

Can discuss a book that has been read, taking turns and listening to what others have to say. Can ask questions to improve understanding of the text.

Can infer characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions and justify these inferences with evidence from the text. Can identify a main idea from an extract of text.

Be able to justify their views drawing evidence from the text and explain their understanding through presentation and debate.

Star vocabulary

Ancestor	A person you are descended from.
Mesopotamia	An ancient region in present day Iraq.
Generations	When many people are born and live at the same time.
Scorched	Burned by flames or heat.
Bristled	Hair standing upright away from the skin.

Key Characters

Varjak Paw	Main character – a very young kitten.
Jalal the Paw	A Mesopotamian Blue cat who went into the Outside and found a home with Contessa.
Elder Paw	Varjak's grandfather and one of the few who remembers part of the stories of Jalal.
Sally Bones	The mysterious white cat who lords over the west side of the city.



Themes

Survival, friendship, loyalty, bravery and perseverance.

Author : S.F. Said.



S.F. Said is a British Muslim author, who was born in Beirut and spent his first years in Jordan. He grew up in London, moving there with his mother when he was two years old. He went to the University of Cambridge, and following this, began a PHD looking at the lives of young Muslims in Britain.

He has written three books; 'Varjak Paw', 'The outlaw Varjak Paw' and 'Phoenix'. He has also written many articles and reviews for The Guardian about children's

Context

Genre: Fiction

Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue cat from a large family that live comfortably inside the Contessa's large, grand house. Yet, when the Gentleman arrives with his odd black cats, Varjak and his grandfather the Elder Paw believe that something strange is going on. Having escaped the house, Elder Paw tells Varjak to leave and bring back a dog that will frighten away the Gentleman and his black cats. Thing is, Varjak has no street smarts, having been a house cat all his life ...