

Varjak Paw

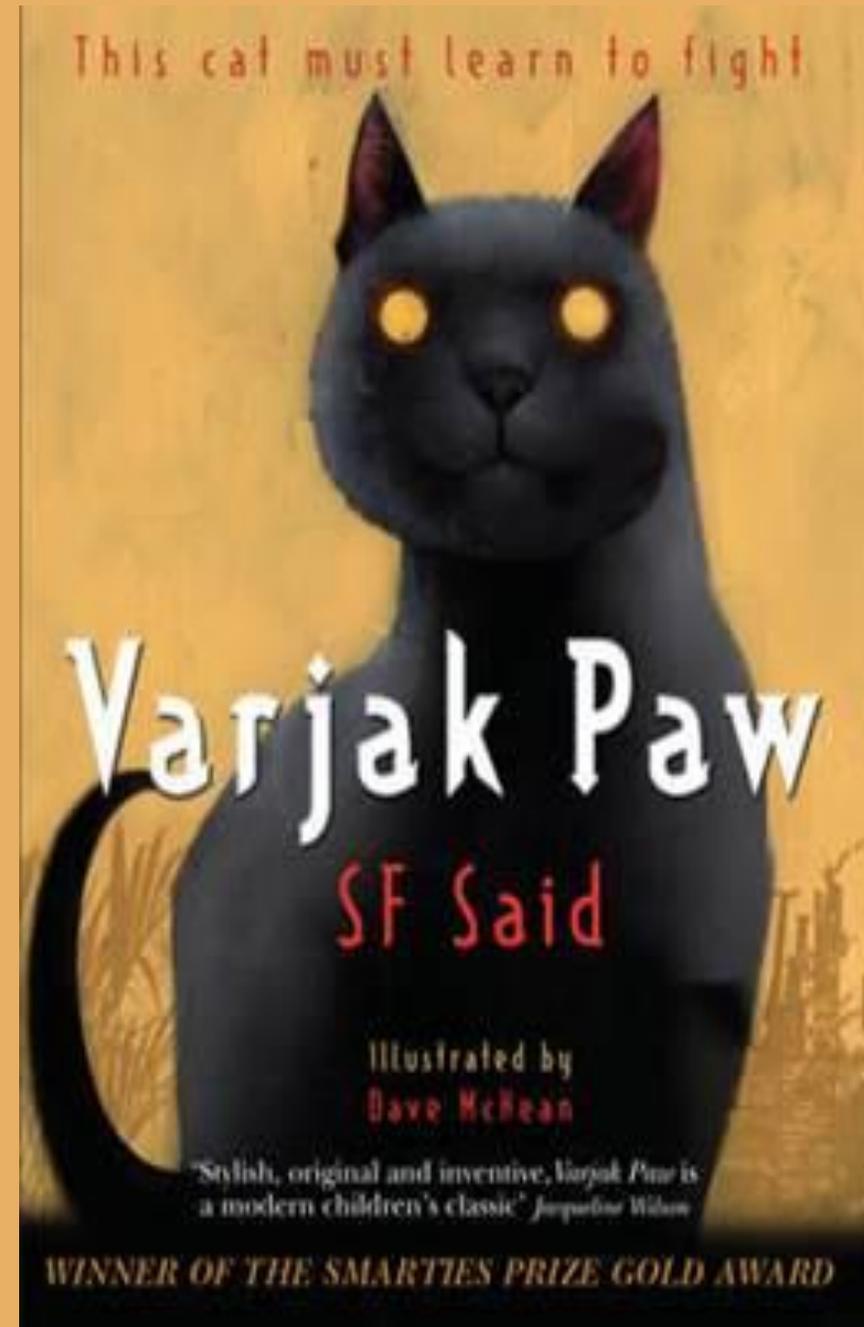
Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue cat from a large family that live comfortably inside the Contessa's large, grand house. Yet, when the Gentleman arrives with his odd black cats, Varjak and his grandfather the Elder Paw believe that something strange is going on. Having escaped the house, Elder Paw tells Varjak to leave and bring back a dog that will frighten away the Gentleman and his black cats. There is one problem year 4, Varjak is not very street smart, and he has no idea what a dog is... Varjak is going to need lots of resilience to navigate this adventure.

Author

He was born in Lebanon in 1967, but has lived in London since he was 2 years old. He wrote his first novel, *Varjak Paw* (2003), while working as a speechwriter for the Crown Prince of Jordan, and then as an arts journalist and film programmer.

Said is a powerful advocate for making reading a more inclusive experience for more children and shares Book Trust's ambitions to improve representation in children's books. His books immerse children in worlds where characters explore their identity within systems of social injustice, inequity and prejudice.

To find out more visit his blog using the QR code below.



The Main Characters in the story...

Varjak Paw	Protagonist- A Young 'Mesopotamian Blue' kitten with amber eyes.
Elder Paw	Varjak's grandfather who is wise
Jalal the Paw	Ancestor of Varjak who teaches him 'The Way' through dreams.
The Contessa	An old lady who feeds the cats.
Julius	Antagonist- Varjak's brother who is always making fun of him.

Mesopotamia-

Known as the land "between the rivers" in modern-day Iraq. It was home to the ancient Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians. Among their many achievements are the creation of the earliest known script (cuneiform), the formation of the first cities, the development of advanced astronomical and mathematical knowledge,



Key vocabulary:

Ancestor-A person related to you who lived a long time ago.

Corrupt- Dishonestly using a position of power to get an advantage.

Cower- To hide, often protecting the head by keeping it down.

Rancid- Tasting or smelling something unpleasant because it is rotting.

Potent- having strength or power (often used for smell or taste)

Desolate- An empty or abandoned place.

Forage- To go from place to place searching or hunting for something.

Contempt- A strong feeling of disliking and having no respect for someone or something.

Enthralled- Excited and captivated by something.

Intoxicating- An experience which takes over the body and mind.

Deliberately- To do something on purpose.

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