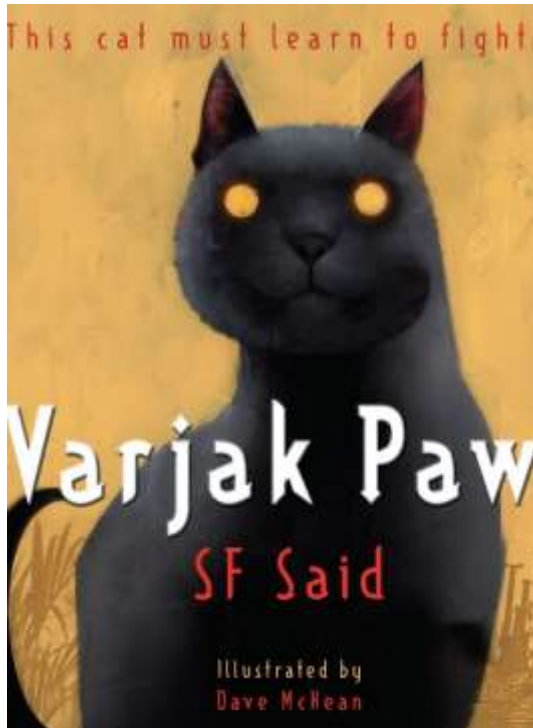




Guided Reading, week commencing 11th January 2021

Task 1, Monday.

Varjak Paw

Your first task is to read this extract from Chapter 5 of Varjak Paw.

- 1) Listen to Mr. Gamage read the extract on the blog.
- 2) Read it quietly to yourself.
- 3) Read it again and make a note of any words or phrases you are unsure about.
- 4) Read the text aloud to yourself, with expression.
- 5) Perform the text to someone else (sibling, parent, relative, friend, etc).
- 6) Discuss with this person what you already know about Varjak.
- 7) What do think might happen next?

This extract follows the Paw family argument, the arrival of the Gentleman and his black cats and the face-off between these and the Elder Paw and Varjak. The Elder Paw is fighting the black cats...

The Elder Paw was right. The only chance was to find a dog. His grandfather was doing what he had to; now it was all up to Varjak.

His mind on fire, Varjak tore his eyes from the garden, and turned to the wall. It separated the world he knew from the world Outside. No Paw had been over that wall since Jalal himself came from Mesopotamia, but it was the only way out.

He took a deep breath, coiled his body tight. One last glance, over his shoulder. No!

The black cats had caught the Elder Paw. They had him backed against the house. They came at him from both sides. He slashed out, but together they swarmed on top of him, and forced him to the ground.

There was a terrible howl. The black cats came away, shaking their heads. And the Elder Paw ---

The Elder Paw looked limp, like a broken toy.

There was a roaring in Varjak's ears. His stomach churned. Everything inside him screamed at him to stay, to fight, to help the only cat who ever understood him. But the Elder Paw's words echoed in his mind: *go, before it's too late*. He turned to the wall.

Three.

Two.

One.

Varjak exploded into motion. Back legs uncoiled. Front paws reached out for a grip. Found it. Back legs pushed, pumped, powered up, up, and like the wind, Varjak Paw flew up the face of the wall, up through the trees, higher than the curtains, higher than the house, up, beginning to tire, muscles aching, vision blurring – how much further? – up, grip after grip, paw over paw, slipping...



Latched onto a ledge. Heaved. And made it to the top of the wall.



Outside! For the first time since Jalal, a Paw stood on the edge of the world.

