

Varjak Paw - S. F. Said

Lesson 1

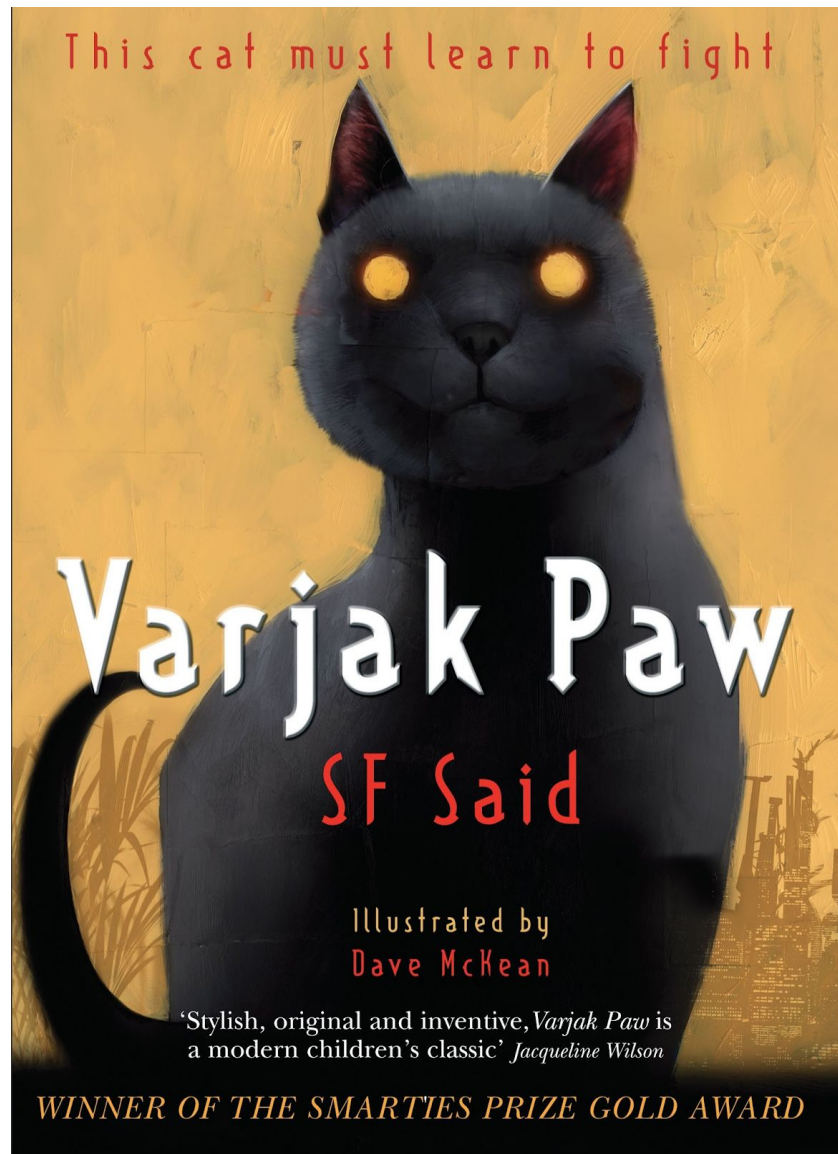
Before reading...

Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb...

- Were any of your predictions correct?



About the Book

Read the 'About the book' (which comes at the start of the book) and **think about the following questions:**

- What tone does this set for the book?
- What do we learn from these lines?
- How do we feel when we read these lines?
- Why does the book begin with these lines?

'There are Seven Skills in the Way of Jalal,' whispered the Elder Paw. 'We know only three of them. Their names are these. Slow-Time. Moving Circles. Shadow-Walking.'

Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue kitten. He lives high up in an old house on a hill. He's never left home, but then his grandfather tells him about the Way – a secret martial art for cats.

Now Varjak must use the Way to survive in a city full of dangerous dogs, cat gangs and, strangest of all, the mysterious Vanishings.

Comprehension

Chapters 1

1. What is the 'Jalal tale'?
2. What are Varjak's brothers called?

Chapter 2

3. Who was known as 'the family hero'?

Chapter 3

4. What were Jay, Jethro and Jerome fighting over?

Chapter 4

5. Why did Jasmine not want Julius to fight Varjak?

Chapter 5

6. Who had the black cats caught?

Chapter 6

7. Why could Varjak 'see for miles and miles'?

Chapter 7

8. What did Varjak dream about?

Chapter 8

9. What were the Elder Paw's words that Varjak tried to remember?

Chapter 9

10. What did the cat that Varjak met look like?

Chapter 10

11. What did Varjak dream about in this chapter?

Chapter 11

12. What was the spiky black-and-white cat called?

Vocabulary

1. Stealthy
2. Restless
3. Trickle
4. Halt
5. Seldom
6. Gravely
7. Invisible
8. Unapproachable
9. Ancestor
10. Shiver
11. Crunch
12. Expression
13. Silently
14. Flimsy
15. Shelter
16. False
17. Twitch
18. Curved
19. Balance
20. Sparkle
21. Stagger
22. Regain
23. Lurch
24. Ripple
25. Mile

HOMEWORK

How does Said **frighten the reader** in these chapters?

OR

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.