

KLIMT AND HIS CAT

Written by B erence Capatti
Illustrated by Octavia Monaco

Follow me into Gustav's studio — it is alive with color! Look at the paintbrushes, the reds and blues and colorful hues that spill onto the table. Smell the scent of paint, of oil, of canvas...

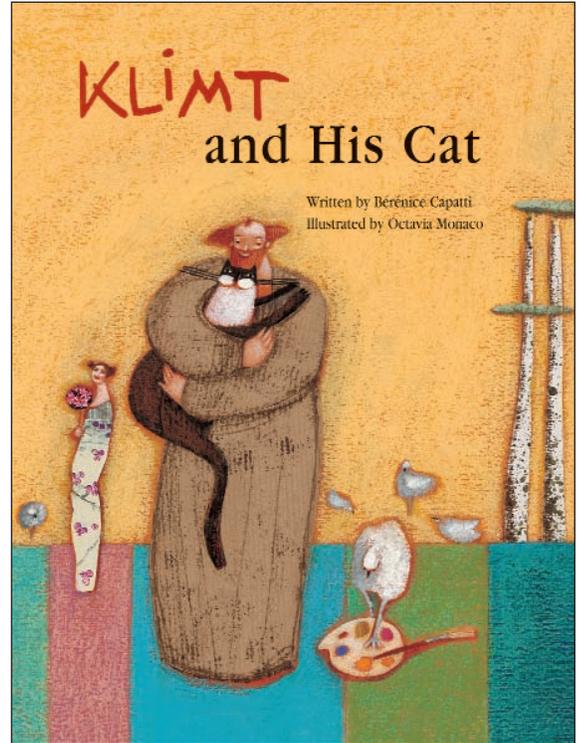
Katze, the loyal cat of Gustav Klimt, takes readers on an exciting journey into the world of the famous Viennese painter. From distracting Gustav's models to tagging along with Gustav on vacations, Katze always provides keen insight about the artist's work and thoughts.

Enchanting illustrations, suggestive of Klimt's own style and enlivened by the lovable and curious Katze, make *Klimt and His Cat* a book for readers of all ages. This book not only teaches about the artwork of the Secessionist artist, but also suggests the importance of hard work, dedication, and being true to oneself.



THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ◆ Art/art history
- ◆ Individuality
- ◆ Perseverance
- ◆ Courage
- ◆ Beauty/Aesthetics



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8.625" x 12.25" ◆ 32 pages ◆ All Ages
Full-color illustrations throughout

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VOCABULARY

Look up *secessionist* in an encyclopedia or on the Internet and make a list of other artists who were part of this movement.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1. Find a color picture in a newspaper, magazine, or book. When you look at the picture, what do you see first: the image on the page or the color of the image? Look at it from the following perspectives: up close, from far away, upside down, in bright light, in low light. What happens when you change your point of view? Which colors are easier to see in the bright light? Which colors are easier to see in the low light? What happens to the shapes/images in the picture when your perspective changes?

2. What makes something a work of art? What makes it beautiful, or not so beautiful? What is the difference between “liking” something and “appreciating” it?

3. What kinds of things do you spend time and energy practicing? What do you want your practicing to accomplish?



QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. Gustav Klimt said, “To learn to do better, I must see everything! Even works of art that aren’t so beautiful.” What do you think Klimt meant by this statement?

2. Klimt dared to be himself and not do things the way they had always been done. Give some examples from the story that illustrate Klimt’s way of doing things

differently and how others reacted.

3. What do Klimt’s works of art tell us about Klimt himself? What do Klimt’s actions (as described by his cat) tell us about Klimt?

4. Even while on vacation Gustav couldn’t stop being an artist. Is there something in your life that you love to do, day in, day out, even on vacation? Why do you think Gustav couldn’t stop?

5. Gustav Klimt was born in 1862 and died in 1918. Why do you think he is still remembered today?

6. How does seeing Klimt through the eyes of his cat make a difference in this story? How did his cat see him?



ACTIVITIES

1. Make your own mosaic using squares of colored paper and/or pages from a magazine. Glue the squares on a blank page to create an image instead of using pencil or markers.

2. Pretend you are a model. Freeze in an interesting position and see how long you can hold perfectly still. Have a friend use a stopwatch or a watch with a second hand to time you.

3. Ludwig von Beethoven was a musician Klimt admired. Listen to Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata” — does this music inspire you to be creative? If so, how? If not, what song or type of music *does* inspire you?

4. Research some of Klimt’s famous paintings and compare Klimt’s artistic style to Octavia Monaco’s illustration style in the book. What elements does Octavia “borrow” from Klimt? How does her art differ from Klimt’s?

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ABOUT

the Author and Illustrator

B er enice Capatti is an editor and translator of children’s books. *Klimt and His Cat* is the first book she has also authored. She lives in Milan, Italy.

Octavia Monaco has illustrated a number of award-winning children’s books and recently received the Italian Andersen Award as Best Illustrator of the Year. Octavia lives in Bologna, Italy.



PRAISE FOR

Klimt and His Cat

“This quirky distillation of Klimt’s essence is particularly notable for its luminous, gold-leafed multimedia paintings that effectively evoke the Viennese Secessionist painter’s individualistic style.... Monaco’s illustrations are so unique that libraries with strong artistic picture-book collections won’t want to pass this by.”

— *Kirkus Reviews*

“The depiction of an artist to whom work is more important than family, wealth, or recognition, comes through with force — and with great charm.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

If you have any other suggestions for using *Klimt and His Cat* with young readers, we would be happy to hear from you.

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