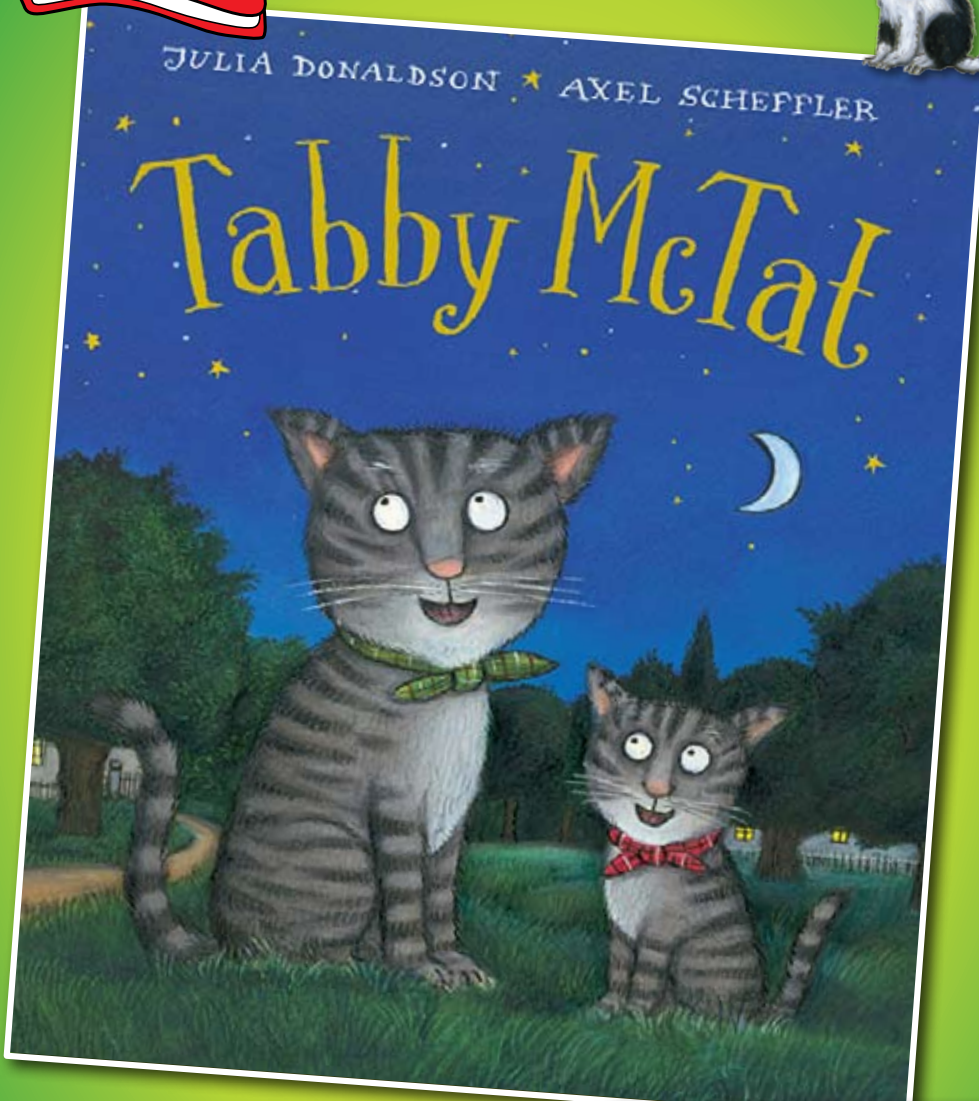
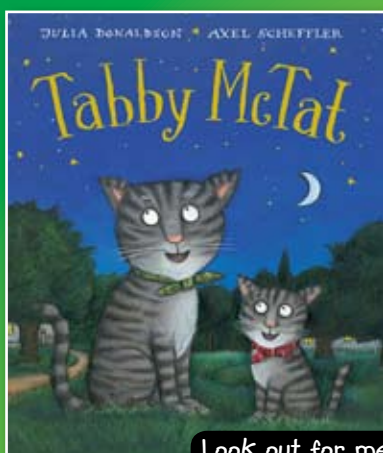


**Book
Talk**



AGES 2+

**Engage and inspire your
pupils with a Book Talk!**



Look out for me at
your Book Fair!

AGES 2+

Price	£5.99 / €7.20
Case	Welcome to Reading
Author	Julia Donaldson
Illustrator	Axel Scheffler
Publisher	Alison Green Books, an imprint of Scholastic Ltd.

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

This story is about **friendship**, **music** and the importance of finding a place where you can be happy. It will appeal to **cat-lovers** with its funny and accurate descriptions of feline behaviour!

Summary

Tabby McTat is a busker's cat, and he and his owner Fred are perfectly happy living, working and singing together. But one day, Tabby McTat meets a lovely female cat and while they are chatting, a thief snatches Fred's hat containing all of the money earned from busking. Whilst giving chase, Fred gets injured and ends up in hospital. So, when Tabby McTat comes back to look for Fred, he can't find him.

Luckily, Tabby McTat's new friend, Sock, invites him back to live with her people. Life is good for Tabby McTat in his new home, especially when Sock has three lovely kittens – but he can't help missing Fred. The kittens soon grow up and find homes – all except the littlest one, Samuel Sprat, who has such a LOUD miaow that no one seems to want him.

Finally, Tabby McTat decides he simply must find Fred. Eventually he tracks him down, and they are delighted to be together again – but Tabby McTat is missing his new home. What can he do? Fortunately, Samuel Sprat asks if he can be the busker's new cat! Samuel Sprat keeps Fred company and joins in with his songs with his very loud miaow, and Tabby McTat goes home to Sock ... and everyone's happy!

Did you know?

- Julia Donaldson used to be a busker herself! Before her sons were born, she and her husband Malcolm used to travel around Europe performing songs which they had written.
- The partnership between Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler began in 1993, when Axel illustrated Julia's first book, *A Squash and a Squeeze*.

The Story Session

1. Introducing the book

Show the front cover to the children and read the title and blurb together. Look at the cover picture, and encourage the children to predict what they think the story will be about.

2. Reading the story

- Read the whole story to the children. Pause after Fred ends up in hospital and say: "What do you think will happen to Tabby McTat now? Will he find Fred again?" Pause again after the kittens are born and ask: "Do you think Tabby McTat will forget about Fred now?" Pause after Tabby McTat and Fred find each other and say: "How are Tabby McTat and Fred feeling now? How do you think the story will end?"
- Do the children notice the pictures of Samuel Sprat following Tabby McTat on his final journey to find Fred?

3. Follow-up

- Say: "How do you think Samuel Sprat felt when he got his wish to be the busker's cat? Do you think all the characters will be happy now?"
- The children could draw a picture of Tabby McTat and Sock coming back to see Fred and Samuel Sprat singing. They could write a caption to go with their picture.
- You could work together to make up a tune for the song that Fred sings, and perform it together.



YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class?
- Were they helpful?
- Are there any changes you'd like to see to make them more useful?

We're always happy to hear your comments, so please email us!
For the UK, email: bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk
For Ireland, please email: bookfairs@scholastic.ie