

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats: Will it be important in 100 years?

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats is a collection of children's poems about cats, written by T.S. Eliot for his godchildren and friends. It was first published in 1939 and has been republished and reprinted many times. The poems describe individual cats or inform the reader about cats in general and were the inspiration for Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical CATS. I believe that the poems, and so the book, will continue to be loved for many years because they are relatable and simple.

Cats, as you will either know or discover through the book, are very precise, mysterious, superior creatures. This has not changed one bit since the thirties when Eliot wrote the poems, and probably will not change for years to come. In the poems, Eliot personifies the cats, giving them a name or a role in town. For example, the Gumbie cat- Jennyanydots, sits all day, but at night, she organises all the mice and cockroaches of the household to be polite, helpful and healthy. In our lives, there is always a Mondays Expert (like in the song by Weddings, Parties, Anything) who knows just how everyone's lives could be more efficient or better and will boss everyone around until it happens. In the future, there will still be people and cats like this, and children will still be able to connect the practical cats with the people and stories around them.

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats is also a good way to introduce children and students to poetry and a massively successful poet and writer. The poems are fun, memorable and relatable, and will encourage students to learn more or write rhyming poetry. With a small amount of research, (easy in a world of technology) they will find that T.S Eliot won a Nobel Prize for literature and has become known for his influence on literature, having written about a hundred literary reviews and articles. The range of Eliot's works, from the light-hearted cats, to writing strikingly accurate descriptions of life and death, makes for an incredible poet to study.

In conclusion, Old Possum and his book of Practical Cats will not only survive another 100 years but be relevant and useful to families and cat-lovers.