



Kat McGee and The School of Christmas Spirit

By Rebecca Munsterer

CHAPTER 1

Vocabulary Words: companionship, reinvent, coveted, deliberation, bribe, devastation

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Kat get her unfortunate nickname? _____

Have you ever been given a nickname? _____

If so, what was it, and how did it make you feel? _____

2. Why did Kat feel that she was just average? _____

3. How did Kat plan to reinvent herself? _____

4. How do you think Kat felt when she wasn't chosen for the part of Mary? _____

5. Kat thinks the pageant was rigged. What do you think, and why? _____

6. Who taught Gram about the wonders of cinnamon? _____

Activities:

Create a family tree for Kat McGee. Include her grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, and pets.

Kat's brothers and sisters say and do some very hurtful things to her, when they could have supported their sister. Write a paragraph explaining why it is so important to support your siblings and closest friends, especially when they are going through difficult times. Give examples of how you can show your support.

Use the instructions below to make your very own, original snow globe.

YOU'LL NEED:

Small clean jar with a lid (baby food or condiment jars are good choices)

A piece of sandpaper

Small plastic figures or waterproof decorative objects that will fit in the jar

Hot glue gun or super glue

Distilled or bottled water

Glycerin (available at drug stores or craft stores)

Glitter

Colored electrical tape (optional)

1. Remove the lid from the jar and lightly sand the inside of the top.
2. Position figures on the lid.
3. Glue in place. Let dry.
4. Fill jar about 7/8 full with water. Add 3-4 drops of glycerin.
5. Add 2-3 teaspoons of glitter.
6. Close jar.
7. Glue closed or seal with electrical tape.
8. Lightly shake and smile.

CHAPTER 2

Vocabulary Words: fidgety, tousled, rehabilitate, disposition, distinguished, jealousy, greed, commence, reconvene

Discussion Questions:

1. When Kat awakes, who is there to greet her and where is she? _____

2. Who is Scoogie? _____

3. What are The Four Tenets of Spirit? _____

4. What do the children have to do in order to graduate from the School of Christmas Spirit? _____

Activities:

The School of Christmas Spirit educated some of the finest world leaders: Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa, and Barry Manilow. Research each of these leaders and list 5 things that they did to impact the world.

Draw a picture of the Earth, and illustrate what you think the North Pole and the “S” word look like, based on the information in this chapter. Include as many details as you can.

CHAPTER 3

Vocabulary List: warily, chortled, relentlessly, potential, malfunction, anecdotes, myriad, perplexed

Discussion Questions:

1. On the way to Nicholas Hall, Kat talked with her new friends Jackson and Jillian, who each envied something that she had. What did they envy, and why? _____

2. Why did Kat admire Mrs. Claus so much? _____

3. According to Mrs. Claus, what is the definition of **worthiness**? _____

4. What is The Photo Booth of Potential? _____

5. What did The Photo Booth of Potential tell Kat about her future? _____

Activities:

Create your own candyfruit. Combine your favorite fruit and your favorite candy and list the vitamins and benefits that it possesses, just as Chip did when he was serving Kat breakfast. Design your own packaging and present it to your class, or family.

Follow the recipe in the back of the book to bake the original candyfruit served to Kat in the North Pole.

CHAPTER 4

Vocabulary List: infirmary, distinguishing, gingerly, ostentatiously, relentless, intuition

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think Kat felt when she pressed the “X” button for her own brother, Abe?

2. Why did Kat stand up to Mr. Nickel, and tell him that she didn’t want to classify the boys and girls as “naughty” or “nice” anymore? _____

3. According to Mr. Nickel, why did Kat pass the Tenet of Wisdom? _____

4. Use context clues to write the definition for the word **wisdom**. _____

Activities:

Kat didn’t think it was fair to label people based on a ten-second video, and stood up for what she believed in. Choose something that you have observed in your life (at home, at school, or elsewhere) that you don’t think is fair. Write an argument for why it isn’t fair, and create a new system, or approach, that would make it fair.

CHAPTER 5

Vocabulary List: emitted, permeated, stifle, intimidating, distinctly, savory, confirmation, disheartened

Discussion Questions:

1. According to Mrs. Claus, what does the word **wonder** mean? _____

2. What mistake led Gram to create one of her most delicious meals? _____

3. Do you think there is something wrong with Santa, and do you think he will be okay?

4. What do you predict will happen in the next chapter? _____

Activities:

Design your own Christmas cookie. Follow Mrs. Claus' instructions on page 48.

CHAPTER 6

Vocabulary List: diverse, magnitude, innovating, interjected

Discussion Questions:

1. What is inside building ABCD? _____

2. According to Mrs. Claus, what is the definition of the word **whimsy**? _____

3. The Whimsy Elf concluded his presentation by saying, “ Now, boys and girls, always continue dreaming and exploring, creating and innovating. For the magic of toys is the magic of the imagination.” What do you think this means? _____

4. Would you want to receive a Blob over a boomerang, or a stuffed animal? Why, or why not? _____

Activities:

Kat donated her leftover Salted Cinna-Water-Nana cookies to the “Save the North Pole Penguin” food bank. Research local charities, and choose one that you would like to donate to.

Choose a toy, or design your own, that reflects your unique personality. Present it to your class, or family, and explain why you chose that particular toy.

CHAPTER 8

Vocabulary List: insightful, stamina, drastic, adjacent, dismal, commemorative, encapsulated, auspicious, meddling, embezzlement, accusation

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the bad news that Mrs. Claus shares with all of the students? _____

2. Why was Jackson chosen to light the official Christmas Tree of the Joy Jubilee? _____

3. When Scoogie presents the new sled to Santa and explains what has been arranged, how does it make you feel about him? _____

4. When Kat went looking for tissues, what did she find instead? _____

5. When Kat figured out what the passcode for the Red Sled meant, she knew what she had to do. What gave her the confidence to be able to speak up? _____

6. Why do you think Scoogie would do all of the mean things that are discovered in Chapter 8? _____

Activities:

When studying the reindeer, Kat realized that each had unique strengths and differences that made the entire pack stronger. Study your family, record each family member's strengths and differences, and describe how these strengths and differences make your family stronger.

Host your own Joy Jubilee. Set up various game booths, play music, have a craft table, and serve baked goods and hot cocoa to your friends and family to celebrate the season.

Draw a picture of what you think the Red Sled 450-FX looks like.

CHAPTER 9 - CHAPTER 12

Vocabulary List: camaraderie, instincts, determination, banished, delicacy, revelry, defensively

Discussion Questions:

1. Prancer had always been embarrassed by his extra-long antlers. Have you ever been embarrassed by one of your physical traits? If so, what is it, and write down one reason it is a good trait to have. _____

2. What do you imagine it would be like if Santa asked you to join him on Christmas Eve to deliver all of the gifts to the good boys and girls? _____

3. What surprise breakfast did Gram bring to Kat on Christmas morning? _____

What do you think this means? _____

4. What made the North Pole snow globe that Kat got for Christmas magic? _____

5. What do you think Kat learned about herself from her Christmas adventure in the North Pole? _____

Activities:

Complete **Kat McGee's Special Christmas Activities for Families** found in the back of the book.

For more educational and character-building activities, visit beanoblekid.org