Continue activities following the story – A Tale of Two Cats



By: **O. Hillel**
Illustrations: **Shimrit Elkanati**
Publisher: מודן וספריית נח
Age Group: **Preschool (3-5)**

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Family Activities

• Flip through the pages of the book with your child and look closely at the delightful illustrations by Shimrit Elkanati. Is this how you had envisioned the cats in the poem? You and your child can draw your own cats and make a special family version of the book.

• Using old socks, fabric and buttons, you can make hand puppets to enact the story – once using your own words, and once reciting the rhyming verses of the original poem.

• The poem is set in rhyme and is easy to recite. Your child can try to learn the words by heart and recite it out loud to you.

• Did you ever want to be like someone else? Did you perhaps dream of hair of a different color or more or less curly, or wish to be taller or shorter? After reading the poem, you can dress up in costume and try to experience looking like someone else. After this game, you could discuss with your child the beauty and beloved traits of everyone in your family, and encourage your child to be happy with who they are.

• You can explain the meaning of the saying “May the honor of your friend be as

precious to you as your own" and discuss friendship. Who are your friends? Do you argue at times? How do you reconcile? Together you can draw two pictures: one picture showing friends arguing, and the other depicting the reconciliation.

• When the cats in the poem are offended, their fur stands on end and they arch their backs, and they stop talking to one another. You might talk with your children about feeling offended. How can we tell if we offended a friend or family member? What can we do when this happens? And how should we respond if somebody insults or offends us?

• Do your children know any other poems or stories by O. Hillel? The poem "A Tale of Two Cats" also appears in an anthology of his poems by the same name, accompanied by illustrations by Alona Frankel. You might look for the book at home or in the library, compare the illustrations in the two versions and enjoy reading together all the poems in the anthology.