

# 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.



CD 12-8

English Words by Margaret Marks

## Don Gato

Folk Song from Mexico

do

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  
Look  
Whic  
The  
Cor  
sob  
que  
que  
en  
3. Do  
se  
ha  
ha  
las  
4. A v  
mé  
toa  
toa  
que  
5. El g  
ya  
a e  
a e  
toa  
6. Cu  
por  
al c  
al c  
Do



## The Pattern in Rhythm

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



2. *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.*
3. *Don Gato con la alegría,  
se ha caído del tejado;  
ha roto siete costillas, . . .  
ha roto siete costillas, . . .  
las dos orejas y el rabo.*
4. *A visitarlo venían,  
médicos y cirujanos;  
todos dicen que se muere, . . .  
todos dicen que se muere, . . .  
que Don Gato está muy malo.*
5. *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.*
6. *Cuando pasaba el entierro,  
por la plaza del pescado,  
al olor de las sardinas, . . .  
al olor de las sardinas, . . .  
Don Gato ha resucitado.*
2. "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!
3. 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!
4. 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!
5. 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!
6. 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!