



CATWOMAN™

– EXTRA

Level 3

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least three years and up to four years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level B1.

SYNOPSIS

Patience Philips is young, single and very shy – she’s a designer for Hedare Beauty, a top beauty products firm. One evening, while she is trying to rescue a strange cat from her window-sill, she meets a handsome policeman called Tom Lone, and they are definitely interested in each other. There’s trouble at the office, though; her boss, George Hedare, doesn’t like her designs. That night she overhears people talking about problems with Hedare’s new miracle beauty product, Beau-line, which keeps skin young-looking. She hears too much and they kill her.

The strange cat is actually a magical cat and brings her back to life. She is reborn as Catwoman. She is still Patience Philips, but now she can do everything a cat can do.

She decides to stop Beau-line. But her plans go wrong, people die and the police, even Tom, think Catwoman is the killer. Meanwhile Tom and Patience are falling in love, until he realises that she is Catwoman. He arrests her but she escapes using her feline super powers. She uncovers the real killer – Hedare’s wife, Laurel. Beau-line is stopped, Laurel falls through a window to her death, and Tom and Patience think there may be a future for them ...

THE BACK STORY

Catwoman has been around since 1940 when she first appeared in Gotham City, in a comic strip *Batman* story published by DC Comics. In the 2004 film version we meet a new Catwoman.

An ordinary young woman, Patience Philips, is rescued at the moment of her death by a supernatural cat called Midnight. She is reborn still as Patience Philips, but now with an alter ego, a

super hero with the attributes of a cat – she is fast, dangerous and very agile, and she can see in the dark. Patience is the latest in a long line of women who are chosen to be catwomen.

The original Catwoman was a small-time criminal who turned good. This new Catwoman walks a thin line between being good and bad. She steals jewellery, for instance, but then gives it back ... except, not all of it, because one piece is just too nice.

The story focuses on cosmetics and how women are exploited by big beauty companies. They are sold products with big promises that don’t work or, as in this story, have terrible side effects. It also underlines the pressure on women to stay young-looking. Patience’s friend Sally, for example, uses anti-ageing products even though she doesn’t need them. And when Lauren Hedare is dropped as the face of Hedare Beauty Products and replaced by a much younger woman, it drives her to madness and murder. Sharon Stone, the star who plays Lauren, says that when she reached 40 in real life, suddenly there was less work around

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: The film of *Catwoman* is available on DVD/video.

CD: A recording of *Catwoman* is available to accompany the Richmond reader.

Internet: Look at the official website at www.warnerbros.co.uk and find out about the original comic strip Catwoman at www.dccomics.com.

Books: This reader is adapted from *Catwoman: The Junior Novel* by Jasmine Jones (HarperEntertainment).

HOW TO USE YOUR RICHMOND MEDIA READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have they seen the film *Catwoman*? Motivate students by telling them some background information and by reading aloud the first page of the story.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (All answers on page 4.)

Glossary

Go to ‘New Words’ at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home.

Using the DVD

Try to get the English language version DVD of the film. Watch it yourself first in case there are scenes or language that are not suitable for your class. Show it in chunks of, say, 20 minutes in

parallel with the class reading schedule. Alternatively, show the whole film in two sessions, perhaps over two lunchtimes when the whole class can get together.

Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions used in *Catwoman* (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource). Put them into context. Tell students to look out for them as they read.

Fact Files

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. The files feature *Catwoman* movie trivia, focus on language idioms related to cats, give students a chance to find out how cat-like they are and investigate the hot topic of plastic surgery. Project ideas are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *Catwoman*. Compare opinions. Will they go and see the film? Did you like it?

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



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People and places

1 Answer the questions.

Who ...

- a) is Patience's best friend? *Sally*
- b) helps at a children's club in his spare time?
- c) is not an ordinary cat?
- d) has a famous face?
- e) would like a new job?

Where ...

- f) are Hedare beauty creams produced?
- g) are Hedare advertisements designed?
- h) is important company information kept?

2 What do you think of cats? Are they:

- intelligent unfriendly quick stupid
 lazy lovely friendly ?

Chapters 1-2

1 Choose the best words in italics.

- a) Patience lives on the *third/ground* floor.
- b) The *cat/Patience* talks to the *cat/Patience*.
- c) Patience would like to be an *artist/a designer*.
- d) The man in the street thinks Patience is trying to rescue a *cat/kill herself*.
- e) *Patience/The man* rescues *Patience/the cat*.
- f) Patience has been working on her designs *since last night/for a month*.
- g) The policeman finds her *purse/handbag* in the street.

2 Talk to a partner. When Patience first saw the cat, it was sitting on her neighbour's motorbike. How did it get onto the fourth-floor window-sill?

3 Write answers to these questions in an exercise book.

- a) Why is Hedare Beauty changing its advertising face?
- b) How long has Laurel been the face of Hedare Beauty?
- c) What three things doesn't George Hedare like about Patience?
- d) Why can't Patience speak when Tom invites her for coffee?
- e) Why doesn't Patience want to wear her leather jacket and trousers for her date?

Chapters 3-4

1 Make sentences.

- a) Patience has to take i) a way out of the factory.
- b) She overhears Dr Slavicky ii) her designs to the Hedare factory.
- c) We don't know iii) talking about Beau-line.
- d) Armando and Wesley iv) try to shoot Patience.
- e) She can't find v) who he's talking to.

2 Work with a partner. Write an advert for Beau-line. Decide how to illustrate and design your advert. Compare your work with other students'.

3 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- a) Patience wakes up on top of a cupboard. T
- b) Midnight is an ordinary cat.
- c) Patience is still frightened of George Hedare.
- d) Sally's doctor knows why she fell to the ground.
- e) Patience writes 'Sorry' on Tom's coffee cup because she missed their date.
- f) When Patience complains to her neighbour about the loud music, he invites her to the party.
- g) Patience jumps three floors to the ground and steals her neighbour's motorbike.

4 Which of these things does Patience change about herself? Circle them.

hairstyle voice clothes teeth make-up hair colour
 jewellery personality

Chapters 5-6

1 What ...

- a) is the robber upstairs in the jewellery shop stealing?
- b) does Catwoman wear to hide her face?
- c) does Patience decide to keep?
- d) present does Patience give the jewellery shop to say sorry?

2 Patience learns what happened to her at the factory. Complete the gaps with forms of these verbs.

be work ~~fall~~ be die give save come

- Patience a) *fell* into the river and b)
 Midnight c) to her and d) her life again. Midnight e) a Mau cat. She f)
 for Bast, the Egyptian cat goddess of the moon and sun. Mau cats
 g) lots of women over the centuries. Patience
 h) now a catwoman.



RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

3 Write answers to these questions in an exercise book.

- What does Catwoman learn from Armando about Beau-line?
- Why do the police think Catwoman killed Dr Slavicky?
- What do the two examples of handwriting show about the different personalities of Patience and Catwoman?
- What does Tom use to stop the Ferris wheel moving?

4 Talk to a partner. What's your most/least favourite ride at a funfair?

Ferris wheel rollercoaster water ride simulator

Chapters 7–8

1 Put these events in the right order.

- Catwoman attacks George at the theatre.
- Catwoman breaks into George Hedare's house.
- Catwoman puts out all the lights in the theatre and escapes.
- Laurel knocks Catwoman down the stairs with a golf club.
- Laurel tells Catwoman where George is.
- She saves Tom from falling.
- The police chase her.

2 Write answers to these questions in an exercise book.

- Who does Patience feel jealous of?
- How does Tom feel when he realises the truth about Patience?
- How does Laurel feel about Hedare Beauty?
- What does Patience feel when she realises the truth about Laurel?

Chapters 9–10

1 There's a wrong word in each sentence. Circle it and write the correct word at the end.

- The police found the gun that killed Slavicky and George in Catwoman's fish. *hand*
- Laurel tells the press that she will continue her mother's work with Beau-line.
- Catwoman escapes and steals a horse.
- Tom gets proof that Midnight is the murderer.
- Laurel bites Tom in the shoulder.

2 Write answers to these questions in an exercise book.

- Armando follows the blood to behind the huge photo. But Tom isn't there. Where is he?
- Why can't Catwoman cut Laurel with her diamond claws?
- Why does Catwoman become weak when Laurel laughs at her?

3 Work in pairs. One of you is a journalist. The other is Tom Lone. The journalist interviews Tom Lone about the events of the last few days. Will he tell the journalist who Catwoman really is?

FINAL TASKS

1 It is 10 years later. What has happened to Patience and Tom? Write about their relationship, their jobs, their adventures.

2 Make a list of the different ways that Patience acts like a cat in this story. For example, she falls asleep on top of a cupboard.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 Find 'New Words' at the back of the book for these definitions.

- People ask this woman to protect them.
- These help cats to climb trees.
- Film stars wear lots of this at parties.
- Open the window, put your arms on this and watch people going by.
- Use this to hit a small white ball a very long way.
- Make this noise when the baddies appear at the theatre.
- At this place you can eat candy floss and hang upside down, and maybe scream loudly.
- The most expensive things in the world.
- A happy cat does this.
- A cat that wants something does this.

2 There are wrong words in each of these sentences. Find the right New Words.

- He wore a belt over his face and nobody knew who he was. *mask*
- A gun shoots flowers.
- The police invite criminals to tea.
- Hedare Beauty makes its cakes in its factory.
- Catwoman steals a wheel and wears it round her neck.
- A design tries to sell you things.
- People in a theatre sit silently at the end of a show.
- Prison bars are too narrow for people to see through.
- Horseriders use a whisper to make their horses go faster.
- A camera makes a noise when someone breaks into a house.

Casual language

Look for examples of these expressions while you're reading.

- 'Never better.' Patience says this when she meets Tom. She means 'I've never felt better.'
- 'No way!' Patience is NOT going to wear leather trousers on her date. Use this when something is NOT going to happen.
- 'Get a life!' The neighbour says this to Patience. He means, 'Find something exciting to do – not complaining about noise!'
- 'One down, two to go.' Patience has stopped Wesley ('one down') and now has to stop Laurel and Armando ('two to go').

Choose an expression to respond to these statements.

- 'Excuse me, I usually sit in this chair. I don't think you should sit in somebody else's chair.'
- 'I've done my French homework. I've got Maths and IT to do.'
- 'How are you feeling this morning after staying up until 3am?'
- 'Can you write my history essay for me?!'

CATWOMAN: THE MOVIE (page 56)

Interview

Students look at the information on page 56 about Halle Berry. Give them the extra facts below or send them to her official website at www.hallewood.com. Students work in pairs. One partner is a journalist and prepares questions without showing them to his/her partner. The other is Halle Berry and prepares to answer the questions. They then improvise their interview.

EXTRA FACTS: HALLE BERRY

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| • Born: Cleveland, Ohio | • Star sign: Leo |
| • Family: 1 sister, 3 nephews | • Parents: divorced |
| • Named after: department store | • Favourite city: Paris |
| • First job: model, in Chicago | • Pets: 3 dogs, 1 cat |
| • Favourite beauty products: Revlon | |
| • Awards: Best Actress Oscar 2002 for <i>Monster's Ball</i> | |

CAT TALK (page 57)

Research

Students research other animal idioms. They can work in pairs or groups and choose one animal each. Which pair or group can find the most? Possible animals: dog, horse, lion, bee, bird, fish, fly, monkey. Get them to put each of their expressions in a context that makes the meaning clear. Discuss how you would translate some of these expressions into students own language(s) – are they direct translations or equivalents?

I WANT TO BE PERFECT! (pages 60–1)

Survey

Students find out attitudes to changing how you look, asking e.g. *Which of the following do you think are okay? changing your hair colour, having Botox injections, having plastic surgery, training in the gym, taking anabolic steroids, painting your nails, piercing your body, having collagen implants.* They can ask as many people as they like, making a note of age and sex. They can then present their results to the class, e.g. *Most girls aged 16 to 20 think Botox injections are okay but anabolic steroids are definitely not.*

DVD FOLLOW-UP

If you plan to show the film in class, watch it yourself first. Identify good places to stop or pause. Explain that the dialogue is fast and slangy, with American accents. Students shouldn't be discouraged if they can't follow it at first.

Scriptwriters

Choose a short action sequence. Show it to the class without the sound. Students write their own dialogue in groups. They perform their versions for the class, dubbing the silent film. At the end, play the scene with the sound up.

Observing

Choose a short scene before class and prepare questions on it. Tell students to watch very carefully, noting down details about clothes, props, where people are, etc. Play the scene a couple of times and then ask your questions, e.g. *What floor is the noisy party on? What music are they playing? What vehicle is parked next to the motorcycle? What colour are Patience's pyjamas?* Play the scene again for students to check their answers.

Prediction

While students are reading the story, choose an action-packed frame from the film ahead of where they have got to (avoid ones that give the story away). Show them the single frame in class and get them to predict what is happening and how the story gets from where they are to this frame.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 62–64)

- 1 a) iv, b) i c) ii d) iii
- 2 a) kitty b) window-sill c) adverts d) clap e) crack
- 3 a) paint, design b) director, corporation, boss, meeting
- 4 a) She's a designer. She has to show her boss her new designs .
b) She's standing on her window-sill. She's trying to rescue a cat.
c) No, he doesn't like them at all.
d) Patience dropped her purse and he wants to see her again.
e) That there are problems with Beau-line.
f) She falls into a fast river below the factory.
g) Her phone. Sally is calling her because it's the afternoon.
h) She says what she really thinks and she loses her job.
- 7 a) i b) iii c) ii
- 8 a) goddess b) mask c) whip d) crack e) funfair f) lips
- 9 a and d are true. b, c, e, f and g are false.
b) She sees him at the children's club near his home.
c) She keeps the necklace with diamond claws.
e) They think that Catwoman killed Dr Slavicky.
f) There are lots of differences. g) No, he doesn't.
- 11 a) club b) alarm c) rope d) squeeze e) bars f) arrest
- 13 a) Laurel b) George c) Laurel d) Catwoman e) Tom
f) Laurel g) Armando, Wesley h) Catwoman i) Laurel

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places

- 1 b) Tom Lone c) Midnight d) Laurel Hedare
e) Patience Philips f) at the Hedare factory
g) at the Hedare office h) at George and Laurel Hedare's house

Chapters 1–2

- 1 b) Patience, the cat c) an artist d) kill herself
e) The man, Patience f) for a month g) purse
- 3 a) Because Laurel is too old. b) Fifteen years.
c) Her clothes, her hair and her designs. d) Because she's shy and nervous. e) Because they're not her style.

Chapters 3–4

- 1 b) iii c) v d) iv e) i
- 3 a, e and g are true. b, c, d, and f are false.
b) Midnight can do special things.
c) She isn't frightened of him any more.
d) He doesn't know why – he's doing tests.
f) He tells her to get a life.
- 4 hairstyle, clothes, make-up, hair colour, personality

Chapters 5–6

- 1 a) diamonds b) a mask c) the necklace with diamond claws
d) chocolate cakes
- 2 b) died c) came d) gave e) is f) works g) have saved h) is
- 3 a) That there's something wrong with it.
b) Because the cleaner saw Catwoman next to the dead body.
c) That Catwoman is confident and dangerous but Patience isn't.
d) A long piece of metal.

Chapters 7–8

- 1 The correct order is: b, d, e, a, g, f, c.
- 2 a) Catwoman b) unhappy c) angry d) surprised

Chapters 9–10

- 1 b) mother's > husband's c) horse > Jaguar
d) Midnight > Laurel e) bites > shoots
- 2 a) Behind him. b) Because Laurel's skin is as hard as stone.
c) Because she stops being confident.

Vocabulary Builder

- 1 1. goddess 2. claws 3. jewellery 4. window-sill 5. a golf club 6. hiss 7. funfair 8. diamonds 9. purrs 10. miaows
- 2 2. flowers > bullets 3. invite criminals to tea > arrest criminals
4. cakes > products 5. wheel > necklace
6. A design > An advert 7. sit silently > clap
8. see > squeeze 9. whisper > whip 10. A camera > An alarm

Casual language

1. Get a life! 2. One down, two to go. 3. Never better. 4. No way!