

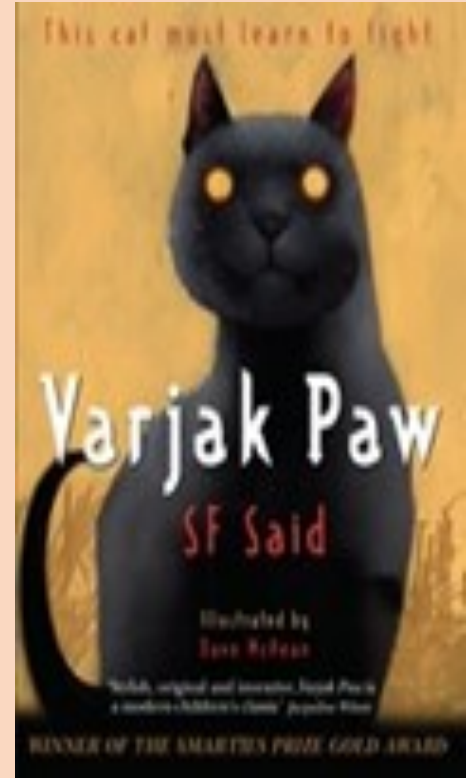
Name: Miss Akhtar 3T

Title- Varjak Paw

Author: SF Said

**Background-** Varjak Paw was published in 2003 – that’s 18 years ago! Although it has been around for a long time, I only stumbled upon this book a few years ago when I was training to become a teacher. When I was a trainee teacher in a Year 3 class, I had a lot of homework to do like all of you! One of my tasks was to read the entire book and plan English lessons around it. As soon as I read a couple of pages, I was hooked and really enjoyed the story. I love this story so much that I ended up reading it to both of my Year 4

**The Setting-** The story begins with Varjak Paw in a house at the top of a hill. As the story progresses, he explores the outside world and finds himself in a large city.



**The Plot-** Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian blue cat who lives with his family in a house. The story starts off with Elder Paw telling Varjak tales about the outside. Varjak Paw is an inquisitive cat who wants to go outside and explore the world. Unfortunately, no one in Varjak’s family share the same thoughts! They don’t dare to go outside because they think it’s dangerous and are happy to spend all their time at home. One day, a mysterious gentleman enters the house with two black cats. Varjak and Elder Paw don’t trust the man and think he will hurt the family. Therefore, they decide to go outside and find a dog to scare the man away. However, during the process, Elder Paw sadly dies. Before he dies, he encourages Varjak to climb the wall and go outside – which Varjak does! He runs away into the city and explores the outside. On his travels, Varjak has dreams about his ancestor Jalal the Paw who teaches him a secret form of martial arts, “The Way” which is only known to cats. Will Varjak be able to use what he learns to protect his family and friends?

**Comments-** I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It’s packed with action, adventure and mystery! There’s a lot of suspense too which I’m a huge fan of. Every time I read this story, I feel like I’m a cat exploring the outside world as the story feels so real - although it’s fiction!

Alongside all the chaos, I learnt a lot from Varjak Paw. It taught me the importance of facing your fears and getting out of your comfort zone – this helps you become more resilient and teaches you to never give up. I also learnt the importance of trust, forgiveness, family and friendship.

**Recommendation-** recommend this book to children in Key Stage 2 (in particular Y3/Y4) who like reading adventure filled fiction books from an animal’s point of view. There’s lots of great vocabulary/phrases and fantastic illustrations throughout the whole story too which makes it even more enjoyable.

