

A Colorful Cat

Children interact with the storyteller in this tale of a cat that changes from brown to more colorful exteriors. The story involves recognition of fruits and vegetables. Rather than looking at a book's pages as the story is read, the focus is on a silhouette of "Scat the Cat" on the front of a manila file folder. The storyteller reveals the colors as the story unfolds.

CODE: Low activity level 

PROPS:



Storytelling file folder

- ♦ Materials needed: standard manila file folder, cat silhouette pattern, the word: "cat", story text, stapler or wide tape, glue stick, scissors



Picture cards from "Color Me Healthy" kit's **Color of Food** (8 cards coded with a black "Color Me Healthy" logo) or use construction paper as noted on page 3.



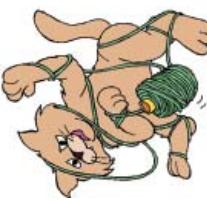
Poster of colorful fruits and vegetables from kit

ACTION:

1. Construct one file folder storytelling prop (instructions on page 3).
2. Gather children in a style appropriate for storytelling so that all can easily see and participate.
3. Explain to the children that you will need their help in telling this story about Scat the Cat. They will need to imagine the colors of fruits and vegetables to help tell the story or refer to the poster from the kit.
4. Read the story on the back of the file folder; encourage excitement and participation.
5. Follow-up the story by discussing the rainbow of colors found in fruits and vegetables.
6. Ask children why fruits and vegetables are good for them. Expand on their answers in terms they can understand.
7. Optional: Taste and discuss a fruit or vegetable that was mentioned in the story of the colorful cat.



Scat The Cat



Read this story facing the children with the cat outline on the file folder front, in plain view for them.
Raise the front colored card (placed in the order as they appear in the story) as you read, revealing the color underneath it. Place the removed card at the back of the colored sheets. Let the children respond with the name of the color. Also have the children join in reciting the chant said by Scat in the story.

Feel free to embellish the story with more questions and responses from the children.

Once upon a time there was a little **BROWN** cat named Scat - Scat the Cat. Scat, like most other cats, liked to sleep. One day, as he was napping, he had a dream. In his dream he looked around and saw that so many other cats were brown, too. Scat decided he would like to be a different color, so he said:

**“I’m Scat the Cat,
Change my color,
Just like that!”** (snap fingers or clap hands)

All of a sudden he was (*slowly raise the color card*) **GREEN** like peas and lettuce. What other foods or things are green like Scat? He went out to play with his friends, but they couldn’t find him because he was the same color as the grass. Scat decided he didn’t want to be green in his dream, so he said:

**“I’m Scat the Cat,
Change my color,
Just like that!”** (snap fingers or clap hands)

Now he was the color of carrots and pumpkins. What color is this? (slowly reveal the color) He was now **ORANGE**! What are some other things that are orange? Some cats are kind-of an orange color. Scat’s cat cousins had orange and brown stripes. His cousin said to Scat: “Don’t copy me! You should be your own color.” Scat did not want to make his cousin unhappy, so he said:

be a bright color so he said once again...

**“I’m Scat the Cat,
Change my color,
Just like that!”** (snap fingers or clap hands)

Wow, he turned....**PURPLE** like grapes or plums. Scat looked at himself in the mirror and blinked. And in his crazy dream he turned another color.....Scat turned **RED**! Red is the color of an apple or a strawberry. What else is the color red? He went out to play with his brothers and sisters and friends, but they all said “Who ever heard of a red cat? Why didn’t you like being a brown cat - that’s the color you were meant to be.”

Scat thought about what they said, “I guess I don’t want to be red like a cherry. I don’t want to be yellow like corn. I don’t want to be orange like cantaloupe or blue like berries. And I don’t want to be white like onions or green like pickles. I want to be brown again! So he said:

**“I’m Scat the Cat,
Change my color,
Just like that!”** (snap fingers or clap hands)

Scat turned the color of cauliflower and mashed potatoes. What color is that? **WHITE!** Oh dear, this is a crazy dream for a kitty cat! There are many white cats, just like there are many brown cats, and Scat wanted to

**“I’m Scat the Cat,
Change my color,
Just like that!”** (snap fingers or clap hands)

Then Scat turned....**YELLOW**. What foods are yellow? Yellow is a nice color but it made Scat feel hot like the sun, so he thought he should change his color again.

**“I’m Scat the Cat,
Change my color,
Just like that!”** (snap fingers or clap hands)

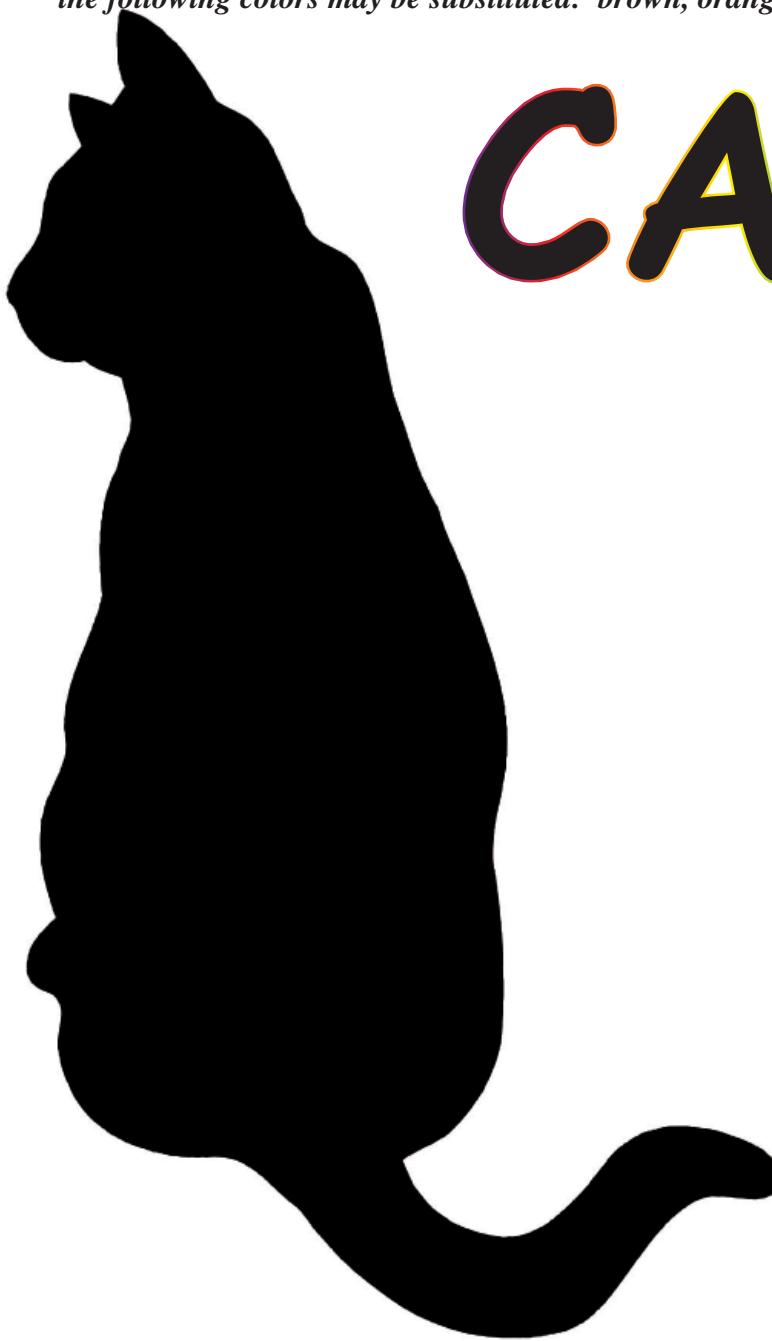
Scat changed back to **BROWN** and woke up from his colorful dream. After that he was happy just being himself.

The End

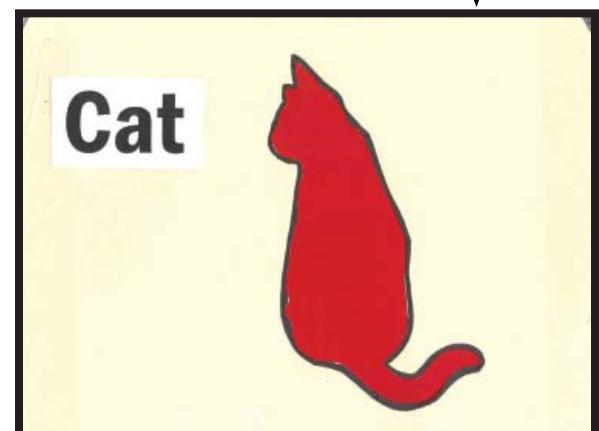
INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSTRUCT STORYTELLING FILE FOLDER:

1. Using the cat pattern, trace the cat onto the back side of the outside of a manila file folder. Position pattern so the cat's ears point toward folder tabs.
2. Cut out the traced cat. Don't cut into other parts of the folder.
3. Tape or staple sides of the folder together. Leave the top open to form a pocket.
4. Glue the story text to uncut side of the folder. Glue the word cat to the front of the folder alongside the cat cutout.
5. Insert the 8 ***Color of Food*** cards with the solid color side showing through the cat cutout. Arrange the colored cards behind the brown card in the order that they appear in the story.

Note: If you do not have access to the Color of Food cards, one sheet each of construction paper in the following colors may be substituted: brown, orange, blue, green, yellow, purple, white, red.



Front of completed file folder



Back of completed file folder

