Reading 'Bob, No Ordinary Cat' by James Bowen

**Beforehand**

Talk to your neighbour about:

- all the animals/pets you have had in your life
- the advantages of having pets
  (I had a friend who was an 'only child' and her parents bought her a dog for company.)
- all the pets you have wanted to have
- the disadvantages of having pets
  (My grandchild has just watched their first egg hatch into a chicken. What will it be like with a whole field full of chickens?)

**The video clip**

- does it make you want to read the book?
- do you like James?
- does he look like all addicts and cases of social welfare?
- would you put money in his case?
- only because Bob is so fluffy and sweet?

While you are reading the first chapters

- watch out for the places where James is beginning to weaken, to decide to keep Bob. (I think it starts by his giving him a name!).
- watch out, too, for the places where he comments how Bob helps him.
- Can you find sentences where he is really grateful to Bob?

While you continue reading

- continue to watch for signs of the relationship between James and Bob.
- look especially at the last lines of the chapters and think about them!

**'Bob' before chapter 2**

Talk to your neighbour:

- Would you have behaved like James (in the previous chapter) ? What would you have done?
- In 'Road to Recovery' James talks about a little kitten that dies. Have you or any of your family or friends had a similar experience? How did you cope? *(Damit fertig werden).*

- 'Killer Bob' is sometimes 'normal and sane' and then the next he is 'crazy and out of control'. Is that only with cats or also with people?

- In Berlin there are a lot of cats that live inside all the time. Are there any that are always outdoors? What are the differences? Dangers? Nuisances?

Chapter 2 - collect the declarations of love!

(e.g. p. 20: 'I rubbed his throat gently...'; p. 21: He wasn't perfect by any means.)