



# Pete the Cat and the Bad Banana

By James Dean

GRL G

## ABOUT THE BOOK:

Pete the Cat loves to eat bananas—until he eats a bad banana. He decides he will never eat bananas again. His mother tries to help him by making different dishes that have bananas in them. But Pete won't even taste them. Pete tries to find a new favorite snack, but that doesn't work either. On the day of the big race, Greg the Monkey shares one of his bananas with Pete—and it's delicious! Pete wins the race, and he loves bananas again.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In the beginning of the story, Pete loves to eat bananas. What are three things Pete loves about bananas? Why doesn't Pete like the bad banana? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
2. Describe how Pete's mom tries to help Pete after he eats that bad banana. How does Pete try to help himself? Why do you think Pete decides to try one of Greg's bananas? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.1.3., RL.2.3., RL.3.3.*
3. Look at the illustrations of Pete on each page. How does Pete look in illustrations when he's happy? How does he look in illustrations when he's unhappy? How does the illustrator change Pete's appearance to show Pete's feelings? How does your appearance change to show your feelings? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.7., RL.1.7., RL.2.7., RL.3.7.*
4. The word *bananas* is used two times in the last sentence on the last page, and it has two different meanings in that sentence. What does it mean to be bananas about something? What are some other words the author could have used to tell readers that Pete really liked bananas again? *Common Core State Standards (Language): L.K.4.a., L.1.4.a., L.2.4.a., L.3.5.a.*

*Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening) that discussions might also address: SL.K.1.a.—b., SL.K.2., SL.K.6., SL.1.1.a.—c., SL.1.2., SL.1.6., SL.2.1.a.—c., SL.2.2., SL.2.6., SL.3.1.a.—d., SL.3.6.*

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

**Bananas Recipe:** What kind of food makes you go bananas? Is it pizza? Tacos? French toast? Draw a picture of your favorite food, and then write the instructions for how to cook it. If you don't know exactly how to make it, just use your best guess. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2.a.—d.*

**A Helping Poster:** Pete gets help from his mom and from his friend Greg. Who helps you when you have a problem? Make a poster using words and pictures showing who helps you and how they help. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2.a.—d.*

**Pete the Cat Story:** In this story, Pete eats a bad banana, and then he has a problem. Pete, his mom, and Greg the Monkey all helped solve Pete's problem with bananas. Think of another problem Pete the Cat might have. What is Pete's new problem? What could happen to fix the problem? What might Pete learn from having that problem and fixing it? Write or dictate your Pete the Cat story, and draw a picture to go with it. Then read some of James Dean's other books about Pete the Cat and see what else happens to this cool cat. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.3., W.1.3., W.2.3., W.3.3.a.—d.; (Reading: Literature): RL.K.9., RL.1.9., RL.3.9.*

**A Note from Mom:** Imagine you are Pete's mom. Write a note to Pete to encourage him to keep trying different kinds of foods. What else might Pete's mom say to her son about having good eating habits? Include that advice in the note too. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1.a.—d.*

*Common Core State Standards (Writing) that writing activities might also address: W.K.5., W.K.6., W.1.5., W.1.6., W.2.5., W.2.6, W.3.4., W.3.5., W.3.6.*

Visit [www.icanread.com](http://www.icanread.com) for more teaching guides!

