

Patches

Sarah wanted a puppy for her birthday. She had seen the one she wanted in the pet shop. He was brown and white and had big brown eyes. He licked her hand when she petted him through the cage. She decided she would call him Patches.

She showed Patches to her father.

"That's what I want for my birthday, Daddy," she said.

"I'm sorry, Pumpkin," said Daddy. "But our house is too small for a dog. There's just not enough room. A dog needs lots of room to run and jump and play in. We only have a small yard."

Sarah was very sad. She *really* wanted that puppy.

On her birthday, Sarah woke up early. There was a big box on her bed. It was

covered in shiny blue paper. It even had a red ribbon with a great big bow.

Her Mom and Dad came into her room.

"Happy birthday, darling," said her Mom and Dad. "Open your birthday present. We know you wanted a dog, but we think you will like what you have just as much."

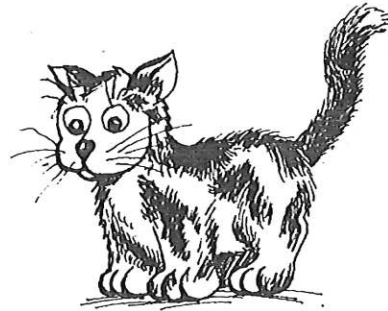
Sarah opened the box and out popped—a little kitten! She was black and white with big yellow eyes. She licked Sarah's hand and purred when she stroked her. Sarah was very happy.

"Thank you very much," she told her Mom and Dad. "I think I'll call her Patches."



PATCHES

Level A



1. What color was Patches the dog?

2. Explain why Sarah wasn't allowed to have a puppy.

3. Sarah's present had a _____ ribbon and bow on it.

Level B

1. If the main character is named Sarah, why did Dad call her Pumpkin?

2. Why do you think Sarah wanted to call the kitten Patches?

3. Who gave Patches the cat to Sarah?

PATCHES

Level C



1. What would *you* have called the kitten? Why?

2. If Sarah couldn't have a dog, how come she *could* have a cat?

3. Isn't it cruel to put a kitten in a box? How do you think it could breathe?

4. Draw Patches licking Sarah's hand and purring.

