



Diane



## The Cat's Out Of The Bag

### Materials:

- Brown or white lunch bags
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Copy paper

A kajillion years ago, just before I was student teaching, I had a professor ask us to bring 3 things in a lunch bag that represented us. We'd be sharing it as an icebreaker.

I really liked this idea and filed it away in my brain, thinking it would be fun to do with my "someday" students.

Many "some days" have come and gone and I've since seen variations of the "me bags" all over the internet and on Pinterest.

When I was an aide, only ½ a jillion years ago, I did a writing prompt with my 2<sup>nd</sup> graders: *"The Cat's Out Of The Bag."*

I had an *"all about me"* checklist, written on a cat's belly, that they filled out and then read to their classmates.

Later, they colored, cut and glued the cat, to the outside of a brown lunch bag and hung them on the front of their lockers, so passer's by could get to know them.

I thought this would be a nice twist to the icebreaker bags of long ago.

Here's what you do:

Make up your own personal "Cat bag" and share it with your students so they get to know a little bit about you.

I included a family photo, (my students always thought it was cool that I have an identical twin), a small stuffed poodle to represent our pet Chloe, a tiny book because I love to read, a pen because I love to write, and paintbrush because I love art.

No matter what grade I taught, I always made samples.

My students really enjoyed getting to know me this way, as well as being able to "see" something and refer to it, as they worked on their own project.

Run off the note to the parents, along with the cute cat and "The cat's out of the bag" squares.

Attach them to a brown lunch bag and send them home with students on the first day of school.

This is an easy and fun way to get to know your students, as well as give them some practice sharing in front of their new friends.





A purr-fect way to get to know your child:  
***The Cat's Out Of The Bag*** lunch bag activity.

This assignment is due: \_\_\_\_\_

Please have your child:

- Color the cat their 2 favorite colors.
- Cut him out and glue him on the **inside** front of the bag.
- Cut the tail out and glue it on the **inside** back of the bag.
- Glue "***The Cat is out of the bag!***" square, to the **front outside** of the bag.
- Put no more than 5 things in your bag that you will share with your classmates.

These things should help us get to know you. i.e. a soccer keychain because you love or play soccer.

Your child will be bringing their bag home, but please do NOT send valuables or breakables and limit photographs to 2.

Thanks in advance for your time and cooperation in helping to make learning fun!  
Educationally Yours,



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Color the cat your FAVORITE 2 colors, and then CUT out.

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