

KAPTAIN KIDD GOES TO SCHOOL

A Little Story with Many Big Words

KAPTAIN KIDD is my latest pupil. He is not always on time, for often he walks in unconcernedly, even quite brazenly, just before recess time. He seems to know that hour when he may be given a big bite of the meat out of some one's sandwich, or be petted by some youngster's soft little hand.

Waving his furry tail like a prodigious plume, Kaptain Kidd stalks up and down the aisles sniffing here and there and enjoying many a loving rub surreptitiously offered.

With one ear lopped back, Kaptain Kidd purrs while little Maria smooths and pats his silky coat. Then he leaps to the reading table or to the window-sill, and ceremoniously laps his immaculate fur with a pink-edged tongue. Cleanliness achieved, again he stalks the aisles for friendly overtures.

Sometimes Pedro, the janitor, appears with something which Kaptain Kidd likes to eat.

And he eats right there very fastidiously, to the children's great delight.

Kaptain Kidd furnishes many a lesson in health and citizenship and other things, too. By his presence cleanliness is emphasized, for Kaptain Kidd is not a dirty, mangy stray cat, but a very cute, well kept little kitten from a good home

and family. Kindness to animals is encouraged, for no one would think of hurting Kaptain Kidd.

Besides, careful attention to sounding one's words carefully is made interesting. Kaptain Kidd can say m-ew, and also me-ow, and even p-urr. Not once since this phenomenon was pointed out has

Kaptain Kidd failed to say them just right. So the boys and girls try to say *their* words just right, for no one wants to be worsted by a cat.

With Kaptain Kidd now knowing three words, what may he not achieve by the end of the school year? Years ago, no one ever heard of a cat going to school! No cat, so far as I know, ever dipped his pink nose into the three R's.

"Perhaps Kaptain Kidd will say h-ow before long," said Concepcion Pirandejo hopefully. A long, long time I fear, Concepcion.

A rainy day came. Kaptain Kidd was

marked absent.

"Where is Kaptain Kidd this morning?" I asked, including him among the other absentees.

"He's in the house," said Concepcion primly, almost apologetically.

"What will he learn if he doesn't come

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Meet Kaptain Kidd who goes to school almost every day.

HOW A PYTHON KILLED A BULL

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crush the bones; the preparation of the food is done by the terrifically powerful body.

The python began at the front part of the bull's carcass and moved toward the back, crushing all the bones as it did so. It was a terrible sight. It took the reptile more than half an hour to get the body of the bull ready for swallowing. Then it dragged the carcass away into the jungle.

All this time my three dogs had stood behind me paralyzed by fear. When I continued my hike, they followed so near to me that they even touched my boots several times.

A few days later three natives came to our farm house and offered me the skin of the python. They had found the reptile in the act of swallowing the bull's body. The snake had swallowed most of the carcass, but was unable to get the head down—the head was sticking out of the python's mouth. The enormous reptile was helpless in this position, and it was easy for the natives to kill it with their long spears.

For a long time I kept

WHY JOSE GOT THE HIGHEST AVERAGE

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in your school?

4. Was Jose acquiring some good habits?

5. Do you know any boys like Jose?

6. Do you know any boys not like Jose?

7. Has this story helped you? How?

8. What kind of man do you think Jose will become?

the skin of the python, which was a little more than twenty-four feet in length. But finally I gave it away, because every time I looked at it, I was reminded of that terrible struggle of life and death between the mighty king of the reptiles and the helpless jungle bull.

REVIEW

1. What is a python? (See the encyclopedia.)

2. Find Mount Elgon on the map.

3. Find Uganda on the map.

4. What is a *safari*?

5. What are some of the wild animals found in this part of East Africa?

6. Tell about each.

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every day?" I accusingly inquired.

There were many grave shakings of heads. A cat must come to school if he wishes to know h-ow!

But next day Kaptain Kidd walked right in with the sunshine, his tail electric, upstanding with joy. He wound the gyrating tail among many little legs and even braved the teacher's ankles. Patted by velvet hands, he promenaded the aisles.

Yes, Kaptain Kidd was back, ready to be petted, have a bite to eat, perhaps to learn h-ow, and incidentally to listen at that interesting mouse-hole behind the teacher's desk, hoping to hear a minute squeak there. After all, to listen thus is his accomplishment, the one thing he knows best. And his way of knowing h-ow was never taught in any school. That's the great advantage of being a cat.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you like this story?

2. Has your school a cat pupil like Kaptain Kidd? (Perhaps your teacher will permit you to bring one if he is nice and clean and well behaved.)

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THE HUMBLE BEAN (Continued from page 63)

species also includes many varieties of wax and string beans, eaten green with the pods, or shelled and dried.

The lima bean also came from South America. It has large flat beans in a broad pod that grows on either a bush or a vine. The pod is not edible, but the seed is eaten both green and dried.

Soy beans are the common beans of China, Japan, India, and the Orient, where they are an important item in the diet of the inhabitants who eat much rice. Soy beans are not eaten as a vegetable, but are prepared in a great variety of complex forms.

The common bean of Europe is the broad bean which has been used as a food since remotest times.

Beans are prepared for use in a number of ways. Enormous quantities are ripened, shelled, and dried. Dried beans are also cooked, seasoned ready for the table, and canned as baked beans. String beans, and shelled green lima beans are also canned.

SOMETHING TO DO

Tell as much as you can about the bean after you have studied this article.

ASPHALT (Continued from page 64)

from underground sources. This lake, the world's largest supply of relatively pure asphalt, occupies more than 137 acres with a maximum depth of more than 175 feet.

CHALK (Continued from page 64)

tions.

In color chalk is usually white or whitish, and is composed chiefly of carbonate of lime.

When chalk is mixed with some other substances, it becomes the crayons which we use in school.

AMBER (Continued from page 64)

Amber is usually found in small pieces but some lumps weighing 15 or 18 pounds have been found.

Amber, which is expensive, is used chiefly for the mouthpieces of pipes, for beads, and for other ornaments.

REVIEW

1. Tell all you can about asphalt.
2. Tell all you can about chalk.
3. Tell all you can about amber.

KAPTAIN KIDD (Continued from page 76)

3. Here is a list of the big words in this story and their meanings. Can you memorize these?

unconcernedly, not caring

brazenly, without shame
prodigious, big

stalks, walks

surreptitiously, slyly

lopped, dropped or hung

back

ceremoniously, with

great display or show

immaculate, very clean

achieved, secured

overtures, offers

fastidiously, daintily

mangy, mean

phenomenon, unusual

happening

worsted, defeated

primly, in a very polite

manner

apologetically, as if asking

pardon

accusingly, as if blaming

gyrating, moving

promenaded, walked

minute, small

accomplishment, something well done

4. What have you learned from Kaptain Kidd?

5. Why did the children like Kaptain Kidd?

6. Do you think Kaptain Kidd would ever learn to say h-ow?

7. Why did he learn the other three "words"?