POPPY CAT

TYPE OF LANGUAGE

• Standard British English

• Conversational

GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

• Each episode is about a girl called Lara (the narrator) telling her cat Poppy a story. She introduces each story by setting the scene. She describes the weather, where the characters are and what they are doing, e.g. “one sunny afternoon Poppy Cat and her friends were all drawing in the garden…” The episodes end with Lara finishing the story in the past tense, e.g. “They stayed up all night and Zuzu decided he wasn’t afraid of the dark anymore”.

• Most of the script is a dialogue between the characters in the story (Poppy Cat and her other animal friends). The majority of this is in the present tense, e.g. “we’re riding on a train”, “look what I made!”, “I’ve never been camping before”.

• There is a considerable amount of everyday vocabulary related to activities and routines, e.g. have lunch, play hide and seek. However, there is also some less common vocabulary as the characters engage in imaginative play on rockets and pirate ships.

• There are a significant number of idioms, fixed and semi-fixed expressions e.g. hurt someone’s feelings, I don’t feel like it, It’s no use (crying).
COMMON WORDS & PHRASES

- Would you like to hear a story?
- You tricked (me)
- Look everybody!
- Maybe you’re right
- Here I come!
- I’m coming
- Don’t worry
- Fantastic!
- Would you like to (join us/come along)?
- Is everybody ready?
- What are you doing/making?
- That was great/excellent/magnificent/wonderful!
- Why don’t we all (go on an adventure)
- I’d like that very much
- We’re going to need (an umbrella)
- That’s not fair!
- Are you alright?
- All you have to do is (press the button)
- We’d better go

TIPS

If you are able to do the following ideas in English then great. If you can’t or don’t feel confident in doing so, you can still aid your child’s learning by doing them in Spanish.

- Use the title of the episode or read the description in the pop-up window on the Let’s Clan webpage (if available). Use this information to talk to your child about what they expect to see and hear, e.g. if the episode is about camping they might expect to hear the words tent, go camping, sleeping bag, camping trip.

- Encourage your child to think about what is happening in the cartoon. Ask questions like Who can you see? Where are they going? Why? What do you think will happen next? Why is Zuzu happy/surprised?
• Personalise the topic where possible, e.g. before watching *Snowman Rescue* you could ask *have you ever built a snowman?*, *do you like it when it snows? Why (not)?*

• If you are watching online, you can retell the story using the screenshots. Talk about your favourite part and ask your child to tell you about theirs.

• There are a number of Poppy Cat and Poppy Cat TV books available. Read these together with your child and talk about the pictures together.

• Try to pick out collocations or expressions that might be useful for your child, e.g. *I can’t wait to (see you)*. These can be challenging when learning a foreign language as they are often different from the learner’s mother tongue and so cannot be translated word for word, e.g. *be afraid of the dark* in Spanish is *tener miedo a la oscuridad*.