

The background is a soft, painterly illustration of a garden. A black cat with yellow eyes sits in the center, looking up. To the left, a small owl with large eyes sits on a tree branch. Yellow butterflies are scattered throughout the scene, including one in the top right and another near the bottom left. The sky is a mix of light blue and pinkish-purple.

The Garden's Tale of the Little Black Cat

Teaching Notes

Synopsis

When the sun sets and the garden falls quiet, a little black cat awakens to a world of moonlight and magic. Guided by fireflies and friendly voices, she meets the creatures of the night who teach her what it means to be brave. *The Garden's Tale of the Little Black Cat* is a gentle bedtime story about friendship, courage and the comforting magic of the night.

About the Author

A Scandinavian author with roots in the UK, Annie holds a bachelor's degree with a Major in Library and Information Science. Her passions are diverse and joyful: martial arts, knitting, tending to a thriving plant collection and enjoying the outdoors – whether forest walks or the adrenaline of snowboarding down a slope. Her debut book didn't spring from a grand plan or a single moment of inspiration. It was born from small pockets of time between classes or while working from home – when Annie began playing with words in her head. What started as a playful pastime grew into a story she couldn't wait to share. This accidental foray into writing a children's book aims to inspire comfort, courage and curiosity in young readers and their families. If her words can spark even one moment of wonder or a smile, the book will be a success.

About the Illustrator

Born in Russia, Anastasia spent the past four years living and working in Tbilisi before recently relocating to Leipzig, Germany. She primarily works with watercolour, combining traditional techniques with subtle digital post-production. She is drawn to fairytale, fantasy and mythological themes, and enjoys creating atmospheric worlds filled with magical details and characters. When she's not painting, she spends time with her two cats and continues exploring new places and sources of inspiration.

Educational Applicability

The Garden's Tale of the Little Black Cat is a gentle bedtime story about friendship, courage and the comforting magic of the night. The lyrical text flows through the pages surrounded by stunning watercolour illustrations by Anastasia Popp.



Written by

Annie Sotheran

Illustrated by

Anastasia Popp

Published by

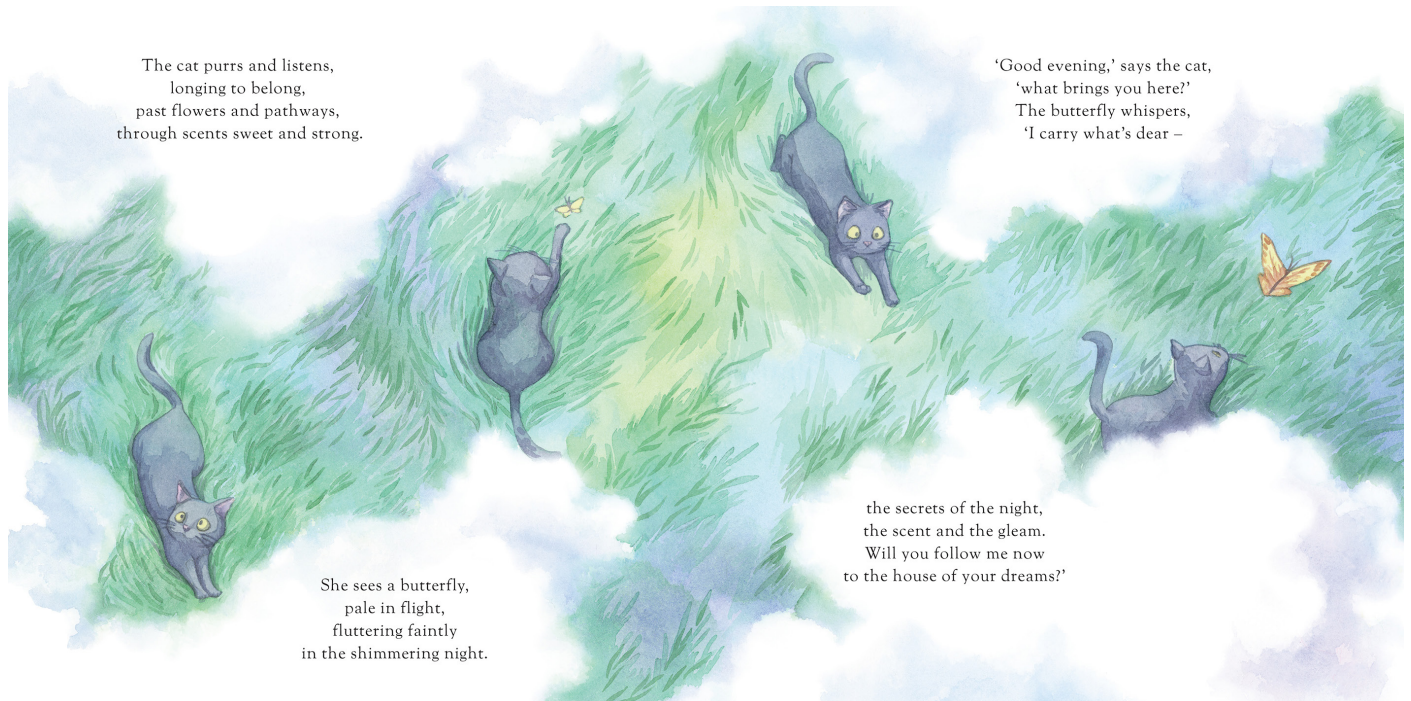
Little Steps Publishing



DISCUSSION TOPICS

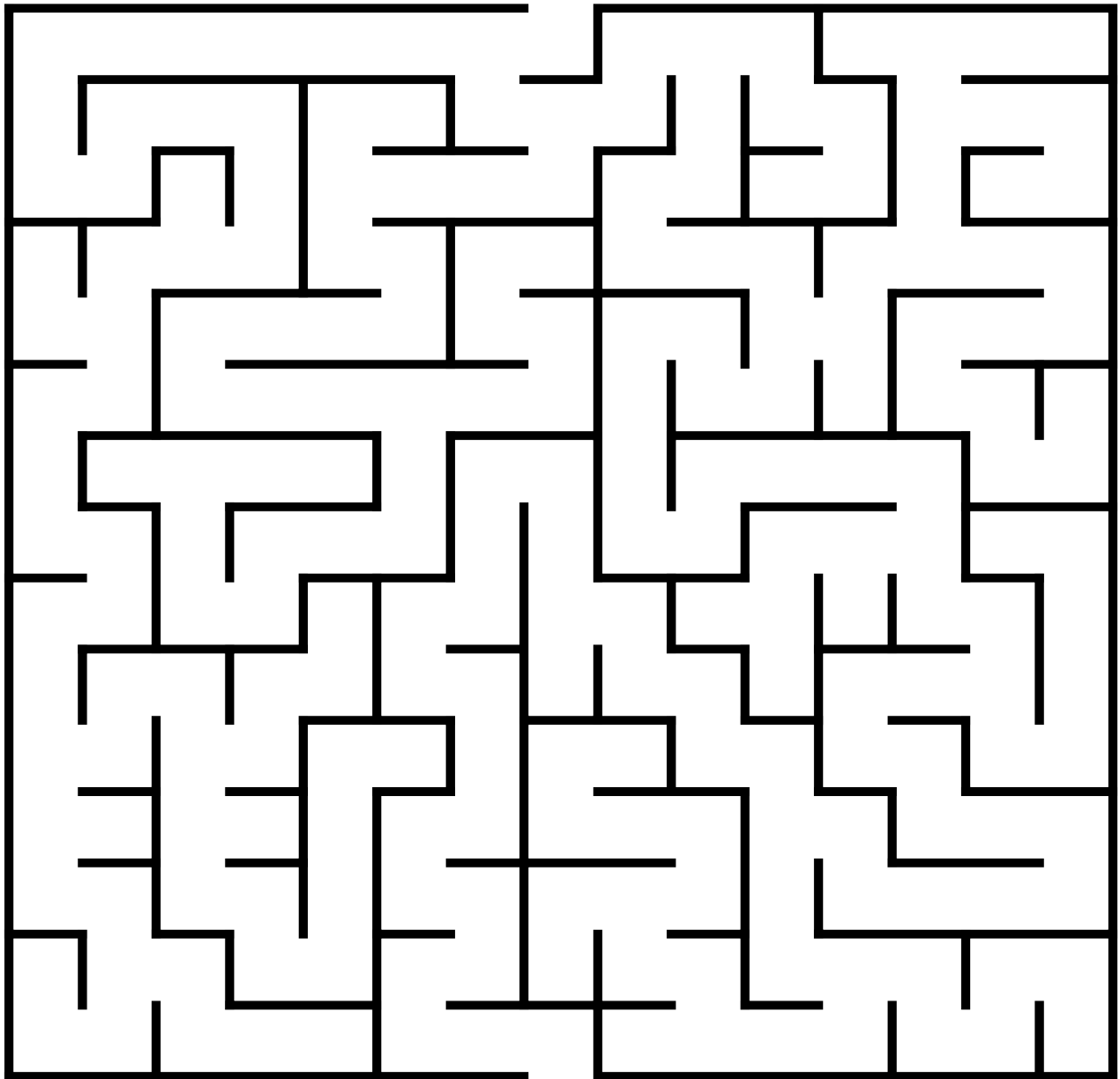
Before, during and after reading the book:

1. Introduce *The Garden's Tale of the Little Black Cat* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. Ask the children if they have a garden and what they think happens in it at nighttime? What animals come out?
3. Who does the Little Black Cat meet in the garden?
4. How does the Little Black Cat gain courage?
5. After reading the book, ask them what they thought of the story? Which was their favourite part and why?

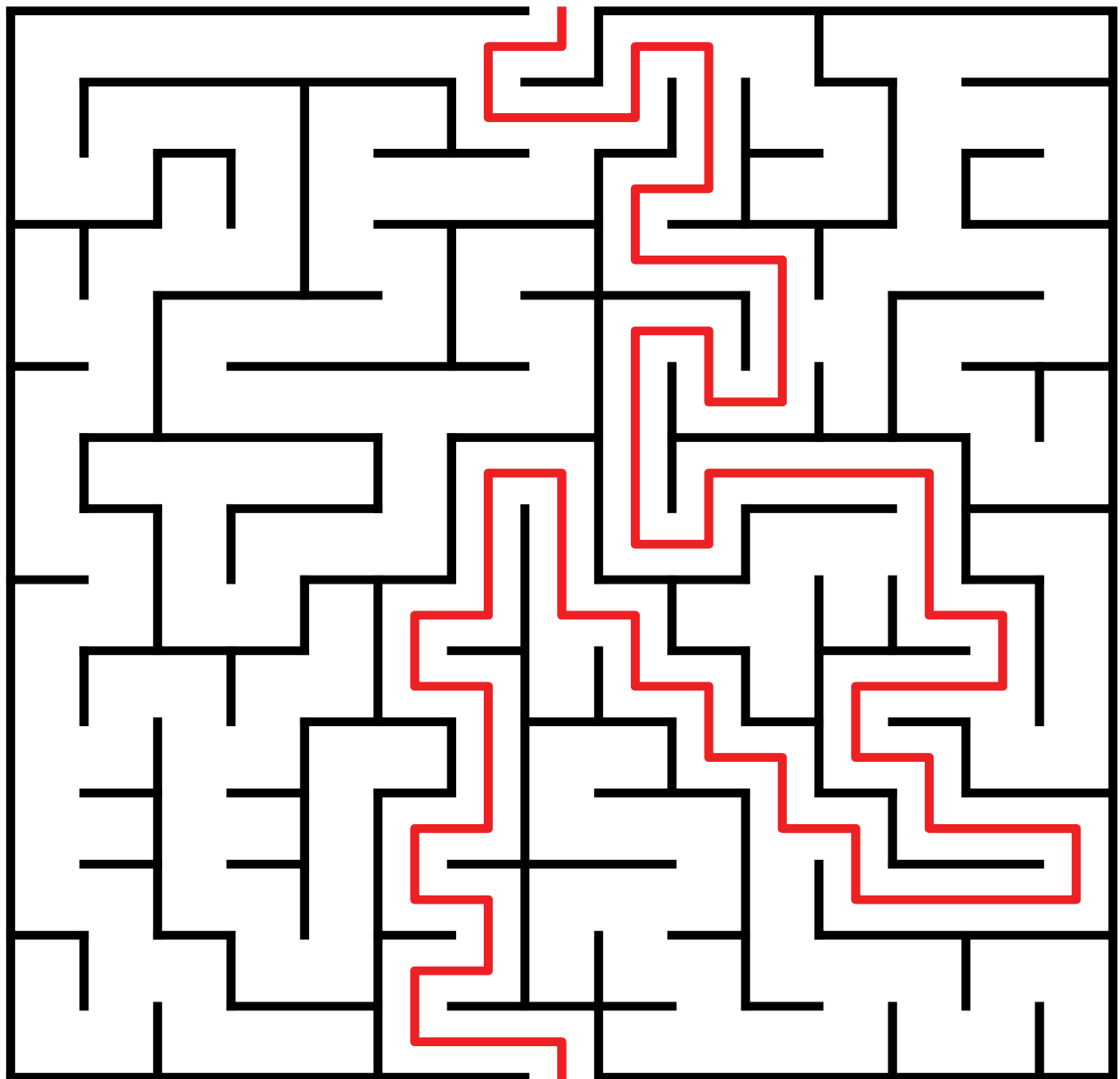


A-MAZE-ING LITTLE BLACK CAT

Can you help the Little Black Cat find her frog friend?



SOLUTION TO A-MAZE-ING LITTLE BLACK CAT



WORDSEARCH

Find all the words below in *The Garden's Tale of the Little Black Cat* wordsearch.

Name:

Class:

Date:

word search

THE GARDEN'S TALE OF THE LITTLE BLACK CAT

N G W E U T A T S E P
H H G M B A T R S S I
I O Y L F R E T T U B
R S F O R W A L W O N
P T B E O C L V E H I
H N B L G A R D E N G
E A F G O H E G D E H
I L Y C O U R A G E T
Y P I H S D N E I R F
D T T E Q T Z R W G S
A D S O R I R U U A D

BAT
BRAVE
BUTTERFLY
CAT
COURAGE
FLOWERS

FRIENDSHIP
FROG
GARDEN
GHOST
GREENHOUSE
HEDGEHOG

NIGHT
OWL
PLANTS
STATUE

SOLUTION TO THE WORDSEARCH

Answer Sheet

word search

THE GARDEN'S TALE OF THE LITTLE BLACK CAT

N G W E U T A T S E P
H H G M B A T R S S I
I O Y L F R E T T U B
R S F O R W A L W O N
P T B E O C L V E H I
H N B L G A R D E N G
E A F G O H E G D E H
I L Y C O U R A G E T
Y P I H S D N E I R F
D T T E Q T Z R W G S
A D S O R I R U U A D

BAT
BRAVE
BUTTERFLY
CAT
COURAGE
FLOWERS

FRIENDSHIP
FROG
GARDEN
GHOST
GREENHOUSE
HEDGEHOG

NIGHT
OWL
PLANTS
STATUE

DRAW YOUR GARDEN

Imagine your garden at nighttime and draw it below. If you don't have one, then make one up.

