



READING GUIDE FOR TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

Stanley, No! Growing Pains

by **Tammy Sheedy** · illustrated by **Sarah Gutierrez**

Picture book · 36 pages · ISBN 9798295656408 · Themes: family, mischief, growing up

Stanley got his happy ending: a warm house, a full food bowl and a family of his very own. But nobody warned him that indoor life comes with rules. So many rules. Run inside? Stanley, no! Climb the curtains? Stanley, no! Every kid who has ever heard the word 'no' will recognize a kindred spirit in this lovable, mischievous cat. The continuation of Stanley's true story is a funny, warm-hearted look at what it really means to become part of a family — growing pains and all.

BEFORE YOU READ

Perfect for students who already met Stanley in *Tails of a Brave Kitten* — but the book stands alone, too.

- Recall: What did Stanley want most in his first adventure? Did he get it?
- Predict: Now that Stanley has a forever home, what new problems could a curious cat find indoors?
- Talk about rules: Why do homes and classrooms have rules? Who are rules for?

TALK ABOUT IT

Discussion prompts for during and after reading.

- Which of Stanley's mishaps made you laugh the most? Why was it funny?
- Why does Stanley's family say 'no'? Is it because they don't love him — or because they do?
- How do you think Stanley feels when he hears 'Stanley, no!'? How can you tell?
- Have you ever been told 'no' when you were just curious or excited? How did it feel?
- What does Stanley learn by the end? What does his family learn?
- How is this book different from Stanley's first adventure? How is it the same?

TRY THIS

Hands-on activities for classrooms and library story times.

- From 'no' to 'yes': Pick one of Stanley's 'no' moments and rewrite it as a safe 'yes' (Climb the curtains? Stanley, no — climb the cat tree, Stanley, yes!). Make a class poster of your 'yes' rules.
- Our family/classroom rules: Brainstorm the rules that keep everyone safe and happy, and sort them into 'safety rules' and 'kindness rules.'
- Feelings detective: Pause at a mischief moment and act out Stanley's face and his family's faces. What is each one feeling?
- Then and now: Fold a paper in half. Draw outdoor Stanley on one side and indoor Stanley on the other. Which Stanley would you rather cuddle?
- Write the next mishap: Invent a brand-new 'Stanley, no!' scene in two sentences and a picture.

Every pet has a story. Every story has a heart.