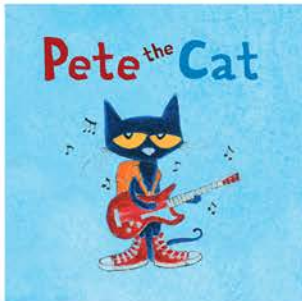


# ABOUT THE PLAY



## BIG IDEAS IN *PETE THE CAT*

- Getting Along
- Creativity
- Friends
- Cooperation
- Personal Growth
- Music

## A BACKYARD

Pete the Cat and his friends, Grumpy Toad and Gus the Platypus, rock out in the backyard (“Life is an Adventure”). In the middle of their jam session, Gus wonders if they should be in the backyard as the cat-catcher might catch Pete making noise after bedtime. Pete is not worried about it. A few moments later, the cat-catcher shows up and grabs Pete. He takes him away for a long time-out in a house, one whole week as a housecat. The cat-catcher decides on a family for Pete, the Biddles. Pete is not worried, no one can make a pet out of him.

## MEET THE BIDDLES

Meanwhile, Jimmy Biddles is thrilled to finally have a quiet and clean house, the perfect conditions for studying. It is the second to last week of second grade and he has a lot of tests. Unfortunately, his plans are spoiled when he learns from his parents and sister, Olive, that the Biddles are getting a cat! The whole family is a little worried, but they think it might be an adventure, too.

## MEET PETE THE CAT

Pete knocks on the door and says, “Hi” when the family opens it. They close the door as they are expecting a cat, not something that wears cool shoes, knocks, and says, “Hi.” When they open the door, Pete meows and they realize he is, in fact, a cat. They discover Pete is also a groovy cat that can jam. The family has their own family jam session which ends with a group hug. Unfortunately, Olive interrupts with a big sneeze. She is allergic to cats! Instead of sending Pete to the pound, they decide to put him in Jimmy’s room. Jimmy is not so sure.

## JIMMY’S ROOM

Pete learns that Jimmy likes things neat and clean. Jimmy learns that unlike tidy housecats, Pete is a road cat who likes to let it all hang out. Olive comes to say goodnight to Pete, giving him a hug through another sneeze. Jimmy sends her away and informs Pete of the rules (“Happy Roommates”), which essentially consist of no girls and keeping things clean. When Jimmy asks Pete to say them back to him, he has forgotten everything. Instead, he just wants to jam! But, it is bedtime so Pete finds a cozy spot on Jimmy’s bed and falls asleep. Jimmy worries about his big test at school the next day.

## SCHOOL

Jimmy and Pete arrive late to school on Pete’s skateboard. The other students, Eloise and Barnaby, are preparing for the math test. When the teacher sees Pete, she is thrilled! She loves his band. Pete suggests an art test and everyone, but Jimmy, is on board. The task is to paint a picture of anything (“Painting”). All of the other students jump in and work on their project, but Jimmy struggles. He did not prepare for an art test and ends up looking at the other students’ work. Mrs. Creech sees he copied Eloise’s painting. Jimmy fails the art test and unless he can return to school with an original work, he will not pass the second grade. On their way home, Jimmy is really upset. He is mad that Pete changed the test and worried about what his parents will think. Pete did not mean to get Jimmy in trouble. Being a housecat is tough.

# ABOUT THE PLAY

## HOME

The entire Biddle family is jamming out. Pete and Jimmy try to sneak in, but Olive sneezes, giving it away. The phone rings and it is Mrs. Creech, Jimmy's teacher, letting the family know about his grade. They are surprised and unhappy with him, which results in Jimmy running away. Pete reminds everyone that Jimmy needs support. They all go looking for him. Olive intercepts Pete and asks him to marry her through a chorus of sneezes ("The Sneezing Song"). She ends up chasing him, but he evades her. Pete thinks again that he does not like being a housecat ("Happy Housecat"), although he knows he needs to go find Jimmy.

## COUCH

Jimmy hides under the couch. He is proud of his spot until Pete slides in as well. Eventually, Jimmy's parents find them. They all try to get Jimmy out from under the couch ("Under the Couch"). Jimmy finds out that his family and new friend support him no matter what. Jimmy feels he needs a little guidance and maybe a friend to help lead the way. Luckily, Pete is that friend. They all come out from under the couch.

## INSPIRATION

Pete knows how he can help Jimmy with his painting. He decides to take him on a ride in his VW Bus, which stands for "Very Wonderful" bus ("It's a VW Bus"). The bus takes them on adventures under the sea and out in space. They even travel back to the Renaissance to meet Mona Lisa. Unfortunately, Jimmy is still uninspired. When they get back home, it is already bedtime and he still does not have a picture. He wonders if they should just give up. Luckily, Pete is not out of ideas just yet. He decides Jimmy needs the Magic Sunglasses, but they are all the way in Paris, France. Olive convinces Pete and Jimmy to let her go, but before they can, Jimmy must make the VW bus feel better. He gives the VW bus some love and they are off. Mona Lisa joins too.

## PARIS

They arrive in Paris and go to the Jam Café where they discover that there are no kids allowed. How is Pete going to get them out of this? Luckily, Jimmy packed everyone disguises. When they get inside the Jam Café, they see Gus and Grumpy Toad who are there playing a show. Pete asks for Grumpy Toad's sunglasses. He puts them on and begins to see magical things ("Magical World"). Gus and Grumpy start to pass the glasses back and forth, seeing some amazing things as well. This only makes Jimmy want them more. Grumpy offers to give them to him if he acts a little silly and jams out. Jimmy does, which earns him the reward. Jimmy starts to paint and it is amazing. Pete takes off the glasses revealing that they are not magic, but instead, Jimmy is the one making all the creative choices himself! The painting is perfect! It is time to get back to class and show his teacher, but Olive is missing! Everyone scrambles to find her, but she returns with tutus for her and Pete. They will make the perfect wedding dresses. Pete agrees to wear one, but only for her.

## GRADUATION

They all head back to school where Jimmy reveals his painting, a picture of something he loves: his friend Pete ("A Cat Named Pete"). He gets an A plus plus plus. Olive joins the group again with good news: she braved an allergy shot so she can be near Pete without sneezing! Everyone agrees housecats are the best, but in particular, Pete.