



Who Needs a Boyfriend?

Author Gérard Moncombe / Illustrations Frédéric Pillot / 32 pages / Book Series Coco the Cat

Objectives

- To enjoy and understand the main plot as well as the sub-plot of the story.
- To demonstrate understanding of a variety of words and expressions used throughout the story by using them in related activities.
- To be able to write short sentences and simple conversation exchanges to demonstrate understanding of the story.

Word bank

Key vocabulary

Nouns: spring, flower, butterflies, Sun, photo, boyfriend, basket, mess, body guard, school bag, friend, tail

Verbs: skip, jump, insult, agree, trap, laugh, look after

Adjectives: ridiculous

Key structures

I love spring

I feel happy!

What's wrong with them, today?

Do I *really* need a boyfriend?

Where are we going?

Expressions

A waste of space

Green with jealousy

What a mess!

Tips and ideas

Before reading

- **So do I!** Make a list of things from the story that Coco or one of the main characters like to do. Explain to the students that they just have to listen to the list and when they like the same thing as the character they say, "So do I!" and if they don't, then they should stay silent. For example:

Coco likes spring. (So do I)

Pasha likes Coco. (So do I)

Coco and Pasha like to sit on the rooftop. (Silence)

Jack Sardine likes to eat fish. (?)

Coco feels happy. (?)

During reading

- **Student transcriber:** Explain what a transcriber does and what a transcript is to the class. Ask one student to stand at the board.

Play the first part of the story on the CD ("Love at first sight"). Explain to the class that they are going to hear a part of the story and that their objective is to tell the class transcriber what to write on the board.

The class will try to help the transcriber to write an exact transcript with correct spelling and punctuation.

They can ask you to pause the recording and replay it as many times as they like.

After reading

Easy love poem formula: Divide the class into groups of 6 to 8 students. Ask them to write a sentence that begins, "Love is..." The students read their sentences to the others in their group. The sentences are then ordered in a sequence that the entire group likes. A volunteer from each group reads the "poem" out loud to the class.

Other subjects: "Happiness is..." "Friendship is..."

Teacher support activities

Great Games: "Crocodile"

- Divide the class into 3 or 4 groups.
- Write the names of the characters in the story on slips of paper; Mum, Dad, Susan, Coco, Jack Sardine, Tommy the Flea, Benny the Bin, and Betsy.
- One at a time, each group picks a slip of paper. The other groups ask questions to try to guess which character the group has.
- The group that has the name of a character can only answer the questions with Yes or No. For example: Is it a human? Is it an animal? Does she like biscuits?
- The group that guesses the character first, gets to pick the next slip of paper.

CLIL link: Arts and Crafts

- Show the class a calendar and read out the months. Elicit the four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Encourage students to describe the seasons. For example: It's hot. We go to the beach.
- Now write the four seasons on the board and draw a tree. Ask questions such as "Have trees got green leaves in winter?" "Have trees got flowers in spring?"
- Students can draw trees in their notebooks showing the changes in different seasons. Write some sentences on the board to help them label these pictures. For example: This is a tree in spring. It has got flowers. This is a tree in summer. It has fruit. This is a tree in autumn. The leaves are brown. They are falling from the tree. This is a tree in winter. It hasn't got green leaves. It is snowing.

English theatre: "A very important question"

Pasha: It's a beautiful night! Look at the full moon!

Coco: It's soooo purrfect Pasha.

Pasha: I like sitting here in the moonlight.

Coco: So do I Pasha, so do I.

Pasha: Coco, I wanted to ask you a question.

Coco: Really? What is it?

Pasha: It's very important.

Coco: You can ask me anything.

Pasha: Well, I just wanted to know....

Coco: Yes, Pasha?

Pasha: Which ice cream do you like best? Chocolate or vanilla?

Coco: *(Silence)*

Pasha: Hey! Wait Coco! Where are you going?

