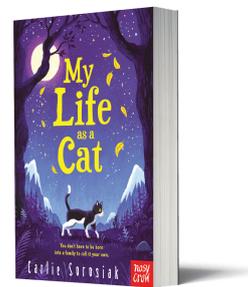




Carlie Sorosiak  
**My Life as a Cat**  
Discussion Notes



- The first chapter shows Leonard and Olive when they already know each other well. What do we learn about their relationship?
- How do you think Leonard feels when their plan to be a park ranger doesn't work out? Have you ever planned something that didn't work out the way you expected it to? How did it make you feel?
- Leonard says: 'Even so, Olive's words – the us, the we – wrapped around me, and I glimpsed something in that moment. What it must feel like to have a friend.' How does it feel to know you have a friend there for you?
- Can you remember going somewhere where you were new and didn't know anyone? For example, your first day of school. How did it feel? What difference did it make, having a friend to share the experience with?
- Leonard misses his hive – he was always connected and now he feels lonely. Do you ever feel lonely? How do you make sure you stay connected with friends and family?
- Imagine finding out your pet was an alien! How do you think you would react?
- Leonard begins to make a list of 'human lessons' (p. 121) – is there anything you would add to the list? What do you think is an important part of human life? Why? Think about experiences, feelings, relationships.
- Olive talks a lot about being 'weird' and not fitting in. What does the word weird mean to you? Is it easy to define what is 'weird' and what is 'normal'? Do you think these are good words?
- Olive says she will help Leonard to get home. She has just found a friend and now she may have to say goodbye. How do you think this makes her feel?
- Olive is helping Leonard by taking him to Yellowstone. In what ways has Leonard helped Olive?
- Leonard starts to question whether he should leave Earth. Make a list of the pros and cons of him staying.
- Q tells Leonard 'When you find someone who loves you like that, Leonard, you never let them go' after Olive organises the dinner party. Can you think of some really nice things someone has done for you? How did it feel?
- Why do you think Norma doesn't want to go on the road trip?
- Olive keeps apologising to Leonard, but Leonard also feels bad for making Olive help him. Why do you think they both feel this way? Is it ok to ask for help sometimes?
- Olive opens up to Leonard and tells him a lot about how she is feeling. Do you have someone you talk to when you're upset? How does talking about things help?
- Imagine you have to leave Earth tomorrow. What would you miss the most?
- A lot of things go wrong for Leonard during the book: he becomes a cat, he doesn't arrive in Yellowstone, he doesn't like being in Olive's rucksack. But, because of this, what ends up going right for Leonard? Discuss how sometimes things don't go to plan, but we can end up with a better outcome in the end.
- What were you hoping Leonard would do? Stay on Earth or join his hive?
- What has the book taught you about family, friendship and belonging?



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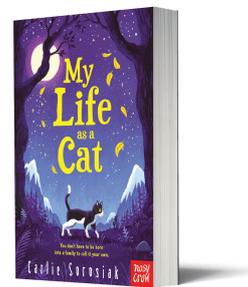
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Carlie Sorosiak

# My Life as a Cat

## Activity Ideas



### Best Day on Earth

Q, Norma, Leonard and Olive play 'Best Day on Earth' (p. 187). As a group, play your own version of this game. Draw either your best day on Earth, or what you want your best day to look like. Share your drawings with the group and explain why they are your best days. Who are you with? What are you doing? If you've drawn a day you want to happen, why do you want it to happen?

### Alien Descriptions

Before arriving on Earth, all Leonard knew about the planet came from previous travellers and TV shows he had watched. Although he had studied Earth, there were still things that surprised him. Write a description of a place on Earth for an alien. For example, a supermarket, library or a school playground. Imagine the alien knows nothing about Earth – describe your chosen location to them, thinking about the purpose of the location, sounds, smells, sights and feelings.

### Advertising Earth

Leonard has to make the difficult decision to either stay on Earth or rejoin his hive. Create a poster advertising Earth. Why should people visit and why should they stay? Think about all the things that Leonard learns to love about Earth – both about the planet and about humans. What are the top 3 – 5 selling points that you want to advertise? Include facts, imagery and clear messaging.

### Alternative Endings

At the end of the book, Leonard makes his decision. In groups, act out alternative endings to the one in the book. If he had made a different decision, how do you think the scene would have played out? Think about how Q, Olive and Norma would have reacted. How would Leonard explain his decision? Act out the different endings and take a vote on which ending you prefer.

We would love to see any of the activities you complete!

Share them with us [@NosyCrow](#) [#MyLifeAsACat](#)

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