Bad Kitty School Daze by Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook Press, 2014

Summary
Kitty and Puppy need a behavior adjustment. With all the playing and horsing around they have been doing, it is time for them to go to behavior school. Kitty and Puppy pack their backpacks and wait for the bus, and shortly after, arrive at Diable Von Gloom’s School for Wayward Pets. Petunia, the bulldog, Dr. Lagomorph, the bunny, Kitty, and Puppy enter the school and meet Miss Dee. As the school day begins, each pet introduces themselves to the group so everyone can get to know each other. As many activities take place throughout the school day, each pet is beginning to show their true behavior. By the end of the school day, Miss Dee tells her class that in order to graduate, each pet must tell her one thing they have learned. As each pet is participating in this graduation, Kitty is the last to go. Kitty cannot think of anything to say that he has learned and does not say anything. Miss Dee is disappointed in Kitty, but reminds him that she truly enjoyed teaching him. With more details about what happens when Kitty and Puppy return home, there is an Epilogue in the book waiting for the reader to see what happens next.

Awards
Colorado Children's Book Award 2014- Runner Up- Junior Book

Reviews
“In this latest installment in Bruel’s successful series, Kitty’s behavior is so bad that her owner has decided obedience school is necessary. Accompanied by Puppy, who needs to learn to control his drool, Kitty spends the day with a delightful teacher who knows when to affirm and when to teach; a bulldog named Petunia, who is trying to overcome her hatred of felines; and a pet bunny who believes he is Dr. Lagomorph, out to conquer the world. With the usual zany illustrations and hilarious asides, this title may just be the best so far.” Booklist-Amazon.com

Nick Bruel’s Website: http://www.nickbruel.com/

Discussion Questions:
*BEFORE: (SHOW STUDENTS COVER OF BOOK)
• What do you think the book will be about?
• Why does it say “Bad Kitty” and not “Good Kitty?”
• Why do you think Bad Kitty is on the school bus?
*DURING:
• Who is narrating the story?
• Why does the bunny believe he is Dr. Lagomorph?
• Why is Puppy at Wayward School for Pets? Why is Kitty at Wayward School for Pets?
*AFTER
• Who got to graduate from Miss Dee’s classroom?
• Did Kitty learn anything at school?
• What activities did Miss Dee have the pets do throughout the day?
Activities

- **Reading/Oral Language:** Have the students pair up and read their favorite chapter to their partner, while the partner follows along in the book. Have the student who did not read the chapter, summarize what was just read back to the reader.

- **Writing:** The students must write a paragraph as if they are one of the pets, Miss Dee, or Uncle Murray and describe their feelings/thoughts throughout the school day.

- **Math:** Have each student (or as a class) make up the age of Bad Kitty and Puppy. Then have the students figure the cat’s and dog’s age related to human years. This may be difficult for younger students, therefore, doing it as a class may be easier.

- **Science:** Have the students make a hypothesis/inference/prediction as to how the book is going to end/what happens to Bad Kitty and Puppy. Have them write this prediction down on a sheet of paper.

- **Social Studies:** Have the students fill out a Cause and Effect Worksheet. Explain to the students that cause and effect is typically discussed when talking about history.

- **Art:** Take the art lesson that is discussed in the book, *Bad Kitty School Daze*, and have the students do that exact same art lesson. Compare and contrast their art to the ones shown in the book.

- **Drama:** (Readers Theatre) - The students will act out with a group their favorite scene from the book. This can be any part from the book. Each student will have at least one speaking part and work together to make the scene come to life.

- **Cooking Food:** After discussing cats and dogs, have the students research/read about what types of food dogs vs. cats eat. As the teacher, bring in dog treats and cat food and have the students observe it and identify the similarities and differences of each pet food.

- **Technology:** Have the students divide into groups (Teacher can assign groups if preferred). Have each group make a PowerPoint on a given topic from the book. This topic can be chosen by the students or assigned by the teacher. The students must work together to make this PowerPoint and present it to the other groups.

- **Music:** Have the students take a look at the song Puppy played during Show and Tell, “Partita in A minor.” Have the students put words to the music given or see if they can hum the song with a partner/group.

- **Physical Education:** Read over Uncle Murray’s Fun Facts. Ask questions as to why the students think dogs chase cats. In a P.E. based class, have the students divide into two teams, one team cats, the other team dogs. Have the two teams chase each other (tag) and once tagged, they must freeze into a position their particular pet (dog or cat) would normally sit in until touched by another player on the same team.

- **Other:** Do not let the students read the Epilogue at the very end of the book. Instead, have each student write their own ending, making up what they believe happened to Bad Kitty. Have volunteers read their ending to the class/with a partner.

Related Books

*Bad Dog, Marley!* by John Grogan
*Baa Lifestyle* by Harrison Lacy
*Bad Cat* by Tracy-Lee McGuinness-Kelly
*That Bad, Bad Cat* by Claire Masurel
A Cat Like That by Wendy Wahman

Other Books Written by the Author
A Bad Kitty Christmas
Bad Kitty
Bad Kitty for President
Bad Kitty Gets a Bath
Bad Kitty Meets the Baby
Bad Kitty vs. Uncle Murray: The Uproar at the Front Door
Drawn to Trouble
Happy Birthday, Bad Kitty
Poor Puppy
Puppy’s Big Day
Who is Melvin Bubble?

Websites
Website provides songs and activities and coloring pages that younger students can participate in. This focuses on dogs and cats, and how they are similar and different. Nice and easy activities that can be paired with Uncle Murray’s Fun Facts in the book.

http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mbagcat.htm
This website has many activities for students. This particular activity is making Paper Bag Cat Puppets. This is great for students to make this craft, then act out a scene with Bad Kitty using the puppet they each made.

https://www.teachervision.com/animals/graphic-organizers/43076.html
A printable Venn diagram for students to use when talking about having a dog and/or a cat for a pet. Have students use evidence from the book that would support their reasoning for each point in the diagram.