

# The SEL Interactive Read Aloud Collection

## Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

### They All Saw A Cat by Brenden Wenzel

SEL Competencies:

**Self-Awareness:** Recognizing how our perspectives shape how we see the world and others.

**Self-Management:** Understanding and managing our emotions when interacting with different viewpoints.

**Social Awareness:** Developing empathy and understanding how others perceive the world differently.

**Relationship Skills:** Building healthy relationships through understanding and respecting different perspectives.

**Responsible Decision-Making:** Making ethical and respectful decisions when interacting with others, considering their feelings and perspectives.

#### Background

*They All Saw A Cat* by Brendan Wenzel explores the idea that everyone perceives the world in their own unique way. The story follows a cat as it encounters different animals, each of which sees the cat differently based on their perspective. The book is a beautiful exploration of diversity in how we view the same object or situation, emphasizing empathy, understanding, and the importance of seeing the world through other people's eyes. The illustrations are bold and vibrant, showcasing the differences in each animal's view of the cat, reinforcing the theme of perspective.

#### Before You Read

**What do you think the book might be about just by looking at the title? What do you think "They All Saw A Cat" means?**  
(Encourages students to think about the importance of perspective and sets the stage for exploring different viewpoints.)

**Have you ever looked at something and saw it differently from someone else? What do you think caused the difference in what you saw?**  
(Prompts students to reflect on how their own perspectives might differ from others' perspectives.)

**Why do you think everyone might see the same thing differently? What do you think might change how we see things?**  
(Introduces the idea that perspective can be shaped by different experiences and backgrounds.)

**What might happen if everyone in the story sees the cat in a different way? How do you think that will make them feel?**  
(Encourages students to think about empathy and how different

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	<p>perspectives might impact people.)</p> <p><b>What are some things that make people or animals different from each other? How might that affect how they see the world?</b> (This prepares students to think about diversity and the factors that shape our views.)</p>
<b>While You Read</b>  <b>Guiding Questions</b>	<p><b>How does the cat look to the first animal? How do you think the first animal feels about the cat?</b> (SEL Competency: Self-Awareness – Recognizing how we see the world and how that influences our feelings about it.)</p> <p><b>What does the dog see when it looks at the cat? How is the dog's view different from the first animal's?</b> (SEL Competency: Social Awareness – Understanding that different perspectives are shaped by individual experiences and how that might affect our perceptions.)</p> <p><b>Why do you think the other animals see the cat in different ways? What might cause their views to be so different?</b> (SEL Competency: Social Awareness – Developing empathy and understanding that everyone perceives things differently based on their experiences and nature.)</p> <p><b>How does the mouse see the cat? How is it different from the dog's view of the cat?</b> (SEL Competency: Self-Awareness – Reflecting on how different individuals see things based on their emotions, experiences, and circumstances.)</p> <p><b>What do you think the bird sees when it looks at the cat? Why might the bird see the cat in that way?</b> (SEL Competency: Self-Awareness – Helping students understand how different perspectives are formed based on one's own experiences and point of view.)</p> <p><b>The cat is the same in all of the animals' eyes, but they see it differently. Why is that important to understand?</b> (SEL Competency: Social Awareness – Encouraging students to think about how perspective influences how we interpret the same situation differently.)</p> <p><b>How do the different perspectives in the story make you feel? Do you think</b></p>

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	<p><b>it's important to understand how others see the world? Why?</b> (SEL Competency: Social Awareness – Reflecting on how we feel when we understand different viewpoints.)</p> <p><b>How does the perspective of the cat change at the end of the story? Why do you think the author shows us the cat's point of view?</b> (SEL Competency: Self-Awareness – Thinking about how we see ourselves and others, and how we can gain insight from others' viewpoints.)</p> <p><b>How do you think the animals would feel if they understood each other's perspectives?</b> (SEL Competency: Social Awareness – Reflecting on the power of empathy and understanding.)</p> <p><b>What do you think the book teaches us about how we view the world and how we can understand others better?</b> (SEL Competency: Responsible Decision-Making – Encouraging students to think about the value of different perspectives and how it can help in decision-making and relationships.)</p>
<b>After Reading</b>	<p><b>K-2 Activity: "Perspective Collage"</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To help young students understand that people see the same thing in different ways by creating a visual representation of different perspectives.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction paper</li><li>• Magazines, newspapers, or printed pictures</li><li>• Glue sticks, scissors, markers</li></ul> <p><b>Instructions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Discussion:</b> Review how different animals saw the same cat in different ways. Ask students how they might see things differently from their friends.</li><li>2. <b>Create Collage:</b> Students will choose a picture of an object or scene and create a collage showing how different animals (or people) might see it. For example, a cat could be seen as big and scary to a mouse, and as cute and playful to a dog.</li></ol>

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3. **Reflection:** After creating their collages, students will share their work with the class and explain how their images show different perspectives.
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### 3-5 Activity: "Perspective Diaries"

**Objective:** To reflect on and explore the idea that we all have different perspectives and how this shapes our understanding of the world.

**Materials:**

- Paper
- Pencils, markers

**Instructions:**

1. **Discussion:** Review the story and discuss how each animal saw the cat differently. Ask students to think of a time when they saw something in a unique way, and how that might differ from how someone else saw it.
  2. **Create Diaries:** Students will write and draw in their "Perspective Diaries." They'll choose an object, person, or event, and write about how they see it. Then, they'll imagine how someone else (a friend, a teacher, a parent) might see it differently and record that perspective.
  3. **Sharing:** Allow students to share their diary entries with a partner or the class. Discuss how our unique perspectives can help us understand each other better.
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### 6-8 Activity: "The Empathy Map"

**Objective:** To help students understand the value of perspective-taking and develop empathy by mapping out different viewpoints.

**Materials:**

- Large paper or whiteboard
- Markers, pens

**Instructions:**

1. **Discussion:** Begin with a discussion on how different people or animals might see the same situation in different ways. Explain that understanding

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	<p>others' perspectives is important for building empathy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. <b>Create Empathy Map:</b> Choose a situation from the book (or another scenario). Have students create an "Empathy Map" where they draw four sections:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ "What does this person/animal see?"</li><li>○ "What does this person/animal hear?"</li><li>○ "What does this person/animal feel?"</li><li>○ "What does this person/animal think?"</li></ul></li><li>3. Students will fill out the map from different perspectives, such as the cat's view, a dog's view, a mouse's view, and so on.</li><li>4. <b>Group Discussion:</b> After completing their maps, students will share their findings and discuss how understanding different viewpoints can lead to more empathy and respect.</li></ol>
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What are the casel sel competencies covered in this book Provide a brief overview of the book for a teacher who will be reading the book to their class name of book/author Create before reading questions for this book Create 10 questions in the order of the story that teachers could ask as they read the book make the questions relate to the sel competencies of the book Create an after-reading activity that students could do related to the book create an activity that aligns with grades k-2 and one that aligns with grades 3-5 Prompt: create an interactive read aloud lesson plan using this format for the book \_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_ What are the casel sel competencies covered in this book