

# Booktalk!

## Dr. KittyCat: Pumpkin the Hamster Script

### For this Book Talk you will need

- 5 actors (Dr. KittyCat, Pumpkin, Peanut, Fennel, Posy)
- Dr. KittyCat: cat ears, whiskers & tail, white lab coat, flowery doctor's bag, flashlight
- Pumpkin the Hamster: hamster ears, whiskers & tail, red bandana, scarf & mittens, head lamp
- Peanut the Mouse: mouse ears, whiskers, tail, red hat, scarf & mittens
- Fennel the Fox: fox ears, pointy snout, bushy tail, red baseball cap & scarf
- Additional props: table covered with long black plastic tablecloth (so legs of table are completely hidden), fake leaves, several twigs/branches, paper/cardboard telescope, tripod/stand for telescope, tensor bandage, chair/stool covered in grey blanket (to simulate rock)

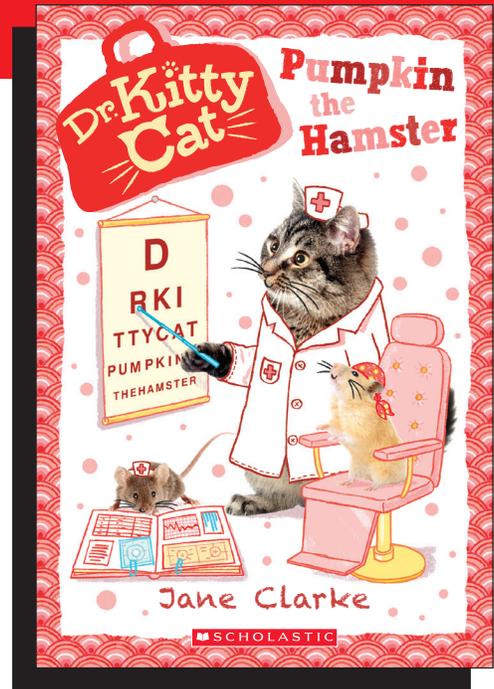
**Dr. K:** *(walking on darkened stage with characters following close behind; Dr. K is holding a flashlight & shining it backwards so others can see; branches are strewn all over stage)*  
Peanut – are you & Pumpkin managing the telescope alright?

**Peanut:** *(walking onstage nodding, with Pumpkin following close behind; both are carrying the telescope)*

**Dr. K:** *(continuing to walk forward, glancing around then stopping momentarily in middle of stage)* Follow me everyone. Mrs. Hazelnut told me the best stargazing spot is just on the other side of those trees. *(motioning others to follow; pointing across the stage in direction of table)*

**Peanut:** *(approaching middle of stage, passing a small pile of leaves; Pumpkin suddenly dropping end of telescope & falling down on the leaves; Peanut turning quickly to see what has happened & rushing over to Pumpkin)* Are you OK, Pumpkin? *(helping Pumpkin stand up)*

continued on next page...



# Booktalk!

- Pumpkin:** *(getting up slowly, dusting himself off as he stands up) I'm fine. (pausing) Just stumbled over something. (readjusting his head lamp)*
- Dr. K:** *(continuing across stage toward table & calling to crew behind her) Watch where you are going everyone. (stepping over twigs/branches as she's speaking) There are a lot of fallen branches around here. Mrs. Hazelnut also told me that some trees were blown down in last year's storm. (everyone stepping around branches as they walk)*
- Pumpkin:** *(making loud, surprised sound as he falls again, dropping head lamp on stage & rolling under the table, completely out of sight) Squ-eee-ak!*
- All:** *(freezing on the spot)*
- Dr. K:** *(sounding alarmed) Who was that?*
- Pumpkin:** *(sounding distressed) It's me – Pumpkin! I've hurt myself!*
- Fennel:** *(Peanut & Fennel setting down telescope; Fennel shining flashlight around table; Peanut sounding panicked) Where is he? I can't see him. His head lamp's gone out!*
- Pumpkin:** *(sounding scared & pained) Squ-eee-ak! I fell down a hole!*
- All:** *(continuing to search area for Pumpkin; shining flashlights here & there)*
- Pumpkin:** *(weakly) I'm down here! (pausing) And it's really dark.*
- Dr. K:** *(cheerfully & reassuringly) We'll be there in a whisker! (following sound of Pumpkin's voice & heading towards table with other animals trailing closely behind; finding Pumpkin's head lamp, then lifting tablecloth & discovering Pumpkin)*
- Dr. K:** *(Pumpkin laying on his back, covered in leaves; Dr. K speaking reassuringly) We're here now, Pumpkin. Everything will be fine. (turning to Peanut) I'm too big to get in this little hole. You'll have to go down and examine him before we try to get him out. (lifting tablecloth fully so underside of table is fully visible)*
- Peanut:** *(nodding, taking off mittens & putting on Pumpkin's head lamp before crouching down to crawl under table; addressing crew) Shine your lights here. (crew focusing beams of light under the table)*
- Peanut:** *(speaking reassuringly as he crawls to Pumpkin) You're safe in our paws, Pumpkin. (brushing leaves off of Pumpkin) Can you tell me where it hurts?*
- Pumpkin:** *(moaning slightly) It's my ankle.*

continued on next page...

# Booktalk!

- Dr. K:** *(calling to Peanut)* Don't forget to check to make sure Pumpkin hasn't hurt his head, back, or neck.
- Pumpkin:** *(groaning then responding to Dr. K)* My head is fine.
- Peanut:** I need to check you all over before I can move you. Can you wiggle all your toes for me? *(Pumpkin doing as Peanut asks; Peanut calling up to Dr. K)* I think Pumpkin's only hurt his ankle.
- Dr. K:** Good. You're doing really well, both of you. Now, Peanut, I need you to gently run your paws over Pumpkin's ankle and tell me if it feels twisted or swollen or hot, or out of place at all.
- Peanut:** *(speaking calmly to Pumpkin)* Don't worry – I'll be very gentle. *(again, calling up to Dr. K)* Pumpkin's ankle feels fine to me.
- Dr. K:** It doesn't sound as if Pumpkin has broken his ankle. I think he probably has a mild sprain. *(addressing Pumpkin)*
- Peanut:** *(calling up to Dr. K)* Can we try and pull Pumpkin out now?
- Dr. K:** *(kneeling down and helping Pumpkin get out from under table; Pumpkin rolling out from under table & staying seated next to table; Dr. K examining Pumpkin's ankle then speaking to Peanut)* Thank you, Peanut. You did very well down there. *(addressing Pumpkin)* How are you doing?
- Pumpkin:** *(tearfully)* I didn't see where I was going! And now I'm spoiling the stargazing for everyone.
- Dr. K:** *(consoling Pumpkin)* Everyone can keep looking at the stars. You'll soon be as good as new again. Just don't put too much weight on your ankle for a day or two. Peanut will bandage you up. And while he does, I'll set up the telescope. *(picking up telescope & putting it on tripod/stand)*
- Peanut:** *(taking tensor bandage out of doctor's bag, unrolling it & wrapping it around Pumpkin's ankle; helping Pumpkin stand up so he can sit on 'rock')*
- Dr. K:** Pumpkin – I think you should have the first turn at the telescope. *(handing telescope to Pumpkin & continuing)* The planet Venus is the brightest star in the sky tonight. It's very easy to spot.
- Pumpkin:** *(squinting through telescope)* The sky looks all fuzzy. *(Dr. K grabbing a piece of gauze out of bag & polishing glass end)* Take another look, Pumpkin.

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# Booktalk!

- Pumpkin:** *(taking the telescope from Dr. K & squinting through lens)* It's still all blurry.
- Dr. K:** *(sounding puzzled)* Hmm. Pumpkin – do you have a headache? *(looking Pumpkin over carefully)* There are no signs of any bumps or scrapes or bruises on your head... *(thinking deeply for a moment then looking as if she suddenly realized something)* Aha! Your head is fine, Pumpkin, but...
- Peanut:** So what's wrong with him?
- Dr. K:** *(pulling book out of doctor's bag & turning to audience)* To find out the answer to Peanut's question *(holding up copy of Dr. KittyCat: Pumpkin the Hamster)*, read *Dr. KittyCat: Pumpkin the Hamster* – it's at your Scholastic Book Fair!