

## ***BJ THE CAT***



I first met BJ when he was a very young kitten. Some children had found him, and they were trying to find him a new home. My daughter and I were walking to our house when the children stopped us and asked us if we wanted to take the kitten.

We both held the little kitten. He was so calm and gentle.

My daughter asked, “Dad, can we keep him?”

I said, “We have to ask your mother before we can have another cat. You know she misses our old cat.”

The children begged us to take him to our house, but we had to ask my wife first.

My daughter and I ran up the stairs to our apartment.

My daughter told her mother all about the kitten. She was so excited.

“Mom can we have the kitten? He’s so cute!” she pleaded with her mother.

She said, “No.”

When I asked my wife about taking the kitten, she said no to me as well. She did not want a cat because someone had taken our last cat and she missed him very much.

Our old cat’s name was Button. He was a very friendly cat, and he was very curious. He used to sit next to us while we watched TV and he would purr very loud. Because of this, she did not want to have another cat and then have it go away. It hurt too much.

I went back down to let the girls know what my wife had said.

I told the girls, “I’m sorry but we cannot take the kitten.”

They were sad and walked away looking for another family who would take him

and give him a good home.

The next day I saw the girls again. They still had the cute little gray kitten. He was so quiet and friendly. I held him for a while and he almost fell asleep in my hands. He purred softly as I rubbed his ears. He reminded me of our old cat.

I went to my wife, and I asked her again, “Can we please take the kitten. He is so cute.”

She still said, “No.”

Two days later, I was sitting at my desk working. I looked down and sitting beside me was the little gray kitten. He was looking up at me. I do not know how long he had been sitting there.

I think when my daughter went to school she may have left the door open and the kitten walked right into the house or maybe she let him in. I do not know for sure.

I looked down at him and I said to him, “Where did you come from?”

He jumped into my lap.

Pointing to where my wife was sitting, I told him, “Little kitten, you have to tell the lady over there that you belong here.”

He jumped down from my lap and went to my wife who was sitting nearby. He stood in front of her looking up at her with a sad face.

She was very surprised as she looked down at him.

She exclaimed, “Where did this kitten come from?!”

“I don’t know,” I said.

I did not have an answer.

The kitten jumped up into her lap. This was a big surprise to my wife. She tried to ignore him, but he was just too cute. He put his nose on her nose to give her a kiss. Then the kitten curled up and fell asleep on her lap.

He never left the house again. He reminded us so much of our first cat that we named him Button Junior! He became BJ, our wonderful cat.

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. kitten _____    | a. top of legs when sitting     |
| 2. home _____      | b. sound from a cat             |
| 3. begged _____    | c. place where I live           |
| 4. apartment _____ | d. turn away, overlook          |
| 5. stairs _____    | e. goes up quickly              |
| 6. purr _____      | f. asked for, pleaded           |
| 7. point _____     | g. baby cat                     |
| 8. jump _____      | h. steps, way to go up or down  |
| 9. lap _____       | i. building with many homes     |
| 10. ignore _____   | j. use finger to show something |

**TRUE / FALSE**

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|--|-------|
| 1. B.J. was gray.                              | T / F |
| 2. My wife did not want another cat.           | T / F |
| 3. My daughter hates kittens.                  | T / F |
| 4. We lived in a country house.                | T / F |
| 5. B.J. likes to purr.                         | T / F |
| 6. Button was our old cat.                     | T / F |
| 7. B.J. walked into our house and fell asleep. | T / F |
| 8. Some children wanted to sell the kitten.    | T / F |
| 9. I was working when I saw the kitten.        | T / F |
| 10. My wife made the kitten leave the house.   | T / F |

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What was the name of our old cat? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Bitten
  - b) Button
  - c) Junior
  - d) Casper
  
2. Who wanted to give us the kitten? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) my daughter
  - b) my wife
  - c) Button
  - d) little girls
  
3. Why did we name the kitten Button Junior? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) he was like our old cat
  - b) he was small like a button on my shirt
  - c) he liked to eat buttons
  - d) he was so cute
  
4. What did the kitten do after he jumped onto my wife's lap? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) purred
  - b) fell asleep
  - c) kissed her nose
  - d) all of the above

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Who wanted to give us the kitten?

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2. What did my daughter ask me about the kitten?

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3. How many times did the little girls offer the kitten to us?

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4. What did the kitten do when I held him?

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5. Where did I first see the kitten in my house?

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6. What color was the kitten?

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7. Who had to say it was OK to keep the kitten?

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8. How did the kitten get into our house?

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9. What did I say to the kitten when I saw him in my house?

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10. What did we name the little kitten?

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