



ACTIVITY GUIDE

Scorch the hedgehog is determined to be ferocious. The doomsy-est, most menacing class pet ever known. She's not just Scorch, she's... Scorch, Hedgehog of Doom!

There's just one problem—Scorch is kind of adorable. So adorable, in fact, that it's all anyone ever notices.

With each swirl of her cloak, each sharp claw raised high, each baring of her chilling chompers, the kids of room 402 don't fall back in fear or quiver with tears. Instead, they cry, "Awww! Adorable!"

Tired of being seen as just one thing, Scorch flies into action, determined to show how truly terrifying she can be. But when her flipping, training, and high-flying efforts land her in true danger—the home of the classroom's other scaled, slithering, cold-blooded animal occupant—Scorch must harness and embrace all the parts of her unique self. Put to the ultimate test, she finds power in being ferociously adorable and killer cute.

Readers will fall for this ferociously “awww”-inspiring story starring a beloved class pet about self-image, identity, and finding harmony among the many different, sometimes contradictory pieces of ourselves.

Cate Berry is the author of five books (Harper Collins, MacMillan, Page Street Kids), with more forthcoming in 2025. Cate holds an MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts, with an emphasis in humor, and has been a featured presenter at the Texas Book Festival, The Writing Barn, Association of Writers and Writing Programs, and many SCBWI conferences. Ms. Berry is the former humor columnist for Austin Family Magazine is a current editor at Bushel & Peck Books.

Margherita Grasso is an illustrator and graphic designer, living and working in Milan, Italy. She studied illustration and digital and virtual design at Istituto Europeo di Design. She loves to represent the world around her with colors and humor. Where there's a shadow, there's a light, too, and in all her illustrations the light and its reflections are the protagonists.



HOW I DESCRIBE MYSELF

Scorch wants to be ferocious. The kids in her classroom think she's adorable.

In the end, she learns she can be ferociously adorable!

Think of three words to describe yourself. Write them below. Then, think of three words your friends would use to describe you. Write those below, too.

I am . . .

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Others would say I am . . .

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Reflect: How are these words different? How are they the same?

Is the way your friends see yourself different from the way you see yourself? How so?

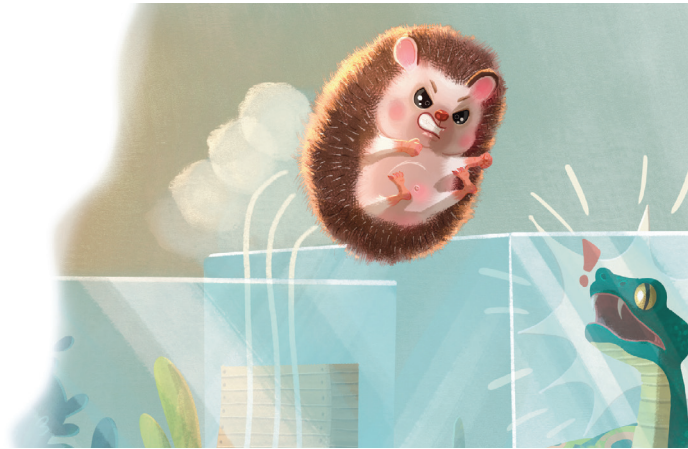
GROUP ACTIVITY: MAKE A FUNNY (OR FEROCIOUS) FACE!



Scorch has many funny, ferocious, and even adorable faces throughout the book.

Directions:

1. Write emotions on strips of paper: These can be anything: angry, sad, cute, bored, surprised, happy, tired, scary, etc.
2. Place strips of papers in a container
3. Form small groups of 5-6. Choose someone to be the first “hedgehog” and have them stand, facing the rest of the group.
4. Have the hedgehog select a strip of paper from the container without showing other group members.
5. The hedgehog must make a face matching the emotion written on the paper.
6. The first group member to guess the emotion is the next hedgehog and selects a new piece of paper!



RACE TO THE CASTLE

Scorch is racing back to her glass castle to make some ferocious, doom-sy plans. Color in the alphabet to help Scorch reach her castle quickly!



r	m	n	o	b	q
i	l	x	p	a	d

m	a	c	k	e	q	r	x
n	b	e	j	z	t	s	l
f	c	l	i	p	u	c	f
t	d	g	h	w	v	a	k
a	e	f	q	x	y		
s	k	l	n	r	z		



THINK, DRAW, & WRITE: MY CLASSROOM PET

Classroom 402 has TWO cool class pets!

Think: If you could have any classroom pet, what would it be? Don't forget to be creative!

Draw a picture of this pet and write about them below.



Meet: _____, _____ of
(name) (type of animal)

(describe them)

They are a great class pet because:

KILLER CUTE OPPOSITES

Words like “ferocious” and “adorable” are called opposites. This means they have the “most different” meaning from each other.

Draw a line from each word on the left to its opposite on the right.

Silly

Early

Little

Sad

Down

Evening

Dark



Morning

Quiet

Up

Light

Serious

Big

Happy

Late



SCORCH'S CLASSROOM SEEK AND FIND

Scorch lives in a classroom just like yours at school! Can you find the common classroom objects hidden throughout the book?

Circle each picture when you find them!

