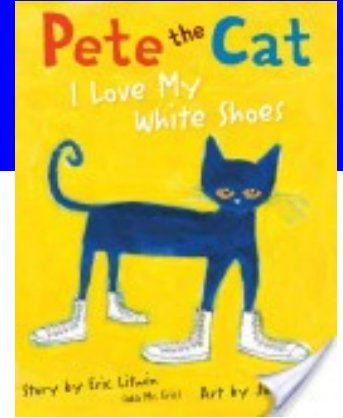


## Pre-K Essential Literature

# Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin



- Talk about how it feels to have a new pair of shoes. Describe how a person shops for shoes.
- Talk about the word “accident.” Tell a story about an accident you once had.
- What would happen if you ruined a new pair of shoes? How would you feel? How did Pete feel?
- Make up a song and dance to do whenever Pete walks down the road.
- Come up with gestures for repeated phrases like “uh-oh,” “goodness no!” or “It’s all good”.
- Notice that the print changes color in the book on different pages. I wonder why?
- Eat some strawberries or blueberries after you read *Pete the Cat*.
- Walk through a puddle and make wet footprints on the driveway. See what kind of patterns you can make with your feet.

### Shoe Math

Music and rhythm teach children to recognize patterns. Recognizing patterns is one of the first steps in learning to read and an important early math skill. As Pete sings his song, invite the children to clap a rhythm, tap their knees, or move to the rhythm. Use a wood block or rhythm sticks. Add a count at the beginning 1-2-3-4!

Invite the children to take off their shoes and make sets of shoes, by color, pattern or other common characteristics. See how many different sets you can make with your shoes. Examine patterns on the bottom of the shoes.

### Groovy Art

Squish up blueberries or strawberries in a bag with a toy mallet, or make mud with dirt and water to test out the color changing possibilities on white fabric.

Gather a white kerchief into folds and wrap with rubber bands. You can dip into cups of dye colors, or use a dropper to drop a little bit of color at a time, then open up and hang to dry. Engage children in conversation about the patterns they see.

Draw with two different watercolor markers on a coffee filter, then sprinkle with drops of water so that the colors run and mix. Do you see a different color where the two colors meet?

### It's All Good

We all feel like crying, or become upset sometimes. Share stories of what makes you upset. What makes you feel better? Start a practice of deep breathing when you are upset. It might help you relax just like Pete.

*Pete the Cat* is about **resilience**, or the ability to keep going when times are tough. Pete faces the challenge of each new color-change with resilience. Does he cry because his shoes are now red instead of white? Or wet instead of dry? Goodness No! He keeps on dancing down the road. Point out when children are **resilient**.

### Water activity

Draw with sidewalk chalk on a pair of white shoes, then dip them in a tub of water or spray them with a hose. See if the colors will wash away!

# Looking beyond the cover: *Pete the Cat*

## About the Author

Eric Litwin began his career as a special education teacher who used music and storytelling to reach and teach his students. He loves music and books; combining them, because they fit naturally together like peanut butter and jelly. Litwin is the co-creator of The Learning Groove, a music and movement program in Atlanta, GA for parents and children. He likes to help children sing, dance, play instruments, shake eggs, beat drums, call and respond, clap, tap, laugh, skip, jump, pretend and learn! While doing so children develop their rhythm, pitch and melody, language skills, motor coordination, interpersonal skills, cultural awareness and preschool readiness!

Litwin has been awarded the Parents' Choice Recommended Award, Parenting Media Award, and The Children's Music Web Award for his music and storytelling CDs. He gives more than two hundred performances each year at schools, libraries, festivals, museums, community events, and theaters.



PETE THE CAT

## More Interactive Read Alouds

Interactive read alouds are amazing for emerging, reluctant and non-readers. The music, call and response, repetition, simplicity and other techniques empower children to read these books even before they can really read. They are outstanding for story time.

For close reading, ask children to describe what happens to Pete's shoes. What was Pete's reaction when something happens to his shoes? How do they know? What does Pete do?

DEAN Here's a list of some of our favorite interactive read alouds:

- Jump, Frog, Jump!* By Robert Kalan
- Yo! Yes?* By Chris Raschka
- Down by the Cool of the Pool* by Tony Mitton
- Go Away Big Green Monster* by Ed Emberley
- Press Here* by Herve Tullet
- Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock* by Eric Kimmell

## Check it out!

Like Pete the Cat? Here are some other great books to check out at Nashville Public Library:

- Hello Shoes!* by Joan Blos
- Shoe-La-La!* by Karen Beaumont
- Shoe Baby* by Joyce Dunbar
- Whose Shoe?* by Margaret Miller

