

# Millions of Cats

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An American classic with a refrain that millions of kids love to chant: Hundreds of cats, thousands of cats, millions and billions and trillions of cats.

Wanda Gag's enchanting tale of the very old man who went off in search of the prettiest cat in the world for his wife and returned instead with millions to choose from has become an American classic, widely recognized as the first modern picture book. First published in 1928, it was a recipient of the 1929 Newbery Honor Award and has gone on to sell over a million copies.

With its charming illustrations and rhythmic, singsong refrain, Millions of Cats remains as beloved today as it was when it first appeared almost a century ago.

Millions of Cats is a wonderful tale of vanity versus humility, written and illustrated by the singular Wanda Gag. An old man and his wife decide to get a cat, so the old man goes out in search of the prettiest cat of all. When he is forced to choose from "hundreds, thousands, millions and billions and trillions" of cats, he (naturally) brings them all home. When the wife points out their inability to support the legion of felines, it is left to the cats to decide who among them is the prettiest. Anyone who has ever owned more than a single cat can tell you what happens next.

Gag's simple, appealing black ink drawings are perfect for the story, somehow capturing at least the idea of millions of cats in a single page. Repeated lines and the sing-song title refrain make this a read-aloud natural. (Ages 4 to 8)

Wanda Gag (1893-1946) was born in New Ulm, Minnesota, the daughter of an artist and the eldest of seven children. In recognition of her rare artistry, she was the posthumous recipient of the 1958 Lewis Carroll Shelf Award for Millions of Cats and the 1977 Kerlan Award for the body of her work.

#### Other Books

Storytelling with Puppets. In this latest revision of Storytelling With Puppets, Connie Champlin has polished themes and fine-tuned sections to meet today's ever-changing programming environment, paying special attention to literature-based instruction and multicultural themes.

... of visuals required and volume of characters involved to consider for effective puppet adaptation. An example is the popular Babar series, in which Jean and Laurent de Brunhoff document the many travels and adventures of Babar ..."