



Key Stage 1-2

BREAKING FREE FROM GRAVITY

My cat Mitzi

My cat Mitzi has started to fly free.
Literally, she overrules gravity,
floating, a helium balloon of fur,
up to the ceiling where she sits and purrs.

Exploring the light fitting, she bounces
then, because the fancy takes her, pounces,
swimming down, diving to her bowl. She eats
till, full of Whiskas, she rises like heat.

Washing, curling up, asleep in the air,
Mitzi is on cloud nine. Drifts of cat hair
rain down, pet gifts from our feline Highness.
I love it but our dad fears a crisis

if she glides out of the open window
then floats away into space, and so,
left with no choice, mum and dad have agreed:
at all times Mitzi should be on a lead.

by Georgi Gill

Read the poem together and talk about these questions:

- How do you think Mitzi feels about floating up to the ceiling?
- How do you think the girl or boy in the poem feels about it?
- How does their dad feel about it? Why?
- Is Mitzi free at the end of the poem? Is the ending fair?

What are the sounds of freedom in the poem?

- 'Fly free', 'float', 'air', and 'feline', are words with long vowel sounds. How many other words with long vowel sounds can you find in the poem?
- Be aware of these sounds as you practise reading the poem aloud. Try to find space and freedom in your voice as you read.

Let your imagination fly free!

Of course, without travelling into space we can't know what it's like to live without gravity, but our imaginations don't have to be weighed down!

Close your eyes. Imagine that gravity releases its hold on you.

Do you fly like a bird? Is it a gentle process of floating? Or do you shoot upwards like a rocket? What do you see from your new viewpoint? How does your body feel? Where do you go?

When you open your eyes, write down your zero gravity journey. It doesn't have to be a poem at this stage but try to choose lots of words with long free sounds.

Later, shape what you have written into a poem. It doesn't have to rhyme but if you like, you could try using the AABB rhyme scheme of 'My cat Mitzi'.