



# A Name for Kitty

written by Marcia Trimble • Illustrated by Gloria Lapuyade

I wonder how many kids have a kitty.

Books can remind you of you and your kitty. Even make you remember how you got your kitty.

That's what makes the story A NAME FOR KITTY everybody's story.

In the story, Malinda Martha goes to a pet shop.

To buy DOG food.

But while she's there, she falls in love with a kitten.

Sound familiar?

You mean Malinda Martha goes to the pet shop to get dog food and finds something special that she isn't really looking for?

A fortunate discovery!

Sounds like serendipity!

Getting a kitten includes the responsibility of naming the kitten.

It can be a big deal to find Kitty a name.

A cat should have a sensible everyday name.

Fancy or plain, but sensible all the same.

And a particular name. A one-of-a-kind name.

**Time for the story:** Please read the book OR listen and read along on the CD.

What did you like imagining?

(Kitty voice) Trying out names was exciting. Cosmo was great fun when I was speeding around in a spaceship. And I liked my catnip quilt.

I wonder if anyone caught on that I was pretending.

You were pretending?

(Kitty voice)...that I was dreaming about those minty catnip leaves.

Cats really do love the smell of those minty leaves.

(Kitty voice) I'm glad Malinda Martha finally figured out the name that I liked for my everyday name.

Really choosing your own name would be cool.

It COULD happen...In YOUR IMAGINATION!

## ♪ Kitty's Song ♪

A name. A name. I needed a name.

I zoomed around. I liked to play.

I was Cosmo for one whole day.

I jumped up on the counter...

I froze in my tracks...

when the flower vase shattered.

I wasn't flattered to beee.....Catastropheee.

I was afraid of my shadow on the wall.

Shadow didn't fit me at all.

I caught Cybermouse on her cybermat.

Not my kind of mouse.

I'm not Cybercat.

I caught a catnap in my own catnip patch.

But Patches wasn't the perfect match.

I climb trees.

I walk on the roof.

I'm independent but not aloof.

I grew up as kitties do.  
I'm a gentlecat...with a name I answer to.  
I grew into a name  
that sticks sticks sticks like glue.

Oh, by the way, look for the CATIONARY game at the end of A NAME FOR KITTY.

My favorite cat phrase is CAT'S PAJAMAS. What's your favorite cat phrase?  
I'll be wondering.

**(OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Counting kitty names.)**

You can use your imagination if you don't have a kitty yet, and imagine the name you would choose. Think about how you happened to choose that name. Write your kitty's name on a card (or have someone write it for you) and then hold up the card. Everyone gets a minute.

Have the teacher or helper count and report how many different names there are on the cards.

**Readers' Theater:** Script available in Stories on Stage booklet of scripts.

