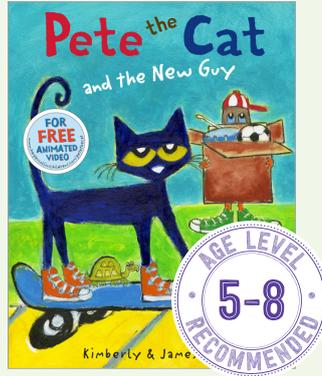


# Pete the Cat and the New Guy

by Kimberly & James Dean

## Themes

Do Your Best  
Friendship  
Self-Acceptance  
Uniqueness of Me  
Appreciation of Differences



It's always fun to have more friends but what happens when you meet someone new that is so very different from you? Pete the Cat learns that even though Gus looks different and moves different than any of his other friends, Gus is special in his own way. They all discover that there is always something everyone can do and if everyone does their best, great things can happen.

### Key Vocabulary

**Imagine:** to picture in your mind

**Shy:** not comfortable, bashful, somewhat fearful

**Platypus:** a mammal that is unlike other mammals. They have a wide bill like a duck, flat tail like a beaver, and lay eggs like a chicken.

### Tricky Phrasing

**Rocking to a new song or rocking to his own beat:** enjoying the music, playing with the music

**Sounds like my kind of cat:** someone I would enjoy having as a friend

**Groovy sound:** very pleasing, wonderful, great. (slang term)

## Before Reading: Discussion Starters

1. Have you ever been the new kid at school? How did it feel?
2. What do you think when you see a new kid at school? How do you act towards the new kid?
3. If you did your very best, what would you do to make the new kid feel accepted at school?

## After Reading: Discussion Starters

1. What was it that Pete first saw that made him want to be friends with the new kid?

*Red hat and green shoes. Why did Pete say "Sounds like my kind of cat"? Pete wore bright colored shoes too – but his were orange.*

2. Was it easy for Pete to meet the new kid? Did Pete do his best to make friends? What did he do? Pete was feeling shy but he wanted to say hi so he didn't give up. He kept riding by Gus' house. Pete was determined and did his best to be friends with Gus.
3. What was Pete's first impression when he finally met Gus? Answers will vary. Gus was very different than anyone Pete had ever met. Gus was NOT like Pete and Pete was NOT like Gus.
4. How did Pete feel about meeting people who were different? He thought it was very cool which means he like it. How do you feel when you meet someone who is different from you? Share stories.
5. How did Pete and his friends respond when Gus couldn't do the things that were easy for them to do? Answers will vary. They encouraged him to try new things (climb a tree, leapfrog). Encouraged him to not be sad. Reminded him that everyone is different and can do different things.
6. How did Gus respond when he couldn't do something that everyone else could do? He

### Teacher Note:

Kids struggle when they are not as good at something as someone else is. It is a hard thing to learn but we each have different strengths and weaknesses. Encourage your students to do their personal best and not compare themselves to others. Their uniqueness is what makes a class full of kids fun. Together they can do great things if everyone does their best.

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wished he could. Tried a few new things. Eventually felt discouraged enough to say "It's no fun around here for me." He went away from the others.

7. **Have you ever wished you could do something that your friend could do? How did it feel? How did your friend respond? Share stories.**
8. **Describe how the story ended. How was each animal important to the band? Answers will vary. Individual talents make a better band – more instruments, better sound. Each used their talent and together it made a fun activity for everyone.**
9. **What did you learn from this story? Answers will vary. We each have unique talents and we should always do our best with those talents. We also need to know that we can't always do what others do but we should try and do our best to try new things. Your best may look different from someone else's best but if you know you did your very best – it's okay. If you look at your group of friends – you each have different talents but when you put them all together – you can do great things- like having a full band!**

## Writing Prompt

Use the printable to fill in the blanks of this sentence: *You are not like me, and I am not like you, but I think being different is \_\_\_\_\_.* Write something you can do and draw yourself.

Use the printable to fill in the sentence. Then, think of three things you CAN do! Draw a picture of each thing you can do.

## Activities

**There is something everyone can do** Work with a partner and talk about what you each can do. Find one thing that each of you do best. Introduce your partner to the rest of the class and share what he/she does best at.

**Create a Poster** Everyone is good at something. What are you good at? Create a poster that shows others what you do well and three things you do in order to "Do Your Best" at it. Share your poster (and possibly your unique skill with the rest of the class/school)

**Sing with Pete** Visit [www.harpercollinschildrens.com/petethecat](http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/petethecat) for music and videos that can enhance the stories and help stimulate class conversation.

## Resources

Accelerated Reading Quiz: 168968  
Author Website: [www.petethecat.com](http://www.petethecat.com)  
Video of book read-aloud:  
[www.harpercollinschildrens.com/petethecat](http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/petethecat)

## "I Did My Best" Button

NED buttons are a great reward when students do their personal best! Visit [www.thenedshow.com/shop\\_ned](http://www.thenedshow.com/shop_ned) to purchase.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

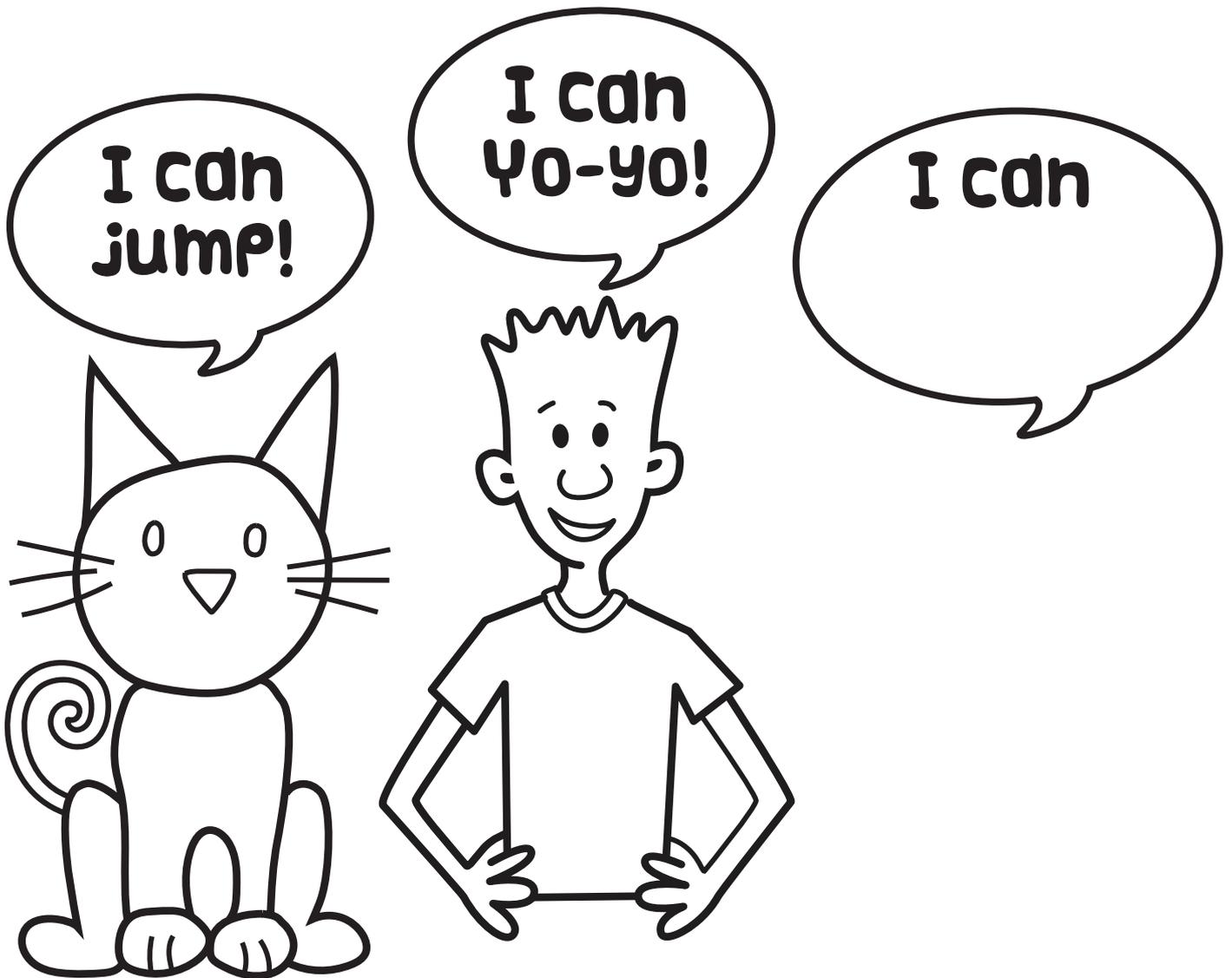
Directions: Trace the letters and fill in the blank. Then, draw yourself and fill in what you can do!

You are not like me, and  
I am not like you, but  
I think being different is

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Fill in the blanks to finish the sentence. Then, write three things you can do and draw pictures for each!

I wish I could \_\_\_\_\_

like

\_\_\_\_\_ , but \_\_\_\_\_

is something I just can't do.

But I can \_\_\_\_\_

I can \_\_\_\_\_

I can \_\_\_\_\_