

# SING DON GATO'S TALE

You know that there are different kinds of songs, like spirituals, dance songs, and echo songs. "Don Gato" is a **ballad**. **Listen** for the surprise ending!

A **ballad** is a song that tells a story.



English Words by Margaret Marks

## Don Gato

Folk Song from Mexico

1. El se - ñor Don Ga - to es - ta - ba  
1. Oh, Se - ñor Don Ga - to was a cat,

sen - ta - di - to en el te - ja - do  
On a high, red roof Don Ga - to sat.

cuan - do le vi - nie - ron car - tas, mia - rra - miau,  
He went there to read a let - ter, meow, meow, meow,

cuan - do le vi - nie - ron car - tas, mia - rra - miau,  
Where the read - ing light was bet - ter, meow, meow, meow,

si que - rí - a ser ca - sa - do.  
'Twas a love note for Don Ga - to! \_\_\_\_\_

## The Pattern in Rhythm

Look at the rhythm of each phrase of the song.  
Which phrases have the same rhythm?



- Con una gatita blanca,  
sobrina de un gato pardo,  
que no la había más linda, ...  
que no la había más linda, ...  
en las casas de aquel barrio.
- "I adore you!" wrote the lady cat,  
Who was fluffy, white, and nice and fat.  
There was not a sweeter kitty, ...  
In the country or the city, ...  
And she said she'd wed Don Gato!
- Don Gato con la alegría,  
se ha caído del tejado;  
ha roto siete costillas, ...  
ha roto siete costillas, ...  
las dos orejas y el rabo.
- Oh, Don Gato jumped so happily,  
He fell off the roof and broke his knee,  
Broke his ribs and all his whiskers, ...  
And his little solar plexus, ...  
"¡Ay caramba!" cried Don Gato!
- A visitarlo venían,  
médicos y cirujanos;  
todos dicen que se muere, ...  
todos dicen que se muere, ...  
que Don Gato está muy malo.
- Then the doctors all came on the run  
Just to see if something could be done,  
And they held a consultation, ...  
About how to save their patient, ...  
How to save Señor Don Gato!
- El gatito ya se ha muerto,  
ya se ha muerto el buen Don Gato;  
a enterrar ya se lo llevan, ...  
a enterrar ya se lo llevan, ...  
todos los gatos llorando.
- But in spite of ev'rything they tried,  
Poor Señor Don Gato up and died,  
Oh, it wasn't very merry, ...  
Going to the cemetery, ...  
For the ending of Don Gato!
- Cuando pasaba el entierro,  
por la plaza del pescado,  
al olor de las sardinas, ...  
al olor de las sardinas, ...  
Don Gato ha resucitado.
- When the funeral passed the market square,  
Such a smell of fish was in the air,  
Though his burial was slated, ...  
He became re-animated! ...  
He came back to life, Don Gato!