

# Best of Friends

Written by Clare Bradford Illustrated by Meredith Thomas



## Best of Friends

**Topic:** Traditional stories

**Curriculum link:** English, SOSE

**Text type:** Folk tale

**Reading level:** 21

**Word count:** 742

**Vocabulary:** beautiful, delicious, gobbled, hollow, responsible, unusual, wedding

**Possible literacy focus**

Understanding inferences in the text.

Understanding the structure and features of folk tales.

**Summary**

This book is a folk tale about how cats and mice came to dislike each other.

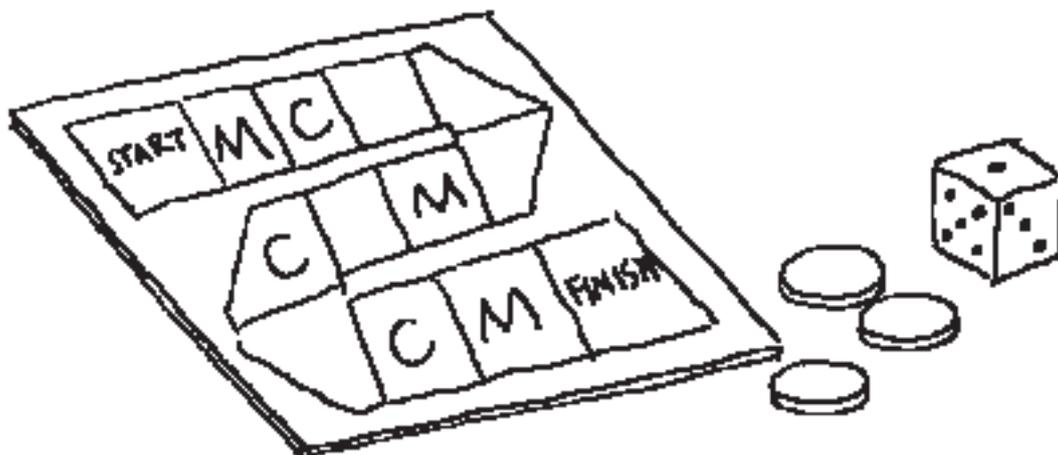
## Task Card

### Design a board game

You will need:

cardboard, dice, small counters, ruler, felt-tip pens, pencil, coloured pencils, scissors

1. Design a board game based on *Best of Friends*.
2. Include the cat, the mouse, the cousins and the butter!
3. Play the game with some friends.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Story outline

Write down the outline of the story using these headings.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Who is involved and where does it happen?

Characters:

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Setting:

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What is the problem?

Problem:

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How is the problem solved?

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Do you think that this is really why cats and mice don't get along? Why or why not?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Speech marks

Read the section of text below and see where the author has placed the talking marks.

‘Ah!’ cried the cat. ‘This butter will taste delicious on cold winter days.’

‘But our house is not big enough to store such a large tub of butter,’ said the mouse.

‘Where shall we hide it?’

‘I know,’ said the cat. ‘Let’s put it in the hollow tree beside the river.’

Now add speech marks to the following sentences.

As the days passed, the cat kept thinking about the taste of butter.

Oh, how I wish I could try some, said the cat to herself.

So she went to the mouse and said,

Dear friend, my cousin is getting married today, and I would like to go to the wedding. Will you look after the house while I am gone?

Certainly, said the mouse.

Goodness said the mouse. That was a very short wedding. Did you have a good time?

Oh yes, said the cat. The bride looked beautiful.

What is your cousin’s name asked the mouse.

Top-off, replied the cat.

How interesting, said the mouse

I’ve never heard a name like that before.