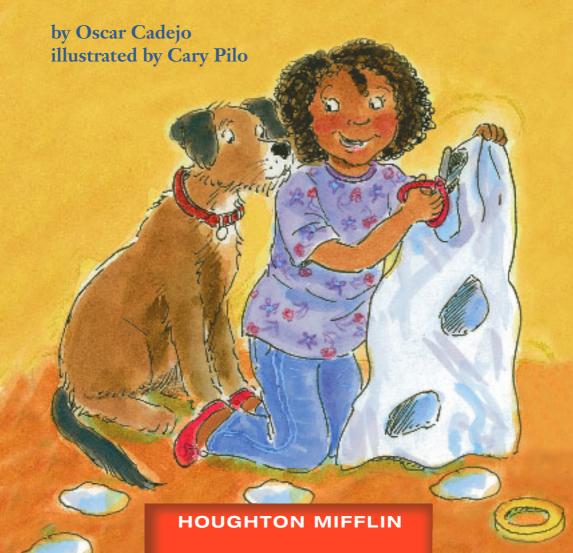
"Katy's Inventions



Katy's Inventions



by Oscar Cadejo illustrated by Cary Pilo



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT School Publishers

Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Requests for permission to make copies of any part of the work should be addressed to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers, Attn: Permissions, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32887-6777.

Printed in China

ISBN-13: 978-0-547-02167-6 ISBN-10: 0-547-02167-4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0940 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11

If you have received these materials as examination copies free of charge, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers retains title to the materials and they may not be resold. Resale of examination copies is strictly prohibited.

Possession of this publication in print format does not entitle users to convert this publication, or any portion of it, into electronic format.



I love to invent things. I'm good at it, too.
In first grade, I had a great idea. I was using too much paper to do my homework. So I took a piece of notebook paper to the art store. They coated the paper with plastic.

I wanted to use the paper more than once, so I bought a marker that would easily wash off. Then I did my math homework on the plastic paper.

As I wrote, my dog Oscar watched me. But I should have remembered to watch him!

The next day I took my homework to school. When I handed it in to the teacher, he stared at the blank page. Oscar had licked all the numbers off the page!





Since then, I have invented many things.

However, my inventions are not always successful.

One time my mother complained about Oscar's hair. Hair was on the couch, on the floor, and in the bed. She said, "If only that dog wouldn't shed!"

I had a great idea. I took an ordinary plastic bag and went to work. I cut the bag in the shape of a dog's body. I put the plastic suit on the dog, and he seemed to like it.

- Then Ocar began acting strangely. He ran out the door and started barking. He scared the cat, and she fell out of a tree.
- After that, Oscar went totally out of control. He ran back into the house and tore his plastic suit on the doorknob. He knocked over a lamp and my mother's fancy plates.

That invention was a disaster.



But the disaster gave me an idea. I thought, "If only things would not fall off tables!"

Meanwhile, my mother was upset. She said, "Did you see Fluffy fall out of the tree? What if that poor cat hurt herself?"

"It would take a lot of training to keep Fluffy out of the tree. Maybe we should keep the cat inside," my dad said.

Mom replied, "No! Fluffy enjoys the outside. I just wish she could fly like a squirrel."



Mom's words gave me another idea. With two good ideas, I had a lot of work to do. This invention had to be perfect!

114

First, I mixed modeling clay with glue. Then I glued the fancy plates and the lamp to the table. I nudged them with my hand, and they didn't move. SUCCESS!

I had more glue left. The bird cage might fall over, so I glued it to the table. I tried pushing it, but it would not move. SUCCESS AGAIN!



Then I began working on my second invention. I read three books on parachutes. Then I cut and sewed. Finally, my invention was complete. I had made a parachute for the cat!

I put the parachute on Fluffy. Then I told my parents, "I have two inventions that you will *love*!"



My mother eyed me suspiciously. I pointed out the window.

"Watch Fluffy!" I said.

The wind blew the parachute. Fluffy became confused and began running. The parachute opened and got very big.

To get away from the parachute, Fluffy ran up the tree.

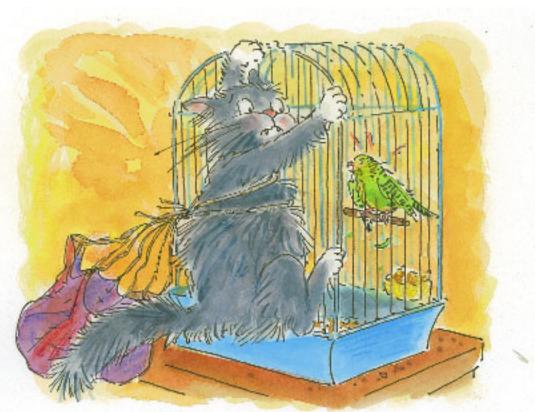




- Then Fluffy fell off the tree. As she fell, the parachute filled with air. Finally, she landed softly on the ground.
- Fluffy ran inside the house. She hopped up on the table and then jumped onto the bird cage. The bird screeched, but the cage did not move.

- My parents smiled. Mom said, "Look, Katy! Your inventions worked! The cat fell, but the parachute saved her. When she jumped on the cage, the glue held it on the table!"
- I felt very proud. Finally, my parents said something good about my inventions.

The next morning my parents had something to tell me. I was worried. Maybe they wanted me to stop inventing things. That would be terrible! I loved inventing things!



"Katy," Dad said. "We know that you like to invent things."

I said, "But Dad!"

Dad held up his hand.

"Mom," I pleaded.

Dad continued, "So we think that you should go to a camp for inventors. For a month you can invent as much as you like."



I jumped up and down. I screamed and yelled. I hugged both my parents. I had no idea they could be so sensible!

"Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

The bird got excited, too. She started screeching. That scared Fluffy, who jumped on Oscar. The dog jumped up on the table. You'll never guess what happened next.

The lamp stayed on the table! My parents smiled. So did I!



It was almost time for supper. Mom said, "What will I make tonight? Oh, if only I had a kitchen robot!"

I started to think. Then I started to think a little more. Hmm. What is the best way to make a robot?



Responding

TARGET SKILL Story Structure Who are the characters in the story? Where is the setting? What happens? Copy this chart and write your answers.

Characters ?	Setting ?
What Happens Katy invents plastic suit for her dog. ?	

Write About It

Text to Text Write a response paragraph that tells about another inventor you've read about. What did the inventor make? How did the invention work?

TARGET VOCABULARY

cage sensible

confused suspiciously

control training

ordinary upset

EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

disaster parachutes

invent robot

inventions

- TARGET SKILL Story Structure Tell the setting, character, and plot in a story.
- TARGET STRATEGY Infer/Predict Use clues to figure out more about story parts.
- GENRE A **fantasy** is a story that could not happen in real life.

m

Level: N

DRA: 30

Genre:

Fantasy

Strategy:

Infer/Predict

Skill:

Story Structure

Word Count: 804

2.6.26

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN Online Leveled Books





