

Happy Cat and Merry Cat
answer,
“Who’s steering your ship?”


by Mary Catherine Rolston

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Illustrated by :

Dedicated to all the students who
courageously make effective choices
and to all the teachers who have eyes at
the back of the heads, diligently
watching and coaching students with
compassion, fairness and
forgiveness....the teacher in this story
..... hmmm or many would say your
dearly loved

There were two friends, like twins, much was the **same**.
Both were nine, sly and Catherine was their **name**.
They liked to climb. They liked to **rhyme**.
Nicknames were picked that they used all the **time**.



Happy Cat and Merry Cat loved to **play**,
giggling and wiggling every **day**.
They liked to dance. They liked to **prance**.
They liked to sing. They always took a **chance**.

At school they were seated together in a grade three-
four **class**,
By the window that over looked the playground covered in
grass.
Their teacher was cool, calm and deemed to have eyes at
the back of her **head**.
She caught student misdemeanors quick leaving most in a
cloud of **dread**.

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Except for Happy Cat and Merry Cat, they didn't worry
about getting **caught**.

They quietly chatted, passed notes and giggled while
being **taught**.

When apprehended they would sit straight, smile and fold
their hands upon their **desktop**.

This cheeky charm didn't fool the outwitting teacher, she
raised one eye brow, stared and **stopped**.

"Oh I see it's the two 'Cats' up to their chitter chattering
conversations.

Hmmm would you care to share your intimate
communications?

Don't be shy, this is a lesson meant for discussing
different points of **view.**"

Consistently with ease, one of the 'Cats' offered an idea,
reflection or solution that was **new.**

The teacher would smirk, "Bravo for listening to two things, keeping information **correct**.

Hmmm, BUT, note we have two ears that form a heart so we can listen with compassion and **respect**.

I want you to think about how you want others to hear **you**.

Remember to always walk and talk in another person's **shoe.**"

As the year progressed the 'Cats' arrogance **grew**.
Slowly but surely they were distracted by play and chat
not thinking answers **through**.

They were becoming two dreamy lay **felines**.
Progressively their work was sloppy and not meeting
deadlines.

The teacher passed out their first report card with a sigh and said, "I think that there is a need to make a **change.**"

The two 'Cats' looked at each other with a nervous giggle and wince **exchange.**

Ladies you are responsible for your choices, there is no one to **blame.**"

They opened the envelopes, sighed and bowed their heads in **shame.**

No one said change would be easy for this chatty,
scattered, rambunctious **pair**.
The teacher watched the girls intently, worried about
their **welfare**.
"Girls your destiny is in your own **hands**.
You can make a change with a few questions and **plans**."

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Each girl grimaced, looked at the other, took a deep
breath then bit her **lip**.

The teacher smirked, "Think girls and ask yourselves
who's steering your **ship**?

What do you want? Is what you're doing getting you
there?

I'm not going to interfere, I believe in natural
consequences, my style is **laissez-faire**."

Happy Cat turned in shock, blinked and said, "What does she **mean?**

Are there no rules? She seems pretty relaxed and **serene."**

Merry Cat chuckled, "Hmmm I get it, she's right she can't control **us.**

She doesn't need to yell, scream or put up a **fuss."**

Happy Cat hook her head and looked **confused**.

"It's simple if we don't have anyone to blame or **excuse**.

If we don't work our reports will be **weak**.

We won't develop the skills and our future will be **bleak**.

No one can control us. Like she said, "Who's steering your
ship?

We're in charge, like a business a **proprietorship"**

The teacher was in the background eavesdropping on
their **conversation**.
Nodding and smiling she knew these 'Cats' would come to
a wise **realization**.
So girls what's the verdict? I'm happy to help you plan
and develop your **skills**.
I'm not going to argue or have a battle of **wills**."

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Happy Cat and Merry Cat realized the error of their
ways.

Changing their mindsets and work habits in a matter of
days.

The shrewd and subtle teacher, in true Mary Poppins
form,
enlightened her students, engaging them to **transform!**

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