



CAT KID COMIC CLUB: THE MUSICAL

Scene by Scene Summary

SHOW SUMMARY

Cat Kid and Molly Pollywog have started an epic club to teach 21 rambunctious baby frogs how to make their own comics! Their fishy father Flippy is overjoyed that his kids will learn to unleash their creativity, but when the frogs' constant bickering and outrageous imaginations send their comics comically off the rails, Flippy flips out! Will the club survive? Will the frogs ever get along? And will creativity finally save the day? All will be answered in this madcap musical based on Dav Pilkey's irreverently hilarious book series.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

OPENING

The show opens with Sara Hatoff reporting live from a city under attack by 22 tadpoles with psychokinetic brain powers. Molly, one of the 22 tadpoles, informs Sara that the other 21 tadpoles are her siblings, but unlike them, she has decided to use her powers for good. After some chaos, confusion, a little help from the reformed villain Flippy, and Cat Kid with an antidote, both the tadpoles and the city are saved.

The tadpoles, now defenseless frog kids, are adopted by Flippy, who takes it upon himself to raise them as his own children. A couple of weeks pass, and it becomes clear that raising these rambunctious frogs will be much more challenging than Flippy had imagined, with Naomi and Melvin causing the most trouble due to their never-ending fighting. Just when all seems hopeless, Cat Kid comes to the aid of his friend and new father. Together they form the '**Cat Kid Comic Club**', hoping that through the power of comic writing, they can turn these naughty frogs nice.

DAY 1

On the first day of club, Cat Kid unveils the '**Cat Kid Comic Club Supa-Promise Guarantee**': everyone will have written a comic in 4 days, and if everyone has written a comic by the fourth day, they will get a 'Mega-Gigantic, Humonga-normous Comic Club Party'. There's just one problem: the frogs don't know what a comic is.

To learn what a comic is, Cat Kid decides the club will write one together, and using Melvin's interests, they create the comic: **'Dennis the Toothbrush Lawyer for Dinosaurs'**. The story follows a toothbrush named Dennis with a dream: to become a lawyer for dinosaurs. Dennis receives his college diploma and with a time machine, represents an Iguanodon Teen in dinosaur court, proving to the Triceratops judge that his client could not have eaten the lady's baby because Iguanodons are herbivores! Dennis wins his case, and they celebrate. Everyone loves the comic except Flippy, and while Naomi enjoyed the story, she still feels Melvin's interests are stupid, landing her on Time Out Rock.

The club looks promising, but the frogs are too scared they will mess up creating their comics! Cat Kid and Molly tell the club to embrace failing and to embrace embarrassing themselves while writing their comics because it's the only way to overcome their fear of failure. With Cat Kid's advice, they leave; all except Starla, a shy purple frog. In a brief conversation, she tells Cat Kid she does not think writing comics is for her and instead enjoys the ancient Japanese art of Haiku more. Hearing this, Cat Kid encourages Starla to write in Haiku rather than traditional writing for her comic.

DAY 2

The play transitions to day 2 where Kip gladly shares his comic: **'Supa Fail!'** The story follows a 1-year-old baby named Supa Fail because everything he does is an utter disaster. Adorning a superhero identity, Supa Fail puts on a cape and goes to town ready to do good deeds; but as expected, every one of his actions causes complete and utter catastrophe, all spiraling into the nuclear destruction of the planet. All enjoy the comic, though Flippy is unsettled by such violence and death within the tale. Cat Kid assures him that it's a positive thing his kids are using their imagination and creativity to express themselves.

The next comic shared is **'The Cute, Little, Fluffy Cloud of Death'** written by Poppy. The comic details the life of a cute, little, fluffy, and dead cloud floating through the sky. When the Sun teases the Cloud and yells for it to leave, the Cloud cries. The tears bring the attention of a Ghost Girl and her SkeloPup who befriend the cloud and provide comfort until the Sun sets, making way for the Moon and Stars to enter the sky. In the light of the night, they all dance and rejoice. Despite Poppy's comic being a hit with the club, the story concerns Flippy who can only focus on the dead, creepy characters, rather than the beautiful themes of friendship and kindness the comic contains.

Later, Cat Kid teaches the club about drawing with perspective, and they all start practicing; well, save Naomi and Melvin, whose bickering lands Melvin in trouble. After some pleading from Melvin, Flippy decides on another punishment for Melvin: he must write his comic from Naomi's perspective. Flippy hopes this will teach Melvin one of the play's themes: understanding. This choice of punishment frustrates Naomi because she would never get the chance to choose her punishment. At the end of the day, Starla once again comes to Cat Kid, explaining that comic writing may not be her thing. After some discussion, Cat Kid encourages Starla to use one of her other passions, nature photography, to create her comic.

DAY 3

Day 3 begins with Melvin trying to draw a picture of Naomi for his comic. Naturally, this annoys Naomi, but the play moves on to the next comic: **'Booger Bunnies from Poop City'** by Pink. As the title suggests, the comic is a complete ode to the booty and is almost immediately shut

down by Flippy. After three days of what he feels are improper comics, Flippy begs for someone to share a comic without poo, death, or mass destruction.

Three frogs, Gilbert, Rico, and Pedro, share their comic: **'Chubbs McSpiderbutt'**. **'Chubbs McSpiderbutt'** transports the play into the world of a shirtless muscle man who, after sitting on a tree stump, gets bitten on the rump by a spider and sprouts spider legs from that same butt. With his new physique, Chubbs becomes a superhero with the spider who bit him as his sidekick. The scene quickly devolves into a ruckus of booty jokes and shaking.

Having reached his limit, Flippy stops the whole charade and declares that from this point on, nobody can make comics that are not decent, wholesome, and with good moral values. The rule angers the entire club and causes them to quit. In a moment that reinforces one of the show's main messages, Cat Kid explains to a surprised Flippy the importance of supporting the beauty of self-expression. By condemning it, he stands against what the club was for.

Later that day, Melvin pesters an irritated Naomi at the fairground to help him finish his comic, but their arguing is interrupted by a Carnival Barker who invites Melvin to play a game: knock over some cans with a slingshot and win a stuffed animal for each can he knocks over. Melvin tries twice and does not knock a single can over, but the Barker gives him three stuffed animals for simply trying his best.

When Naomi takes the slingshot from Melvin, the Barker looks at Naomi and scoffs, pronouncing that a little girl like Naomi is incapable of doing well. Despite the Barker's backwards thinking, Naomi, in one shot, knocks down all the cans! Sirens blare, and Melvin cheers for Naomi's victory, yet the barker awards her one tiny stuffed animal. It is unfair, and even Melvin can see that. He tries to give Naomi one of his stuffed animals, but Melvin doesn't understand that the prize is not the point.

The two go back and forth, with Naomi telling Melvin everyone favors him and Melvin pointing out Naomi is always mean to him. It is only when Naomi states Melvin hates her that he pauses. As a girl, Naomi must always speak up for herself because she knows no one, especially boys, will. This deeply hurts Melvin's heart, but wait, he has an idea!

DAY 4

Day 4, the final day of the Cat Kid Comic Club and no one to be seen, aside from a shy Starla who comes to Flippy hoping to share her comic: **'Birds, Flowers, Trees'**. The comic is beautiful and wholesome, a piece that brings everyone back into the club. Starla confesses she was scared about writing her comic the whole time but found courage and inspiration from the comics written by her siblings. Their comics were about outsiders who were different, and it is those stories of outsiders that gave Starla the bravery to write her comic. Here the message of the show is made clear: Everyone has their own way of seeing things, and that's what makes us special.

Realizing his mistake, Flippy removes his silly rule and assures everyone that while he may not like everything his frogs write, he will support them because he loves them. If you keep doing what you love, you will never fail.

Suddenly, dragging Naomi behind him, Melvin storms into the club and with a flourish, presents his comic to the club: **'My Sister, Naomi'**. Melvin's work is a touching retelling of what occurred at the fair, but from Naomi's perspective. With pride and gusto, Melvin tells the world about his strong, amazing, and intelligent sister who will never let anyone put her down! He hands the story over to Naomi, who declares the power of girls and speaking up when things are not right.

The comic is a triumph, touching Naomi's heart, and perhaps for the first time, Melvin and Naomi understand each other.

But oh no! Even with Melvin's comic, there is still one frog who has not written a comic: Naomi! It is true, Naomi has not written one comic. Instead, she has written seven whole comics!

ENDING

With everyone having written a comic, the story transitions to the glitz, glam, and spectacle of the "Mega-gigantic, Humongous, Comic Club Party", a dance party celebrating the coming together of people through the power of creativity, imagination, and self-expression. With this display of the show's themes, the story ends.

THEMATIC BREAKDOWN

THEMES

| CENSORSHIP

- Censorship is just a big word for telling someone what they can and cannot say or do. In **Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical**, Flippy tries to control what the kids write, making the kids feel like they cannot express who they really are in their comics. Flippy learns that he cannot write the kids' story, and it's better to let the kids find their own voices. It teaches us that allowing kids to express themselves and to be true to who they are is the best way to support them.

| MENTORSHIP

- Mentors are kind of like teachers. They teach us new things and cheer us on when we need support. The coolest part is anyone can be a mentor! Being a good mentor is not just about teaching, it is also about being there when someone needs you. In **Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical**, Flippy learns that instead of trying to make the kids just like him, it is better to give them the tools they need to discover themselves.

| THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

- Inside all of us we have a seed of imagination. The seed is always there but without water it cannot grow. **Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical** reminds us that imagination is worth watering and growing. The Cat Kid Comic Club is a space for the characters to grow their imagination from a seed into a beautiful flower and reminds us to take care of our own seed, water it, and be proud of the beautiful flower of imagination we all have inside.

| TOGETHERNESS - COMMUNITIES CREATING TOGETHER

- **Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical** shows us how working together can make us closer. Most of the characters write their comics alone, but the whole club always presents them together for their audience. By working together, the kids find community with each other and become closer as a club. Watching the play, we learn that the power of making things together brings people closer, and stronger.

SCT'S ENCORE DISCUSSIONS

CAREGIVER QUESTIONS

1. If you could write your own comic, what would it be about? What characters would it have and where would it take place? Why did you choose that story?
2. All the frogs in the Cat Kid Comic Club had Flippy to look up to; is there someone in your life you look up to? Why do you look up to them?
3. The Cat Kid Comic Club is special because it brought everyone together to make super special stories; how can you do the same in your own life, and why is it important to bring people together?