

Miss Kitty: The Republican Cat Puppet and Tea Party

Lesson One

from “Miss Kitty: The Republican Cat” by Susanna Lohse

For this lesson, you will need the following puppets (see cutouts at the end of this lesson plan). They can be printed out and glued to popsicle sticks.

1. Miss Kitty (puppet) leads everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic,
for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

2. The teacher reads the introduction to “Miss Kitty: The Republican Cat.”

Introduction

Miss Kitty’s troubles began when lobbyists who represented two Liberal special interests groups—those being the animal rights activists and the anti-gun movement—wined and dined enough members of Congress to pass a new law: the National Mandatory Indoor Cat Act of 2008.

It was based on the premise that the claws of cats were dangerous to small animals, and in the opinion of the anti-gun lobby, qualified as lethal weapons. And it mandated that by December 31, 2008, every cat owner in America would be required to keep their cats indoors, at all times, with penalties and fines to those who were caught breaking the law.

In the early stages, the anti-gun lobby had wanted a law mandating that all cats ought to have their claws surgically removed, however, the animal rights activists disagreed, and thus a compromise to keep cats indoors was reached.

After Miss Kitty organized a protest that drew national attention to this law, she was brought before Congress to testify in front of the House Too-American Activities Committee (HTAC) to testify under oath for what the committee considered to be Miss Kitty’s “too American” behavior.

The Chairwoman of HTAC, and a co-author of the above mentioned legislation, Congresswoman Fishycrat, stated in a press conference: “Although there will be some necessary sacrifice on the part of cats and their owners, in the interest of the collective greater good, and saving the planet, we feel—in this post-Modern era of wisdom—in order to protect smaller wild birds and animals, and cats, themselves, that all cats ought to be kept indoors.”

For three weeks, Miss Kitty was questioned by the committee. The entirety of her questioning takes up over five volumes of one thousand pages each. However, the following excerpts contain the most important points and should give the reader a good idea of Miss Kitty’s harrowing experience.

Of course, Miss Kitty is no ordinary cat and she took it upon herself to organize protests. In America, citizens still have a right to protest laws they don’t like. Nevertheless, Congress saw fit to have Miss Kitty brought in for questioning, so Miss Kitty made the long trip from Sugar Land, Texas to Washington D.C.

3. Miss Kitty explains what happened in these first two excerpts: On my first day in front of the committee, I was asked many questions, like what my name was and where I lived. As you will see, I knew from those first questions that my time in front of the committee wasn’t going to be easy.

4. Re-enact Excerpts One and Two using the puppet cut-outs above.

Excerpt One

Teacher reads introduction:

The questioning of Miss Kitty did not begin on the first day until well after two o'clock in the afternoon. One committee member, Congressman Kraftycrat, was delayed by a personal emergency. It took place in a committee room of the Cannon House Office Building on the grounds of the United States Capitol.

Committee members present: Representatives Wranglycrat, Hippocrat, and Gatorcrat, along with Representatives Fishycrat (Chairwoman), and Kraftycrat, a quorum of the full committee.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Before we begin, I would like to warn all press members and photographers not to disturb us in any way, or I will have you removed. Miss Kitty, are you ready to proceed?

Miss Kitty: Yes, Miss Fishycrat.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: That's Madam Chairwoman to you.

Miss Kitty: Please accept my apology, Madam Chairwoman.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Will you please state your name for the record?

Miss Kitty: Miss Kitty.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: That's K-I-T-T-Y?

Miss Kitty: That's right.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Miss Kitty, where were you born?

Miss Kitty: Sugar Land, Texas.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: And you still reside in Sugar Land, Texas?

Miss Kitty: That's right.

Congressman Wranglycrat: I'm sorry to interrupt, Madam Chairman, er, Chairwoman, but I have one question for Miss Kitty before you get started.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: That's fine, Congressman Wranglycrat. Go ahead.

Congressman Wranglycrat: Miss Kitty, I can't help but notice that you are purple. Is there a reason for you being purple?

Miss Kitty: I'll be glad to answer that, Congressman Wranglycrat. I have white fur, but today, I am purple because my mistress spilled a glass of grape juice on me, and it simply hasn't washed out yet.

Congressman Wranglycrat: Thank you. That is all, Madam Chairwoman.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: All right, then, let's proceed.

Congressman Wranglycrat: I'm sorry to interrupt again, but I have one more question.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Yes? State your question.

Congressman Wranglycrat: Miss Kitty, I noticed that—not only are you purple—you have no whiskers. Where are your whiskers?

Miss Kitty: I was born without them.

Congressman Wranglycrat: I see. You are a very strange cat, Miss Kitty. You are not only purple—you have no whiskers.

Miss Kitty: I certainly hope my color does not offend you, Congressman Wranglycrat.

Congressman Wranglycrat: No, no. You're just strange, that's all.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: All right. Is that all, Congressman Wranglycrat?

Congressman Wranglycrat: That is all.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Then let's get started. Miss Kitty, you are a cat, and yet, not only can you talk, you also seem to be able to read. Can you please tell us how you learned to talk, and who taught you to read?

Miss Kitty: I'm not sure why I have the ability to talk. It just came naturally to me from a very young age. Perhaps it was a way to compensate for not having any whiskers.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Then tell us about your ability to read. How did you learn to read?

Miss Kitty: Well, my mistress's mother is a stay-at-home mom, and would often read to my mistress from a very young age. My mistress is also home-schooled, so I have had many opportunities to sit in on her lessons, and she continues to read many books out loud. About all I did as a young cat, was sit in her lap and absorb everything I could.

Congressman Gatorcrat: Aren't you just an alien from outer space just hiding in a cat's body, Miss Kitty?

Miss Kitty: No. That's just a rumor that's been going around, but I believe the first time I heard anyone say it was you.

Congressman Gatorcrat: Now, tell us the truth, Miss Kitty, there has got to be a reason that you are able to talk and read. There must be some truth to the rumor, mustn't there?

Miss Kitty: No. There is no truth to the rumor, and again, I don't recall ever hearing it before I heard you say it several weeks ago. Perhaps you are the one who started the rumor in the first place.

Congressman Gatorcrat: Watch yourself, Miss Kitty.

Congressman Kraftycrat: You're a real piece of work, Miss Kitty. I don't believe your story for a minute. I think you just may be the agent of a large evil corporation who's doing her best to keep this country from moving forward.

Miss Kitty: Congressman Kraftycrat, that is the first time I have ever heard such an explanation for my lack of whiskers and ability to speak, but it simply isn't true.

Congressman Kraftycrat: I don't believe your mistress spilled grape juice on you.

Miss Kitty: I have nothing to hide, Congressman Kraftycrat, but I'm not going to be surprised when what you just said also gets turned into a rumor about me.

Congressman Kraftycrat: Don't get sly with me, Miss Kitty.

Miss Kitty: I apologize if that is how it appears to you.

Congressman Wranglycrat: We'll get to the bottom of this, Miss Kitty. And don't think for a minute that your appearance in front of this committee is going to do a thing to change the law that's going to keep you indoors the rest of your life— whether you like it or not—because it won't. I'm looking forward to the day when cats across America will never again be able to freely roam outside. You are here because of what we consider to be your too American attitude and activities since the law was passed.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Very well put, Congressman Wranglycrat, but I have one more thing to add. Miss Kitty, you and your kind are getting in the way of our national progressive agenda, and we believe you have crossed the line with your too-American attitude and your too-American activities.

Congressman Gatorcrat: We do intend to pick your little cat brain, until you spill your guts as to how you came to have the audacity to think that you could dare protest The National Mandatory Indoor Cat Act.

Congressman Kraftycrat: That's right. You have no business protesting it. When it goes into effect this December, you, along with millions of other domestic cats in this country, will never again be a danger to small animals, and the planet for that matter.

Serve tea and cookies and discuss Miss Kitty's experience in front of the committee. This is good time to explain why people are having tea parties and what they mean. Tea Parties are fundamentally a way to protest our nation's impending tax increases that will result from the stimulus package, placing a burden of over \$100,000 per family, of taxes not yet collected. One good way of explaining this is to tell children that if we had a credit card that said IRS on it, that the government has charged a lot of money on our IRS account, and that all Americans will have to pay their share of the bill, even if we don't pay the entire amount directly, all of us will pay somehow, with higher prices, and higher taxes. However, it's good to emphasize that as Americans, we can change things, and that we can prevail over this difficulty by electing representatives who will cut spending and cut our taxes.

(December 16, 1773) an organized refusal by Boston merchants to accept a shipment of tea, in protest against tea taxes retained after the British Parliament's repeal of the Townshend Acts. Patriots known as Sons of Liberty, led by Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and others, dressed as Mohawks, boarded several British East India Company vessels and dumped 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.

Lesson Conclusion

Miss Kitty, will you give us some closing words?

Miss Kitty: I'd be glad to. I am a Republican because I believe in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and to me, this means limited government, fiscal responsibility, individual freedom and states' rights. We live in a wonderful country, and there's a lot to celebrate, especially if you're a cat, so, until next week, don't ever let your heart be filled with hate. Always stay on the sunny side of life.

Sing the Sunnyside of Life Song:

SUNNYSIDE SONG

Stay on the sunny side, Always on the sunny side,

Stay on the sunny side of life

You'll feel no pain as we drive you insane,

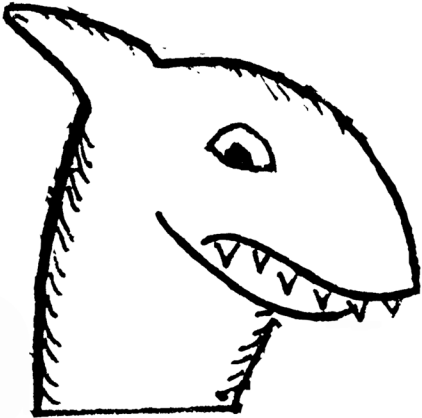
If you stay on the sunny side of life.



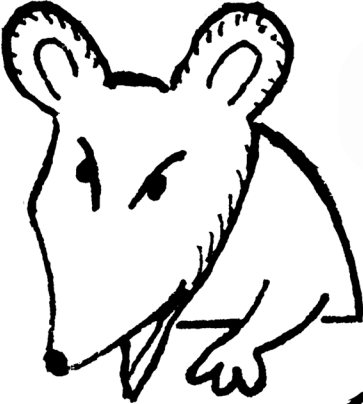
Congressman Gatorcrat



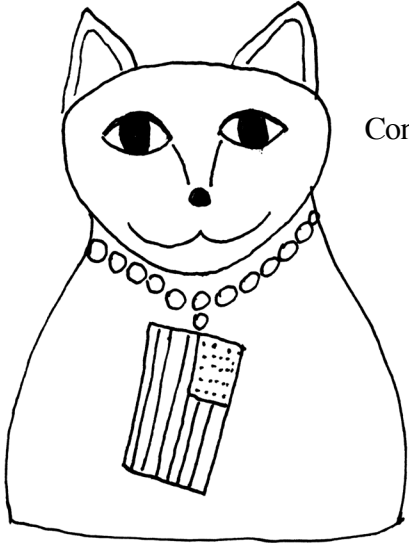
Kraftycrat



Congresswoman Fishycrat



Congressman Wranglycrat



Miss Kitty



Congresswoman Hippocrate