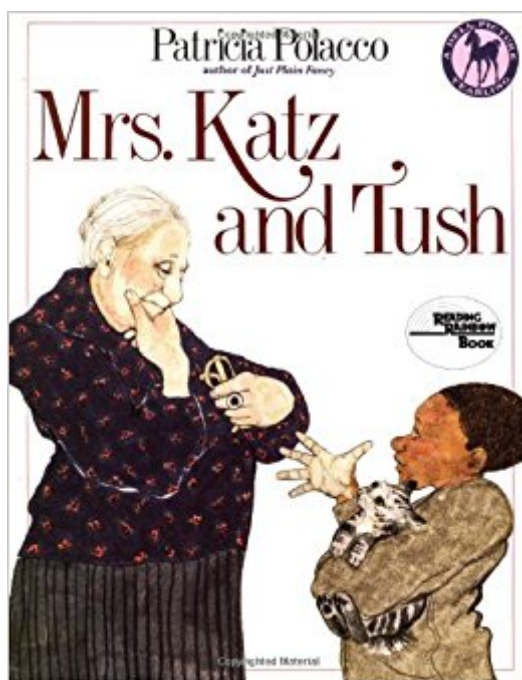


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# Mrs. Katz And Tush (Reading Rainbow)



## Synopsis

Friends from different backgrounds come together in this heartwarming picture book from beloved children's book author Patricia Polacco! Larnel doesn't know his neighbor, Mrs. Katz, very well, until he asks her to adopt an abandoned kitten. Mrs. Katz agrees on one condition: that Larnel help her take care of the kitten she names Tush. When Larnel starts spending more and more time with Mrs. Katz to help with Tush, Mrs. Katz tells him stories about coming to America from Poland and about the good times she spent with her late husband. As Larnel grows to love Mrs. Katz, he also learns about the suffering and triumph black history shares with the Jewish heritage. Patricia Pollaco has illustrated, as well as authored, countless picture books. She lives in Union City, Michigan.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 530L (What's this?)

Series: Reading Rainbow

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Reprint edition (March 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440409365

ISBN-13: 978-0440409366

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,260 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books >

Holidays & Celebrations > Jewish #6 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction >

Religious Fiction > Jewish #126 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Zesty art and sensitive storytelling light up these two books, the first about an elderly Jewish widow and her young African American neighbor, the second set in Amish country. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kindergarten-Grade 3-- A warm, lovingly told story about an intergenerational relationship. It is the beginning of a long friendship between Mrs. Katz, widowed, childless, and lonely, and her young

African-American neighbor, Larnel, when he presents her with a scraggly kitten. On his daily visit to the elderly woman and her pet, they talk about Mrs. Katz's husband, her arrival in the United States from Poland, and the similar experiences of Jews and African-Americans. Larnel accompanies her to say kaddish at her husband's grave, and attends her Passover seder. When Tush has kittens, Mrs. Katz feels fulfilled, a bubee (grandmother) at last. The final illustration shows an adult Larnel with Mrs. Katz holding his baby, and the story ends with him and his family visiting the woman's grave. Mrs. Katz's dialogue reflects her Yiddish background without being obtrusive. The charcoal and watercolor illustrations are in Polacco's usual style, with large areas of white space emphasizing the characters rather than their surroundings. The character portrayals are vivid and lively, with a hint of humor. Polacco pays careful attention to detail, even to the age blemishes on Mrs. Katz's hands. A fine book for group or individual sharing. --Susan Giffard, Englewood Public Library, NJCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As with many of Patricia Polacco's books, *Mrs. Katz & Tush* starts with a friendship, adds a simple story line, seasons it with an understanding look at a particular culture or two, adds a dash of humour, and ties it all together with illustrations that enrich the story (other examples, among many: *Babushka Baba Yaga*, *Just Plain Fancy* and *Chicken Sunday*). In this story the lives of two very different neighbors are drawn together through a small, tail-less kitten named Tush (the name itself brings giggles to the 4 year old set). Larnel, dragged along by his mother to visit an elderly widowed neighbor (and the picture of him in his chair shows you all that you need to know about how he feels about being there!) surprises himself by feeling compassion for lonely Mrs. Katz. He brings her the runt of a litter of kittens, saying that nobody else wants it. Mrs. Katz reluctantly accepts the kitten, on the condition that Larnel will help her learn how to care for it. He agrees, and a life-long friendship is begun. There are so many great parts to this book- the growing understanding about the things that we have in common, no matter how disparate our backgrounds, messages on ethnicity, on generational relationships, and so on- that you could get the idea that this is a 'good-for-you' book. But at its heart *Mrs. Katz & Tush* is the work of a master storyteller and illustrator, and is a story that the children ask for again & again & again. Ours are still savouring it after 3 years, and show no signs of growing weary of it. The illustrations- especially some of the expressions- are some of Polacco's best efforts. Don't miss this one!

Such an amazing, touching book. Our children loved this story. Love for someone can cross all

boundaries .

I loved the book. I think everyone would love this because the cat has kittens in the end. There is also a kid named Larnel.

Love this story about an elderly Jewish lady and her young Black neighbor who become friends over a cat named Tush.

One of my favorite stories to introduce to kids. Beautiful illustrations and story. Best for 4th grade and up.

A lovely tale of learning to appreciate each other for our difference in age and ethnicity. Probably a first-second grade self-reading book. Interest level through third grade. For 4-5's, likely a read-to book.

Love this! I can still hear Lamar reading it when I first heard it on Reading Rainbow with my children. A favorite!

Grab the hankies....this story is lovely.

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