is there anything on this list that might surprise someone who knows you? If there isn't, add something to your list that you don't think most people know about you but you wish they did.
- On the same worksheet or a blank piece of paper, write down or draw all the important things you'd put in your box of memories on the outside of the box. On the inside of the box, write down the reasons why those objects are important to you.
 - When you finish, share your drawing with the person or people you're doing this guide with. Look over each other's objects and take turns sharing one item in the other person's box that you already know they care about and how you know that about them.
 - Take turns sharing something in the box that surprised you and what that object taught you about the other person.



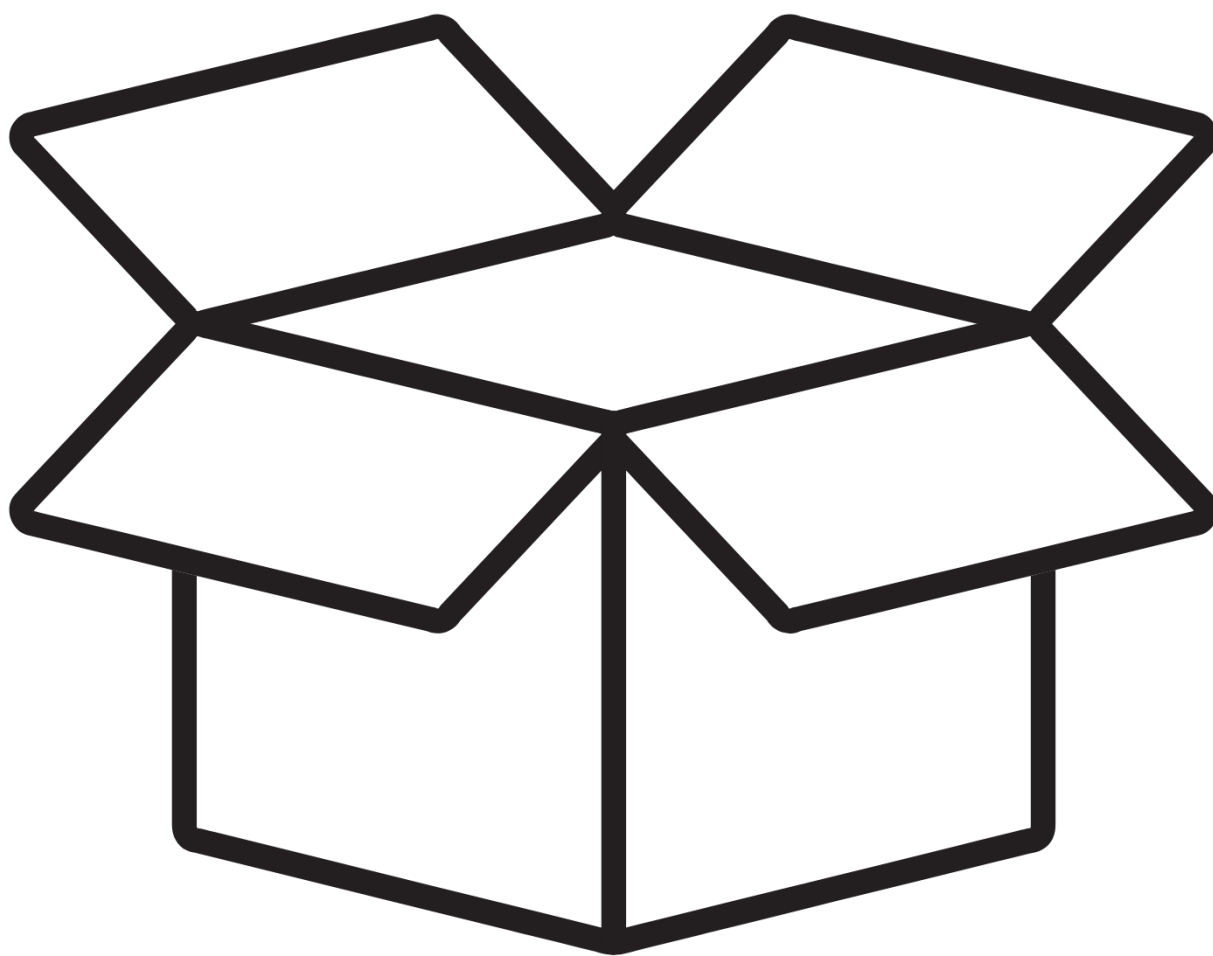
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Discovery Box

On the outside of this box, write down or draw all the important things you'd put in your box of memories. On the inside of the box, write down the reasons why those objects are important to you.



Room Rules



The Cat is a bit of a rule breaker, but he always accomplishes the thing that's most important to him: helping people discover what makes them happy. When Carmen, Gabby, and Sebastian move into their new apartment, their landlady, Patty, tells them a list of rules they have to follow: "no pets, no noises, no parties, no going on fire escapes, no scented or regular candles."

Connect

Use the questions below to unpack some rules you've been told and what they mean to you.

- Why are rules important? How do they help keep us safe and show us the best ways to treat others?
- What are 5-10 rules you've been told to follow by teachers, parents, and/or other adults in your life?
- What are 3-5 rules you have been told that seemed really important and why?

Create

Create your own important "room rule."

- Come up with one rule that represents how you think people should treat others and how you want to be treated.
- Create a sign for your rule on the following worksheet or a blank piece of paper.
 - Write down the rule in the space below.
 - Sketch a simple image that represents your rule, like how a crossing sign shows a simple image of people crossing the street.
 - Share your sign with the person you're doing this guide with. Discuss the rule you picked and why you think it's important.
 - Optional: Hang your sign in your own space, like your bedroom or a special place.



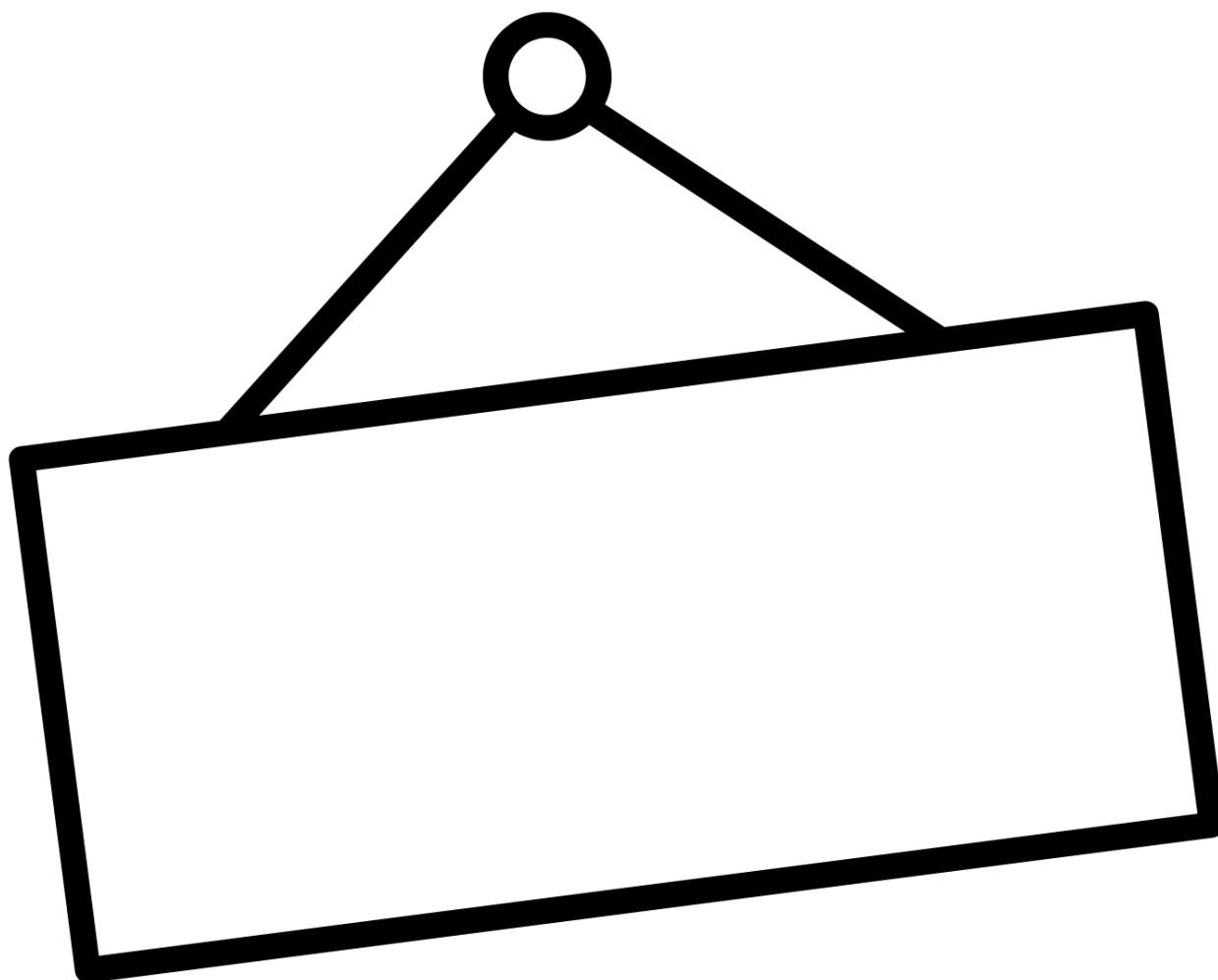
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Room Rules

Create a sign for your rule on this worksheet.



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Moving Forward: Beyond The Go-Backer

Throughout *The Cat in the Hat*, Gabby is upset about moving to a new neighborhood and wants to go back to her old home and school. She refuses to see any good in her new surroundings and spends much of the movie looking for The Go-Backer, a magic watch that can turn back time, so she can go back to a happier time.



Connect

Use the questions below to connect with how Gabby felt during the movie.

- Have you ever experienced a time when you felt like Gabby?
- What was happening at that time that made you feel sad?
- Did something or someone help you feel better?
- If you didn't have something that made you feel better at that time, what do you think could have helped you in that moment?



Create

Create an image that represents how you were able or could have been able to bounce back from a tough moment in your life.

- Think about the thing that helped (or could have helped) you feel better. If you had to create one image that represents that thing, what would it be? Gabby's love of playing music helped her feel better, so she might draw a trumpet (the instrument she plays) if she was doing this activity.
- Use the following worksheet or a blank piece of paper to draw your image.
- What's a phrase or short sentence that represents how that object helped you feel better? Write it below your drawing. After Gabby reconnected with her love of music, she was also able to connect more with her family and friends. If she was doing this activity, her phrase might be "Music Connects Us All."
- Take turns sharing your artwork with the person you're doing this activity with. After sharing, discuss what you learned from your partner's drawing and phrase and how you can continue to find joy with your object if you're ever in a tough moment again.



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Moving Forward: Beyond The Go-Backer

Draw an image that represents how you were able or could have been able to bounce back from a tough moment in your life.



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