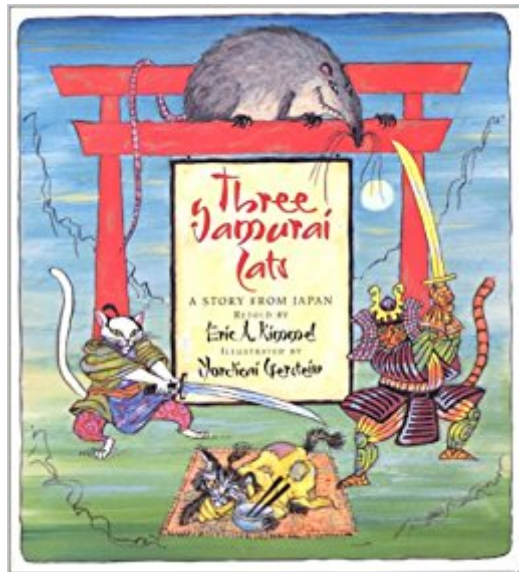




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# Three Samurai Cats: A Story From Japan



## Synopsis

After a rat takes over his castle, a canine old lord knows there is only one way to get rid of such a bully. He needs a samurai fast-a samurai cat! A fierce samurai arrives and draws his sword, ready to vanquish the upstart rodent. He charges toward the venomous vermin... Splat! The defeated cat slinks away. Next, a samurai cat in full armor takes on the job. Splat! The second cat slinks away. Then an old, toothless, ragged-tailed cat limps to the castle, promising to chase away the invader. What could this ancient cat possibly offer a humiliated dog with a giant pest problem on his paws?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 440 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #826,302 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian](#) #783 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #1799 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3-Here's an adaptation of an adaptation of a story Zen masters used to illustrate how unconventional approaches to problems can be disarmingly effective. When a daimyo's castle is besieged by an enormous, ferocious rat, the lord beseeches the abbot of a nearby monastery to send a samurai cat to drive the beast away. The first and second samurai to confront him are overwhelmed by the rodent's martial-arts skills, but the third, a tattered, disreputable-looking old feline, allows the rat's greed to work against him and emerges triumphant. Kimmel's telling is reasonably successful and the message to "Draw strength from stillness. Learn to act without acting. And never underestimate a samurai cat-" is conveyed without any element of preachiness. Gerstein's lively cartoon illustrations are at their best in depicting the loathsome rat.

The daimyo and the abbot are depicted as dogs, but there's no question as to who has the upper paw. Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

PreS-Gr. 2. In feudal Japan, a daimyo (powerful lord) is humiliated when a greedy, bullying rat takes over his castle, eats his food, and intimidates everyone. The daimyo seeks help from a shrine famous for training samurai cats. Two magnificent feline warriors arrive, but the rat effortlessly overpowers them. Desperate, the lord requests the toughest cat of all, and he is surprised when scrawny, aged Neko Roshi hobbles in. He is even more surprised when the cat refuses the rat's invitations to fight. As time passes, the rat's behavior grows more egregious, but Neko Roshi ignores the rodent--until it finally traps itself and leaves the castle defeated. Kimmel tempers the folktale's heavy message about passive resistance with humorous, perfectly paced language that is ideal for read-alouds, and the characters in Gerstein's colorful, detailed drawings are irresistible--the saggy-jowled hound in robes; the buffoonish, wildly costumed daimyo bulldog; the scruffy, shrunken Neko Roshi; and, best of all, the pot-bellied, gleefully wicked "barbarous rat," who is more comic foil than villain. An author's note offers some historical background and sources. Gillian Engberg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

I have read this book to my grandchildren for years. I have read it again and again to my classes in art. It is perfect or should I say purrfect? The illustrations are a major part of the success of the story. The eventual success of the greatest samurai cat of all is not anticipated. His battered appearance and complete nonchalance defies understanding. But his profound knowledge of selfish and thoughtless behavior is the key to his success. I love this book.

I love the style the illustrations are done. This is a great book teaching kids not to judge someone on first impressions, patience, as well as waiting for an opportunity to present itself and then making a move, not to mention teaching violence isn't the answer to everything. The book I would rate as G and kid friendly. Though the rat might be a little too scary for three year olds. I'm glad I stumbled onto this wonderful find. All in all I just love this book!

What an awesome book, for children and the adults who sometimes read to them! Other reviewers have recounted the plot, so I won't do that. I'll just say that this is a really fun book, and everyone will love it! Eric Kimmel tells the tale in a way that will hold you breathless, and Mordecai Gerstein's

witty, colorful illustrations are the perfect accompaniment. Long after reading this book, you'll find yourself chuckling over the characters and meditating on the moral of the story. The library is full of great children's books, but this is one you'll want to buy and have at home.

This is a great re-telling of a Japanese fable. It is pretty interesting how the old Samurai is able to defeat the rats. The story is cute and the illustrations are really well done - very detailed and lots of detail for little ones to look at. I bought this book for my grandson who will enjoy it for years to come.

Terrific kids book - both my boys loved this one!

Great book! Kids love it.

Such a cute book. Don't judge a book by it's cover! A great lesson to. Not as bright and colorful as most of my little ones books but we enjoyed the artwork none the less.

This is a really adorable book - great story and fun illustrations!

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