



***Bathe the Cat* by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts**

Chronicle Books, 2022

ISBN: 9781452142708 (Picture Book)

*Age Range: 3-5 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: PreS-K (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Cats + water: What could go wrong? This riotous romp of a picture book follows a frantic family as they try to get some chores done—with no help from the family cat, who keeps scrambling the list of chores to hilarious effect. Get ready for a rollicking read-aloud with a truly purrfect ending.

It's cleaning day, but the family cat will do anything to avoid getting a bath. So instead of mopping the floor or feeding the fish, the family is soon busy rocking the rug, vacuuming the lawn, and sweeping the dishes. Bouncy rhyme carries the story headlong into the growing hilarity, until finally Dad restores some kind of order—but will the cat avoid getting his whiskers wet?

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ “Roberts’s (Ada Twist, Scientist) precise pencil and watercolor illustrations go beyond the entertaining premise to matter-of-factly portray a family at the intersection of a number of identities.”—[The Horn Book Magazine](#), **starred review**

“The watercolor and pencil art has a retro feel, both in bold palette and stylized figures, but the family makes for a fully diverse representation of modernity, with the two Black dads wrangling their family into tidiness.”—[The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books](#)

“Clean-up time turns topsy-turvy when an interracial family’s mischievous cat jumbles up their to-do list in this sure-footed picture book. . . . Pencil and watercolor scenes by Roberts (*The Cook and the King*) emphasize the increasing goofiness of the family’s repeated efforts to get their mess under control, and light rhymes by McGinty (*A Story for Small Bear*) pair smartly with the amusing concept.”—[Publishers Weekly](#)

“Lively, expressive watercolor-and-pencil illustrations of the multiracial family and animated scenarios are the perfect accompaniment for the peppy rhyming text, humorously depicting the household-chores chaos (and kitty’s contributions) in this inviting, quite entertaining read-aloud friendly title.”—[Booklist](#)

“Told in rhyming verse, McGinty’s silly yarn has charm to spare. Young readers will be tickled by the cat’s mischievous misdirects and the resulting pandemonium.”—[School Library Journal](#)

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“McGinty’s jaunty, rhyming text makes for a fun read-aloud, but Roberts’ brightly colored, energetic illustrations are the real attraction. The increasingly frantic family, with light to dark skin tones, doing silly tasks from a muddled list will incite giggles.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2023 Rainbow Booklist Picture Book
- 2023 Bridge to Reading Picture Book Award
- 2023 CLEL Bell Picture Book Award Winner
- 2023 Irma S. Black Award Gold Medalist
- 2022 Chicago Public Library’s Best of the Best
- 2022 New York Public Library’s Best Books
- 2023 ALA Notables List

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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