



# Pete<sup>the</sup> Cat

Main  
Street  
Theater

**THEATER FOR <sup>ALL</sup> YOUTH**  
**STUDY GUIDE**

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## SUMMARY OF THE PLAY:

Everybody loves Pete, the groovy, guitar playing cool cat. Everyone but Jimmy, the world's most organized second grader. But all that changes when Pete the Cat and Jimmy take a once-in-a-lifetime road trip. The whole family will love Pete's hilarious, jazzy antics in this toe-tapping musical!

## HOW SHOULD I PREPARE MY STUDENTS FOR A TRIP TO THE THEATER?

Being in a live performance is very different than seeing a movie in a movie theater or at home. The setting is much quieter and noises created by viewers can interrupt the show and distract the performers. Remember, that real people are on stage and they deserve your respect while they perform.

Here are some basic guidelines and rules to attending live theater:

- No talking. Even whispers can be quite loud in a quiet room.
- If you have a cell phone, it must be turned off AND put away during the show. The light can distract performers.
- Keep bags, feet and bodies out of the aisles. Sometimes actors walk through them during shows.
- Do not put your feet on the chairs in front of you or sit on your feet in the seats.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the theater.
- Cover your mouth for yawns, coughs or other noises.
- If you think something is funny, feel free to laugh. The actors are energized by interaction from the audience.
- Don't stand up or switch seats during the performance.
- Use the restroom and get comfortable before the show starts.

## BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY . . .

Read the book out loud with your class.

After reading it straight through once, turn through the pages and point out:

- Teach your students how to recognize a title and author's name on a book. In this case, the author may also be the illustrator.
- Discuss the colors in the pictures.
- Ask the children what feelings they have reading the book.
- In all of the Pete the Cat books, Pete turns a situation that could be bad into something good and happy. Can your students describe a time when that happened to them?
- Explain that you will be seeing actors in a play. Teach the students that actors are real people and can play any role, even an animal.

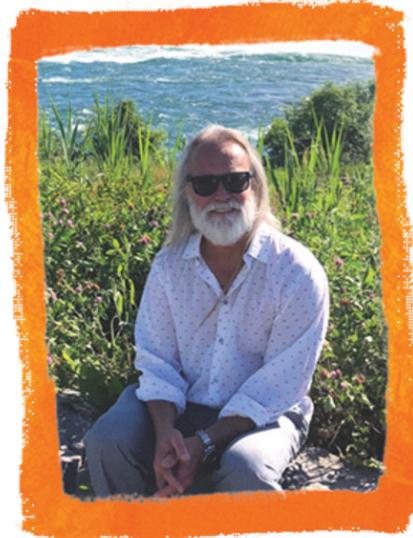
## AFTER YOU SEE THE PLAY . . .

Have conversations with your students:

- What were some of the similarities and differences of the Pete books to the play?
- What happened to Pete that could've made him angry or disappointed?
- Did you have a favorite scene or song in the play?
- Which character was your favorite?
- Were there any characters from the books that you would've liked to see in the play?
- Do any of the characters remind you of someone that you know? If so, which ones.

There are lots of ways that you can have these conversations without it becoming a talking or writing exercise.

- Your students can draw their answers to these or other questions.
- Students can create their own play using the same characters as seen in the play.
- Kids can make flashcards of words that are new to them.
- Encourage students to design a paper bag puppet of their favorite character.
- Have students recreate scenes of the play using figurines or dolls.



Courtesy James Dean

## JAMES DEAN

James Dean is the original creator and illustrator of **Pete the Cat**. He is a self-taught artist originally from Fort Payne, Alabama. His passion for drawing became apparent at a young age, and as a child, you could find James drawing his favorite characters like Snoopy and Yogi Bear.

James earned his degree in electrical engineering from Auburn University and went on to work for Georgia Power for a number of years. Eventually, he was called to pursue his art full-time and began selling his work at art festivals around the Southeast. It was during this time that he began creating paintings and drawing of his cat, Pete. The little blue cat showed up as a character in James's artwork around 1999 and has been a permanent fixture ever since.

James Dean's art has been sold in more than ninety galleries and shops across the United States. He has devoted his paintings to **Pete the Cat** for fifteen years and turned his natural love for cats into his life's work. James published his first book, *The Misadventures of Pete the Cat*, a history of his artwork, in 2006, and he illustrated his first self-published children's book, *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, in 2008. There are now almost 100 published **Pete the Cat** titles with more coming out all the time. James is humbled every day by the success that this groovy blue cat has brought him. He says positively affecting children's lives is his number one priority, and he is grateful to have such an amazing audience to work for.



Courtesy Kaïe McGee

## KIMBERLY DEAN

Kimberly Dean is a children's author, artist, and yoga enthusiast best known as a NYT bestselling author and co-parent of

children's book character **Pete the Cat**. Before fulfilling her dream of becoming a full-time author and artist, she worked for the State of Georgia, leaving the Governor's Press Office in 1998 to pursue her art.

She began selling her work at art festivals in 1999 and opened a small art gallery in 2003. She dabbles in multiple mediums and enjoys experimenting with new styles and techniques. She says of her job, "I love what I do! Work is like going to kindergarten every day!"

In 2004, she began collaborating with fellow artist James Dean to create children's books about **Pete the Cat**. *The Misadventures of Pete the Cat*, a coffee table book of James's art, was released in 2006. Her dreams of becoming a published children's book author became a reality in 2013 with the release of her first children's book, *Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses*. She has now written many of the **Pete the Cat** books, as well as started another series starring her own characters Willow and Oliver.

Kimberly lives in Savannah with her dog, Gypsy, and cat, Phoebe. Her children and grandchildren live nearby, and her favorite word is "Lovie," which is the name her grandchildren lovingly call her.



Courtesy Eric Richards

## MR. ERIC

Eric Litwin is a guitar-strumming, song-singing, banjo-picking, tale-telling, song-writing, national-award-winning, music-producing, fun, folksy type of guy. He loves to blend song and story together and is inspired by the depth and simplicity of folk songs and folktales. Eric is a popular performer, delighting thousands of children and families every year. He has recorded two award-winning children's music CDs.



## HOW DID JAMES DEAN GET THE IDEA FOR PETE THE CAT?

In 1999, James adopted a kitten from a local shelter. A scrawny black kitten won out and found a new home. James named him Pete. While Pete was a kitten, he spent a great deal of time sitting on James' lap. James had never spent so much time with a kitten and soon felt as if Pete was his child.

Then one day the skinny, mischievous kitten stopped running and sat still. James sketched a picture of him and decided to paint it. He puzzled over the color – black? But what if everyone else thought black cats were “bad luck”? So James opted for blue.

Pete became his muse. James started painting Pete doing “cat” things: sitting in the laundry basket, hanging on the screen door, sleeping. Then James noticed Pete with his paw in his coffee cup, so Pete became a coffee loving cat. Pete would sit on top of James' old VW bug while he worked on the engine, so Pete began driving VWs. The possibilities and ideas were endless.



## PETE THE CAT

Pete the Cat is a groovy, blue cat. No matter where he goes, Pete the Cat always keeps his cool. He loves surfing, playing baseball and guitar, spending time with his friends, and trying new things.

## GUS

Gus the platypus just moved to Pete's town. He is Pete's quiet, kind and gentle friend. A little shy around others but has a great passion for music! He is an excellent drummer.

## GRUMPY TOAD

Grumpy Toad is usually grumpy, but he truly cares about his friends—he shared his magic sunglasses with Pete. He is slow to show when he's happy, often coming across glum and disheartened. He loves riding his motorcycle and he plays a pretty good bass guitar!



## I LOVE MY SHOES! LESSON IDEA

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will learn about cause and effect as they take a walk with Pete the Cat.

**MATERIALS:** *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin and James Dean

**OPENING DISCUSSION:** What do you do when something unexpected happens? Do you get angry? Do you get sad? Or go along with it?

**EXPLAIN:** Today's book is going to explore how Pete the Cat reacts to various things that come up along his walk.

**READ:** *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*

- Help students understand the concept of "cause and effect."
- Explain that cause would be an "If I . . ." and effect would be "then . . ."

*Have Students Create Their Own Cause & Effects:*

- If I don't do my homework . . .
- If I drop an egg on the ground . . .
- If I run in the hallway . . .

**FINALLY:** Have students create and share their own cause and effect scenarios.

## ACT OUT A SCENE FROM PETE THE CAT: I LOVE MY WHITE SHOES BY ERIC LITWIN

**NARRATOR 1:** Pete the Cat was walking down the street in his new white shoes. He loved his shoes so much that he sang a song.

**PETE THE CAT:** I love my white shoes. I love my white shoes. I love my white shoes.

**NARRATOR 1:** Oh no! Pete stepped in a pile of strawberries! It turned his shoes red.

**NARRATOR 2:** Did he cry? Goodness, no! He kept walking along and singing his song.

**PETE THE CAT:** I love my red shoes. I love my red shoes I love my red shoes.

**NARRATOR 1:** Oh no! Pete stepped in a large pile of blueberries. It turned his shoes blue.

**NARRATOR 2:** Did he cry? Goodness, no! He kept walking along and singing his song.

**PETE THE CAT:** I love my blue shoes. I love my blue shoes. I love my blue shoes.

**NARRATOR 1:** Oh no! Pete stepped in a puddle of mud! It turned his shoes brown.

**NARRATOR 2:** Did he cry? Goodness, no! He kept walking along and singing his song.

**PETE THE CAT:** I love my brown shoes. I love my brown shoes. I love my brown shoes.

**NARRATOR 1:** Oh no! Pete stepped in a bucket of water. All the red, blue, and brown were washed away. His shoes were white again. But now they were wet.

**NARRATOR 2:** Did he cry? Goodness, no! He kept walking along and singing his song.

**PETE THE CAT:** I love my wet shoes. I love my wet shoes. I love my wet shoes.

**NARRATOR 1:** The moral of the story is: no matter what you step in, keep walking along and singing your song, because it's all good.

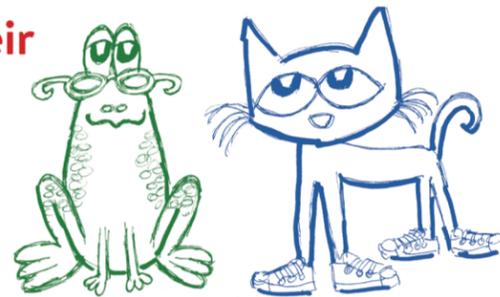
## Create your own Pete the Cat story

Grab a friend or family member to play this silly Pete the Cat game. Print out this page and ask your partner to fill in the blanks with the corresponding part of speech below each line. Don't read the story out-loud until all of the blanks are filled.

### PART OF SPEECH KEY

**Noun:** A person, place, or thing  
**Adjective:** A word that describes a noun  
**Verb:** A word that shows an action  
**Adverb:** A word that describes how you do an action  
**Interjection:** A short word or phrase that expresses emotion

Pete the Cat was on his way to the \_\_\_\_\_ with  
(noun)  
 some friends when suddenly he heard a very \_\_\_\_\_  
(adjective)  
 noise. It sounded like something had \_\_\_\_\_ across  
(verb)  
 the path! Pete wondered what it could be! Pete and his  
 friend Grumpy Toad \_\_\_\_\_ started to investigate  
(adverb)  
 what it could be, when suddenly a \_\_\_\_\_ jumped  
(noun)  
 out from behind a tree! Pete the Cat and Grumpy Toad  
 were \_\_\_\_\_. Turned out their  
(interjection)  
 new friend wanted to join them on  
 their trip to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun – same as 1st noun)



## FOUR GROOVY BUTTONS

Using brightly colored buttons, students can do all sorts of activities.

1. Sort buttons by color and lay them out in rainbow order.
2. String buttons on a shoelace or piece of yarn.
3. Paste buttons on index cards in different quantities, have students list how many of each color per page, etc.
4. Have students look at their own shirts – How many buttons are they wearing?
5. What other ways is the word button used? (ie: belly button, button to press, button as in a pin to wear)



Use a pencil to hunt for all the words that are listed below.  
They can be found vertically, horizontally, diagonally, or backward.

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

Dance  
Boogie  
Groove  
Jump  
Slide

Cool  
Tap  
Twist  
Spin  
Jive



Pete the Cat thinks rhyming is totally groovy!  
Help him think of some cool rhymes for the words below!

- School \_\_\_\_\_
- Cat \_\_\_\_\_
- Walk \_\_\_\_\_
- Shoe \_\_\_\_\_
- Skate \_\_\_\_\_
- Read \_\_\_\_\_



Pete the Cat's shoes change colors as he walks along.  
Can you help Pete figure out what color his shoes are by unscrambling the letters below?

1. H W I T E



2. E R D



3. L B U E



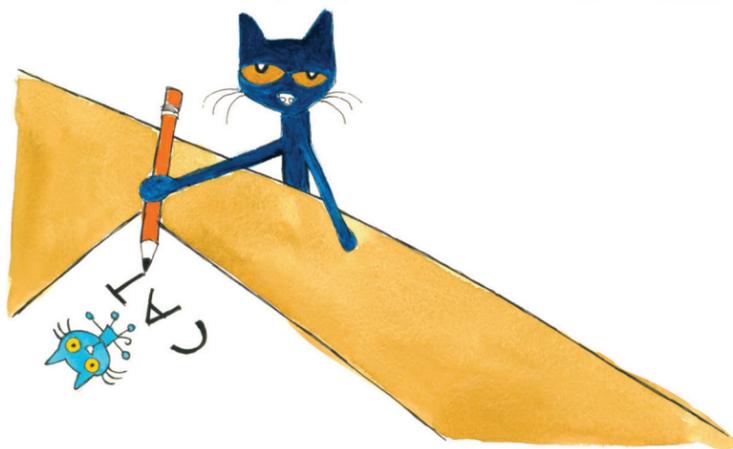
4. W R O B N



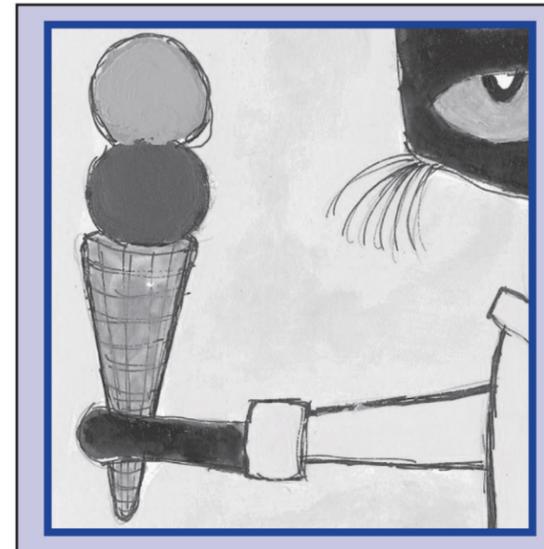
5. R E E G N



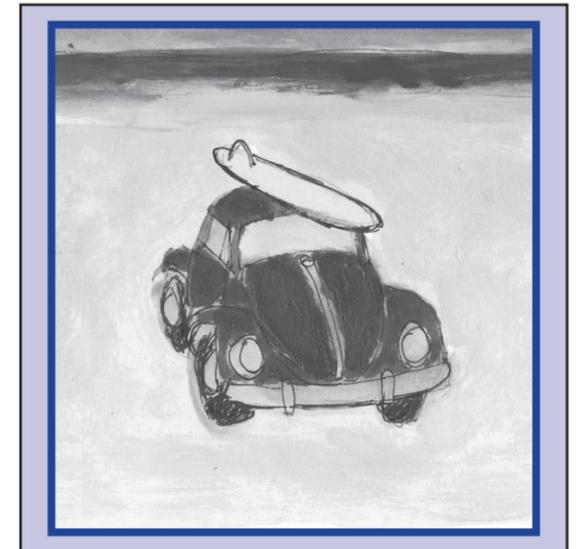
6. E Y L L W O



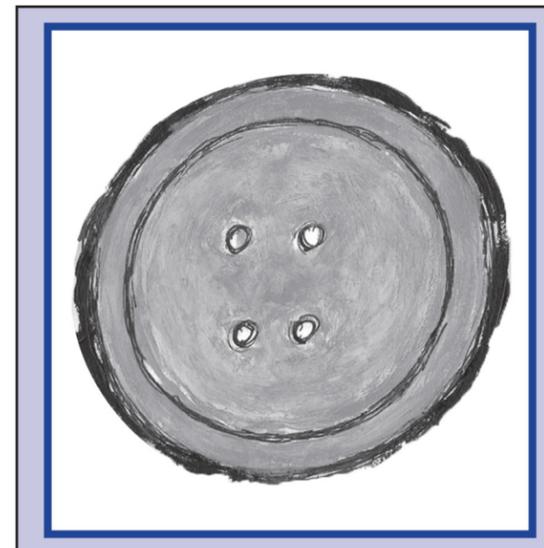
Oh no! Buttons aren't the only things that are going missing—help Pete the Cat fill in the missing letters of these words!



1. I \_ E C R E A \_



2. C \_ R

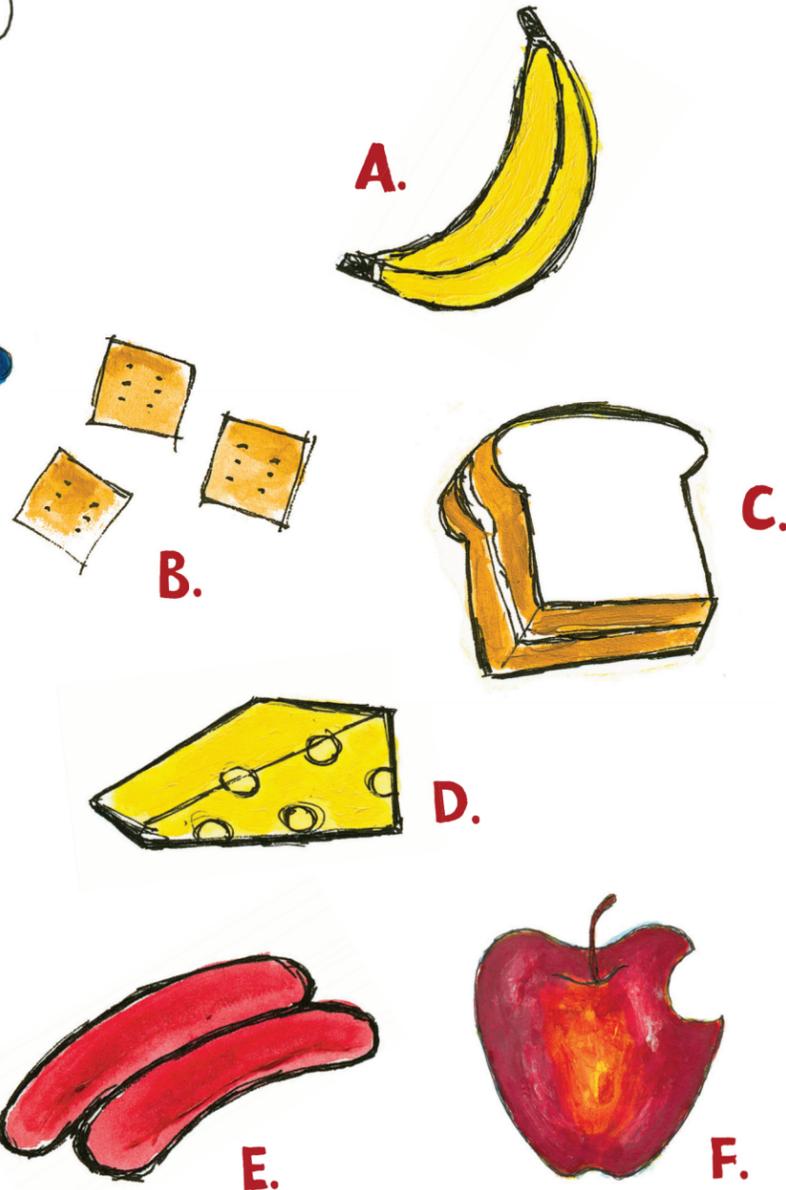


3. \_ U T T \_ N



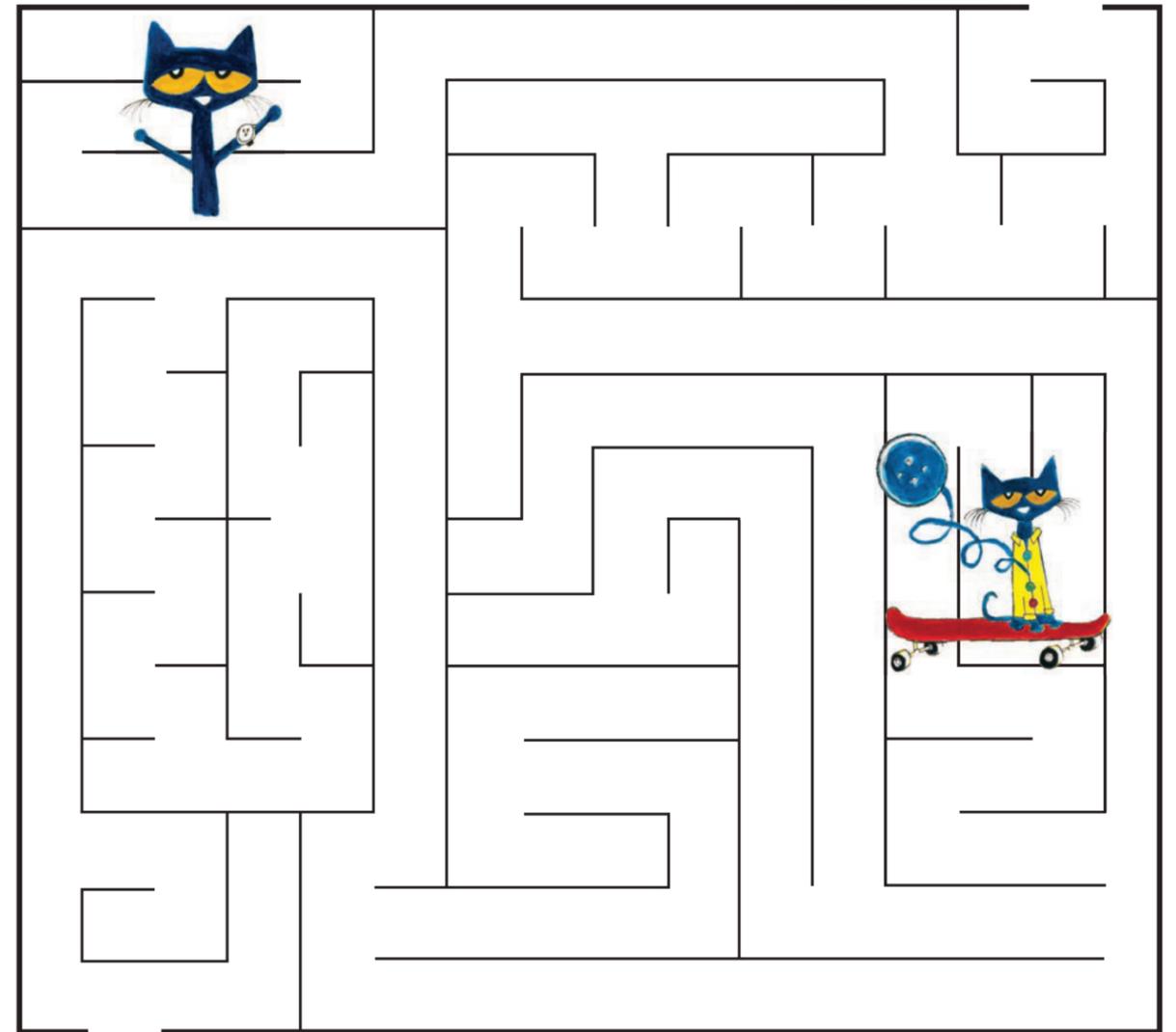
4. S \_ I R T

What does Pete the Cat like to have in his big lunch?  
Match the images with their names below to find out!



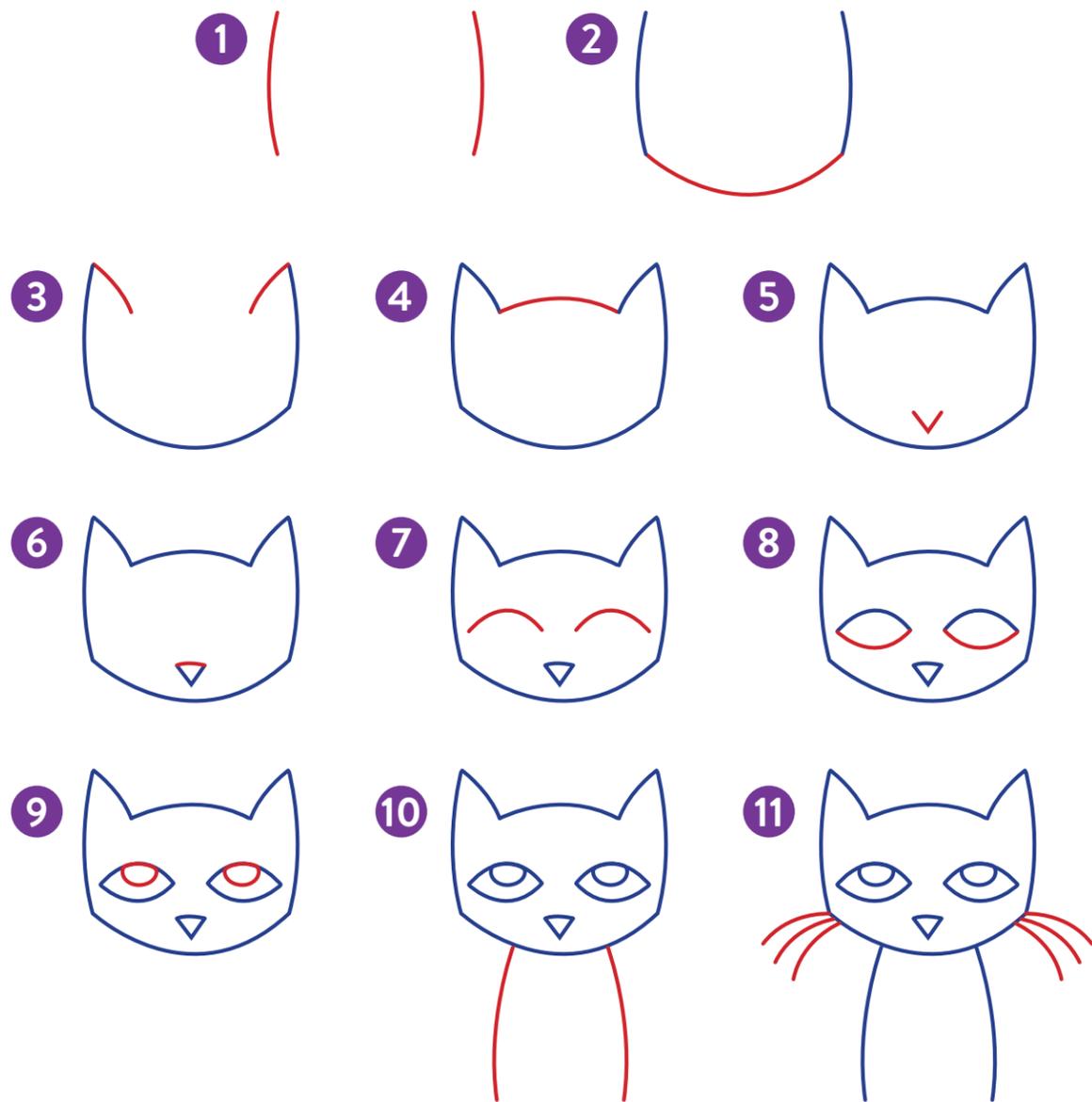
1. Bread
2. Banana
3. Apple
4. Hot Dogs
5. Crackers
6. Cheese

Pete is late for the bus!  
Help Pete get through the maze so he can catch the bus with all his friends!



# How to draw Pete the Cat!

Follow the steps below to draw Pete the Cat like a professional!



# Create your own Pete the Cat Puppet

Gather the supplies listed below and follow the directions to create your very own Pete the Cat puppet! Once you're finished, put on a show with your puppet for your friends and family.

**YOU WILL NEED:**

- Brown or white paper bag
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Colored card stock or white paper that you can color



1. Measure the height and width of the bottom portion of the bag and draw another rectangle on a white piece of paper, as shown in the photo.



2. On a white piece of paper, use a cool cat blue color crayon to draw a rectangle the same height and width as the bottom of the paper bag.



3. Measure from just below the top flap to the bottom of the bag. Using these dimensions, draw another rectangle on a white piece of paper.



4. When you're done, cut it out and glue it to the bag.

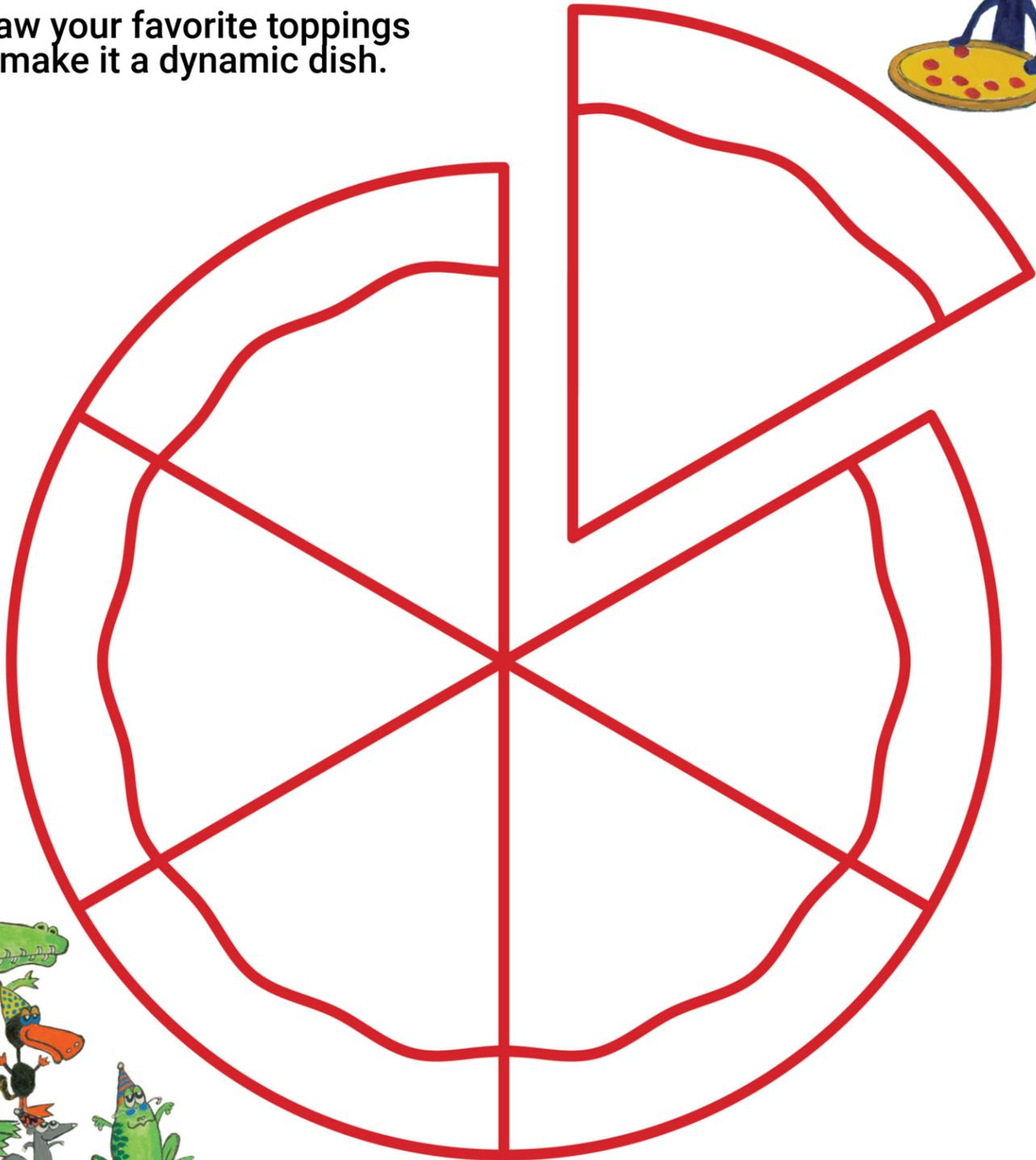
5. Draw the features of Pete's face on a piece of white paper, as shown in the photo. Pete will need his eyes, nose and ears!

6. Glue Pete's features in place to create his face!

7. Insert your hand inside the bag and throw your puppet show!

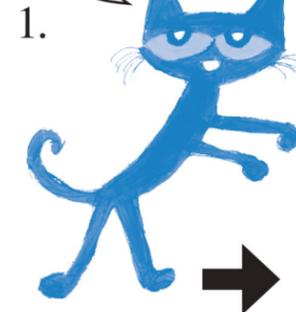
In the space below, create your own pizza just like Pete!

Draw your favorite toppings to make it a dynamic dish.

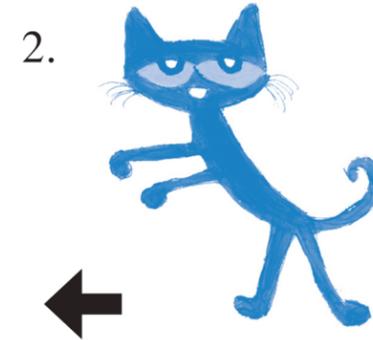


Follow the steps below to learn the Cool Cat Boogie with Pete the Cat!

I want to boogie with you.  
Grab your boogie shoes!



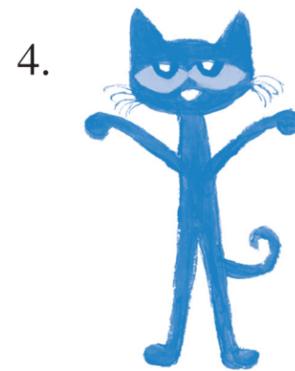
1. slide right...shake your tail



2. slide left...shake your tail



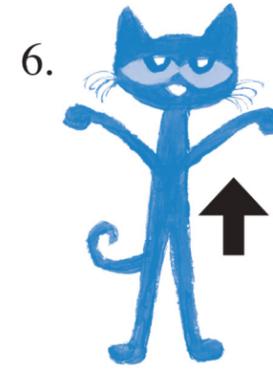
3. now clap, clap, clap  
real smooth,  
you've got the groove



4. jump front



5. rock and roll



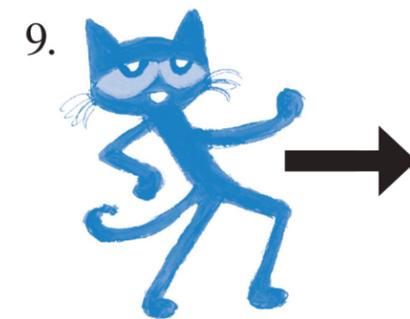
6. jump back



7. rock and roll

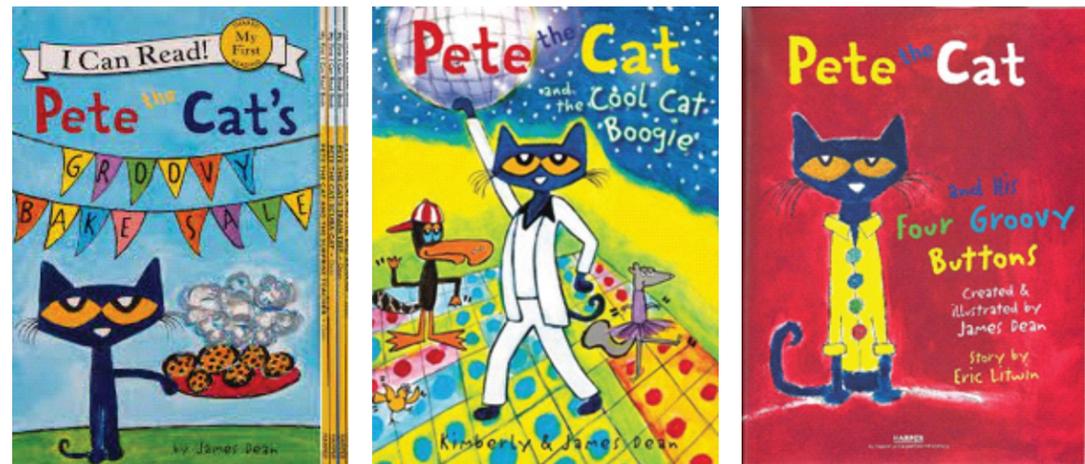


8. that's neat you got the beat



9. grab your air guitar  
and rock it out like Pete

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN 20 PETE THE CAT BOOKS?**

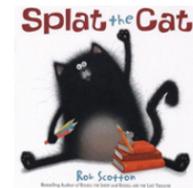


**YOU CAN FIND THEM IN BOOK STORES AND AT YOUR LIBRARY!**

- Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes
- Pete the Cat: A Pete for Pete
- Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes
- Pete the Cat's Groovy Imagination
- Pete the Cat Checks Out the Library
- Pete the Cat and the New Guy
- Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses
- Pete the Cat and the Bedtime Blues
- Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes
- Pete the Cat: The Great Leprechaun Chase
- Pete the Cat: Too Cool for School
- Pete the Cat: The Wheels on the Bus
- Pete the Cat: Five Little Ducks
- Pete the Cat: Super Pete

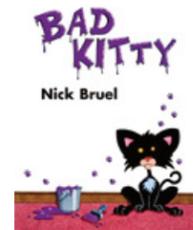
**AND MORE!**

**IF YOU LOVE PETE THE CAT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO TRY SOME OF THESE TITLES:**



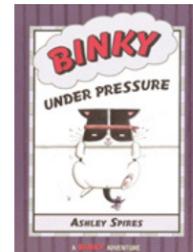
**Splat the Cat** by Rob Scotton

It's Splat's first day of school, and he's worried. What if he doesn't make any new friends? Nervous kitties wondering about friends and school will enjoy laughing along with Splat the Cat!



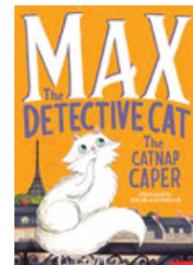
**Bad Kitty** by Nick Bruel

Kitty is not happy when she's told that her favorite foods are all gone and all that's left are Asparagus, Beets, Cauliflower, Dill...and 22 other equally unappealing vegetables. So, she: Ate my homework, Bit grandma, Clawed the curtains, Damaged the dishes, and so on, through Z. Only when tastier things arrive (An Assortment of Anchovies, Buffalo Burritos, Chicken Cheesecake...) does she Apologize to Grandma.



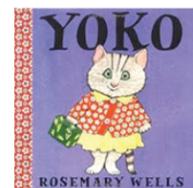
**Binky Under Pressure** by Ashley Spires

Binky is forced to contend with Gracie, a Dainty striped foster kitty who comes to live at Binky's space station (his home).



**Max the Detective Cat: The Catnip Caper** by Sarah Todd Taylor

With a beautifully fluffy tail and a keen nose for adventure, Max the Detective Cat is ready for any mystery. The pampered cats of Paris are being kidnapped! Could it have something to do with a singing competition that is gripping the city? Max knows he has to solve the mystery and bring them home. Especially as he's fallen in love with one of the victims.



**Yoko** by Rosemary Wells

Mmmm, Yoko's mom has packed her favorite for lunch today, sushi! But her classmates don't think it looks quite so yummy. "Ick!" says one of the kids. "It's seaweed!" They're not even impressed by her red bean ice cream desert. Of course, Mrs. Jenkins has a plan that might solve the problem. But will it work with the other children in class?

**ALL OF THE TITLES ABOVE ARE PARTS OF THEIR OWN SERIES, SO YOU CAN READ MANY BOOKS ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE CAT!**