# The Cat Came Back

**adapted/arr. Paul Jennings**

# The Cat Came Back

RELAXED SWING-STYLE (♩=100) (♫ = ♪³♪)

ARCHTOP GUITAR

DRUMS SET-UP

ACOUSTIC BASS

5

1. Now

9   5 TIMES
mf

(1.) old Mis-ter John-son had     trou-bles of his own. He     had a yel-low cat     that
(2.) gave it to a man     who was go-ing way out West. He     told     him to take it to the
(3.) threw it in a ken-nel full of large and an-gry dogs. The ground was strewn with cat bones that were
(4.) way a-cross the o - cean he     sent the cat at last. The     great     ship was all a - lone and
(5.) drove it to the des - ert where the U  F  O  was seen. The     sky was full     of cra - zy clouds of

# The Cat Came Back

13

(1.) would not leave his home. He tried and he tried to chase the cat a-way. So he
(2.) one he loved the best. First, the train hit the curve, then it jumped the rail.
(3.) stacked like lit-tle logs. The dogs did howl and thrash a-bout and one flew clear out-side. The
(4.) tak-ing wa-ter fast. Peo-ple all be-gan to pray, the boat be-gan to toss. Then a
(5.) pur-ple, blue, and green. A gi-ant space-craft land-ed and some crea-tures float-ed down. They

C    B    Emi    D    C    B

(1.) gave it to a man who was go-ing to Bom-bay.
(2.) Not a soul was left be-hind to tell the grue-some tale…
(3.) air was full of yelps and fur, there was no place to hide.
(4.) great big gust of wind came by and ev-ery soul was lost…
(5.) grabbed the cat and went a-loft, and left with-out a sound.

+SFX - (DIFFERENT/VERSE)

Emi    D    C    B    C    D    Emi

19

But the cat came back the ver-y next day. The cat came back; we

B    C    B    Emi(ADD 9)    Emi    D    C    B⁷⁽ᵇ⁹⁾    Emi(ADD 9)    Emi    D

2

# The Cat Came Back

thought he was a gon - er. The cat came back, he just would-n't stay a -

way.

|1., 2., 3., 4.| SOLO MEOW

2. He
3. He
4. A -
5. He

|5.| SOLO MEOW

way. Yes, the cat came back the ver - y next day. The

3

# The Cat Came Back



Lyrics (vocal line):

cat came back; we thought he was a gon - er. The cat came back, he

just would - n't stay a - way.

The cat came back!

ALL: MEOW!

# The Cat Came Back

RELAXED SWING-STYLE (♩=100) (♫ = ♩³♪)

Traditional
adapted/arr. Paul Jennings

DRUMS SET-UP

4    [5]    3

1. Now

[9] 5 TIMES
mf

(1.) old Mis-ter John-son had     trou-bles of his own.     He  had a  yel-low cat     that
(2.) gave it to a man   who was go-ing way out West.   He   told   him to take it to the
(3.) threw it in  a ken-nel full of large and an-gry dogs.  The ground was strewn with cat bones that were
(4.) way a-cross the o - cean he   sent the cat at last.   The great   ship was all a-lone and
(5.) drove it to the des-ert where the U  F  O  was seen.   The  sky was full of cra-zy clouds of

[13]
(4)

(1.) would not leave his home.   He tried   and he tried     to  chase the cat a - way.   So  he
(2.)  one he loved the best.        First, the train   hit the curve,   then it jumped the rail.
(3.) stacked like lit-tle logs.   The dogs did howl and thrash a-bout and  one flew clear out-side.    The
(4.) tak-ing wa-ter fast.        Peo-ple all be-gan to pray, the  boat be-gan to toss.   Then a
(5.)  pur-ple, blue, and green.   A  gi-ant space-craft land-ed and some crea-tures float-ed down.    They

(1.)  gave  it   to  a   man      who was     go-ing   to  Bom - bay.
(2.)  Not  a  soul  was  left  be - hind  to    tell  the  grue-some  tale…
(3.)  air   was  full  of  yelps and fur, there   was  no  place to  hide.
(4.)  great  big  gust  of  wind came by and   ev - ery  soul  was  lost…
(5.) grabbed the  cat  and went a - loft, and   left  with - out  a  sound.

# The Cat Came Back



**19** But the cat came back the ver-y next day. The cat came back; we

**23** thought he was a gon-er. The cat came back, he just would-n't stay a-

1., 2., 3., 4.  SOLO MEOW

way.
2. He
3. He
4. A -
5. He

5.  SOLO MEOW  **31**

way. Yes, the cat came back the

ver-y next day. The cat came back; we thought he was a gon-er. The

**35** cat came back, he just would-n't stay a - way.

**39** *f*  ALL: MEOW!

The cat came back!

6

# The Cat Came Back

Traditional
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RELAXED SWING-STYLE (♩=100)(♫ = ♩³♪)

VERSE 1

DRUMS SET-UP

mf  9

Now    old Mis-ter John-son had

trou-bles of his own.    He    had a yel-low cat    that    would not leave his home.    He

13

tried and he tried    to chase the cat a-way. So he    gave it to a man who was go-ing to Bom-bay.

CHORUS    19

But the cat came back    the ver-y next day. The    cat came back; we

23    SOLO MEOW

thought he was a gon-er.    The cat came back, he just would-n't stay a-way.

7

# The Cat Came Back

**VERSE 2**

He gave it to a man who was go - ing way out west. He told him to take it to the one he loved the best. First, the train hit the curve, then it jumped the rail. Not a soul was left be-hind to tell the grue-some tale…

**SING CHORUS**

**VERSE 3**

He threw it in a ken-nel full of large and an - gry dogs. The ground was strewn with cat bones that were stacked like lit-tle logs. The dogs did howl and thrash a-bout and one flew clear out-side. The air was full of yelps and fur, there was no place to hide.

**SING CHORUS**

**VERSE 4**

A - way a-cross the o - cean he sent the cat at last. The great ship was all a - lone and tak-ing wa-ter fast. Peo-ple all be-gan to pray, the

# The Cat Came Back

SING CHORUS

boat be-gan to toss. Then a great big gust of wind came by and ev-ery soul was lost...

VERSE 5

[9]

He drove it to the des-ert where the U F O was seen. The

[13]

sky was full of cra-zy clouds of pur-ple, blue, and green. A gi-ant space-craft land-ed and some

SING LAST CHORUS

crea-tures float-ed down. They grabbed the cat and went a-loft and left with-out a sound.

LAST CHORUS

[19]

But the cat came back the ver-y next day. The cat came back; we

[23]

thought he was a gon-er. The cat came back, he just would-n't stay a - way.

SOLO MEOW

[31]

Yes, the cat came back the ver-y next day. The cat came back; we

[35]

thought he was a gon-er. The cat came back, he just would-n't stay a - way.

[39]

ALL: MEOW!

9

The cat came back!

# The Cat Came Back

Now old Mister Johnson had troubles of his own.
He had a yellow cat that would not leave his home.
He tried and he tried to chase the cat away.
So he gave it to a man who was going to Bombay.

*chorus:*
But the cat came back the very next day.
The cat came back; we thought he was a goner.
The cat came back, he just wouldn't stay away.
(*solo:* Meow)

He gave it to a man who was going way out West.
He told him to take it to the one he loved the best.
First, the train hit the curve, then it jumped the rail.
Not a soul was left behind to tell the gruesome tale...

*repeat chorus*

He threw it in a kennel full of large and angry dogs.
The ground was strewn with cat bones that were
stacked like little logs.
The dogs did howl and thrash about and one
flew clear outside.
The air was full of yelps and fur,
there was no place to hide.

*repeat chorus*

Away across the ocean he sent the cat at last.
The great ship was all alone and taking water fast.
People all began to pray, the boat began to toss.
Then a great big gust of wind came by
and every soul was lost...

*repeat chorus*

He drove it to the desert where the UFO was seen.
The sky was full of crazy clouds of
purple, blue, and green.
A giant spacecraft landed and some
creatures floated down.
They grabbed the cat and went aloft, and
left without a sound.

*repeat chorus*

Yes, the cat came back the very next day.
The cat came back; we thought he was a goner.
The cat came back, he just wouldn't stay away.

The cat came back! (*all:* Meow!)

# Notes for
# The Cat Came Back

We've had many requests for this great old tune, one with a long and rambling history. The original version was published in 1893, with a rather unpleasant subtitle, typical of the very politically incorrect comic songs of the era, when illustrated sheet music was the big way to make money from a song. (You can see the original on Wikipedia, though we don't recommend that you share it with your classes unless you are comfortable discussing racially hurtful words with them.)

*Adapting a classic tale (tail?)* - The approach is a simple one: Our poor hero has a cat that has annoyed him to the point that he wants to be rid of it, so he tries to give it away, or, in many ways, make it cease to exist. But... the cat came back... the very next day. The cat came back... we thought he was a goner. You get the idea.

Many of you know this tune, and no doubt have favorite verses. We do, too, and we have chosen to make what we share a combination of tailored traditional verses and new ones.
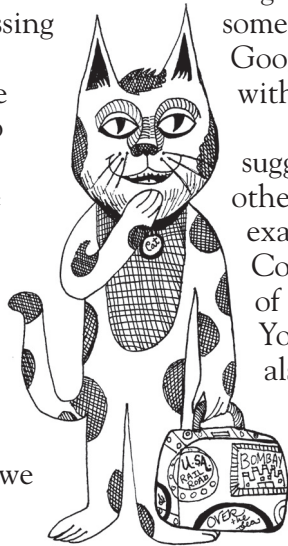
Our recorded setting features five verses, each putting our fair kitty in more and more dire/crazy situations. The style is cool, moderately tempoed, with a tightly voiced jazz band accompanying this perilous/hilarious tale. We've turned it into a bit of a vocal cartoon, in that after each verse, there are a couple of transitional bars that allow music and/or sound effects to heighten the drama. Then, of course, we find in the chorus that the cat came back. Nine lives indeed! We have included an alternate student part with our verses all written out for you in case it's a little tough to decipher the upstem/downstem part for all five.

*You, too, can creatively plot to get rid of that old yellow cat* - We wanted to give you the chance to create your own verses or use favorite verses we did not use. So, in addition to the full and instrumental versions of our arrangement on the recording, we have also included a version of the instrumental tracks with five verses but none of the sound effects that go with our verses. (The train wreck might sound a little strange if you are singing about the cat getting caught in a cyclone.) It is almost amazing the number of the gruesome things that happen to that poor cat in some verses out there. Dream them up or Google them. You can have a lot of fun with this one.

*More enrichment for this tune* - We suggest you use this song as a center for other activities with your students. For example, you could share Richard Condie's great animated treatment of this song. It is available on YouTube™ as of this writing, and has also been included on several animation compilations of videotape and DVD.

We strongly encourage you and/or other teachers at your school to use the song to discuss cruelty to animals. If you know us (or have seen Paul's *Facebook*® page) you know we LOVE cats. The bottom line is that the song is like a cartoon, but real cats and dogs are creatures that can feel pain just like you and me. The Golden Rule applies, just as with human beings: Do unto animals as you would have others do to you. We don't say "animals do to you," because animals don't think about hurting anyone. Yes, they may kill for food, but that is the way of the animal kingdom. Okay... Philosophy lesson over.

*Online extra* – A fun, free, downloadable color poster for this song can be found under "Downloads" at **MusicK8.com**, or if you are reading this as a PDF, click here: cat poster