



## the Musical with Cattitude

### A Cardinal for Kids Study Guide

He's a chubby kitty who's sometimes grumpy, sometimes rude—and always lazy and funny!

Garfield thinks he deserves the best birthday in the history of birthdays. So how could his friends have forgotten to wish the world's greatest cat a happy birthday? Me-owch!

Feeling sad, Garfield goes outside to look for adventure—and quickly learns that “home is where the heart...and the food is.”

This musical play is based on the beloved Garfield comic strip by Jim Davis.

#### Characters:

**Garfield** a lazy tabby cat who thinks a lot of himself

**Odie** a simple-minded dog and Garfield's best friend

**Jon Arbuckle** the nerdy man who feeds Garfield

**Arlene** the cat Garfield likes best of all

**Nermal** a kitten whom Garfield finds annoying

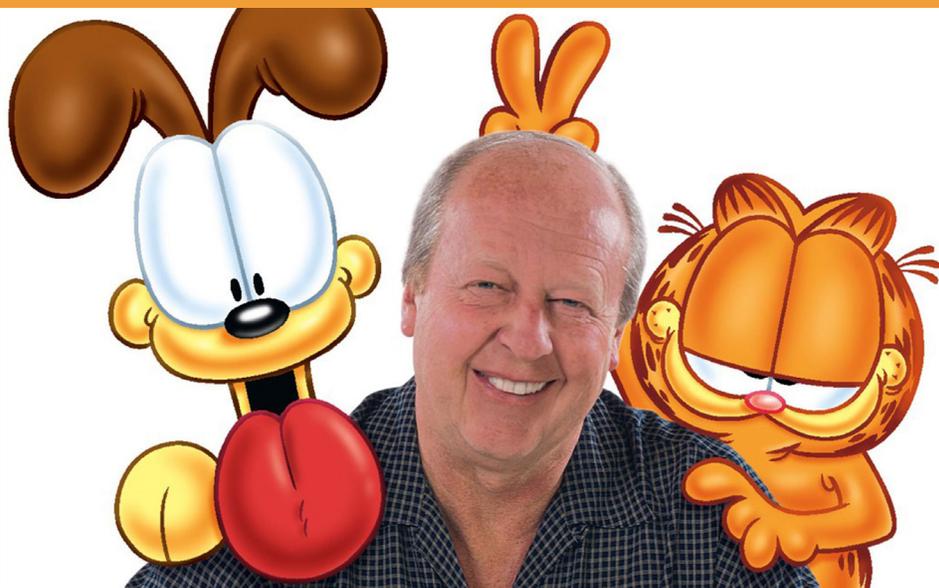
An **Animal Control officer** who tries to catch Garfield and his friends

Help children prepare for attending a live theater performance with our What to Expect When You See a Play guidelines:

<https://mcpl.info/FirstTheater>



Monroe County  
Public Library



**Drawing a strip  
is like telling  
a joke. It is  
telling a joke.**

— *Jim Davis*

## About the Author

Jim Davis is the author and the illustrator of the long-running Garfield comic strips. Born in 1945 near Marion, Indiana, Davis lived on a farm with cows and lots of cats. His mom encouraged him to draw during bouts with a childhood illness. “You have to do something when you’re lying in bed,” Davis says. “So you play with your mind. Mother would give me a paper and pencil and make me try to draw. I’d draw someone, and as soon as I’d learned to spell, I’d have them saying something. Then I started drawing boxes and in second or third grade, it was cartooning.”

After attending college at Ball State University, Davis worked as an assistant to a cartoonist. The first comic strip Davis created was about a bug, but people didn’t think it was very funny. Since there were a lot of other comic strips about dogs, Davis decided to make his about a cat.

Garfield, the lazy, lasagna-loving cat was born in 1976, and by 1978 the Garfield comic strip was published in forty-one newspapers around the United States. Now Garfield appears in more than 2,000 newspapers worldwide. There’s also a Garfield television show, Garfield movies, and a lot of Garfield books.

**To learn more about Jim Davis, visit these websites:**

**Indiana Historical Society: Famous Hoosiers: Jim Davis**

<http://www.indianahistory.org/education/hoosier-facts-fun/famous-hoosiers/jim-davis>

**Jim Davis—The Man Behind the Cat**

<https://garfield.com/jim-davis>

### For Teachers

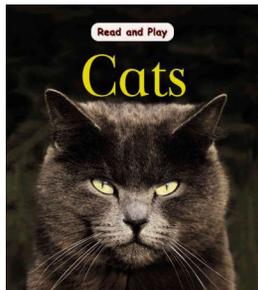
In *Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude*, Garfield hopes his friends throw him a birthday party. Talk with students about what a tradition is. Describe some traditional ways to celebrate birthdays. Ask students to share birthday traditions their family might observe.

Ask students to write sentences describing the way they’d like to celebrate their birthday. Students could also partner with a friend to make them a birthday card—or make one for Garfield using the template in this guide.

# About CATS

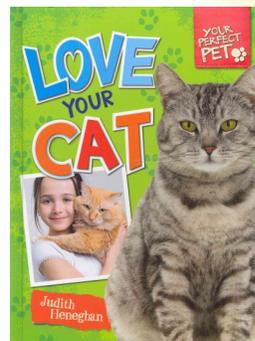
Garfield's favorite food is lasagna, made with big sheets of noodles, cheese, tomato sauce, and meat or vegetables (see the recipe in this guide). But could a cat really eat lasagna? Find out together with books and articles about cats. Or ask a veterinarian—a doctor who takes care of animals—for their expert advice on this question.

**Find information about cats at your local library:**



**Cats** by Jim Pipe

Introduces cats, discussing their physical features, behavior, eating habits, and why they make good pets.



**Love Your Cat**

by Judith Heneghan

An introduction to caring for a cat, including information about habitat, diet, exercise, and health.



Your Library card connects you to World Book Online. Among World Book Online's features are text-to-speech that reads articles aloud, and translation into dozens of languages.

The encyclopedia entry for domestic cats includes a video of a cat at play and a sound file of a cat meowing. Find it at:

<https://mcpl.info/worldbook>

... and then try the activities on the next page.



## Questions

Read the **World Book Online** article about cats and then answer these questions.

What are some of the different types or breeds of cats mentioned in this article?

Write down the name of the cat breed that you would like to have for a pet:

How are domestic cats and wild cats the same? Write one thing they have in common.

How are domestic cats and wild cats different? Write one thing that makes them different.

## Show What You Know

Cats are a type of animal known as **mammals**.

There are lots of different kinds of cats. Some cats are called **domestic** cats. These are cats that we might keep as a \_\_\_\_\_ in our \_\_\_\_\_.

Some cats, such as \_\_\_\_\_ live out in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**tigers pet wild home**

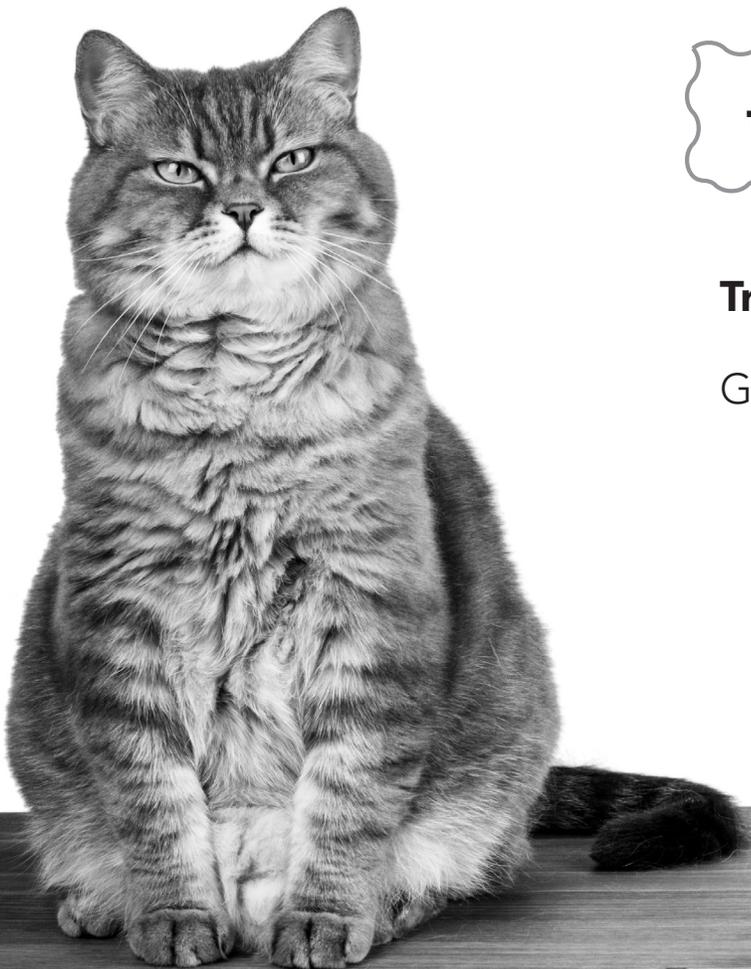
### True or False?

Garfield is a domestic cat. \_\_\_\_\_

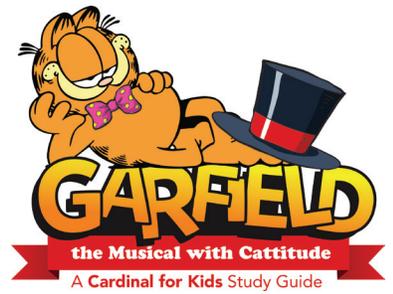


**WORLD  
BOOK**

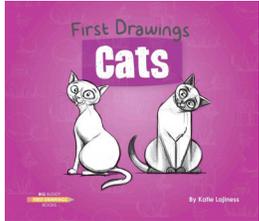
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# Draw Your Own Comic

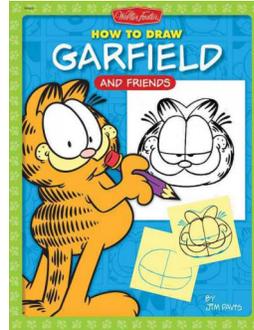


Books at Monroe County Public Library help you learn to draw a cat or create cartoons. Try these:



## Cats by Kate Lajiness

Introduces artists to basic drawing concepts and shows you how to turn simple shapes into cats, step-by-step. Learn to draw a goofy cat, a sleepy cat, a crabby cat, a curious cat, and a fat cat.



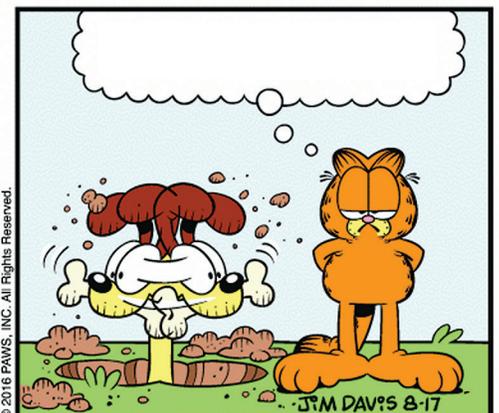
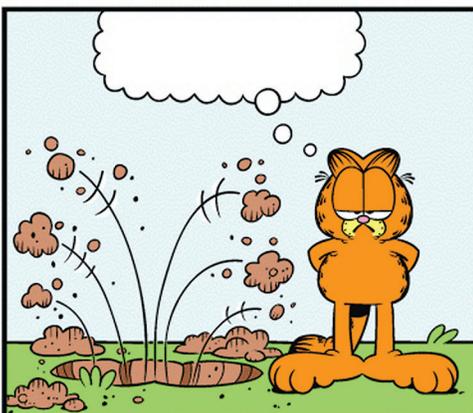
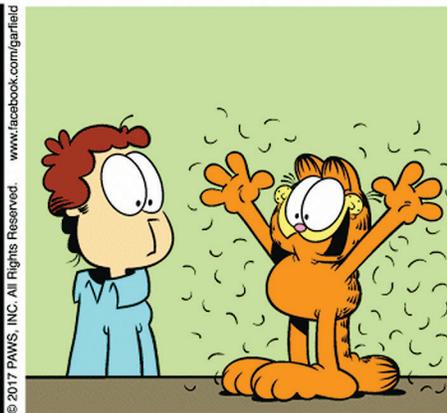
## How to draw Garfield and Friends

by Jim Davis

A book just about drawing Jim Davis's beloved comic strip characters.

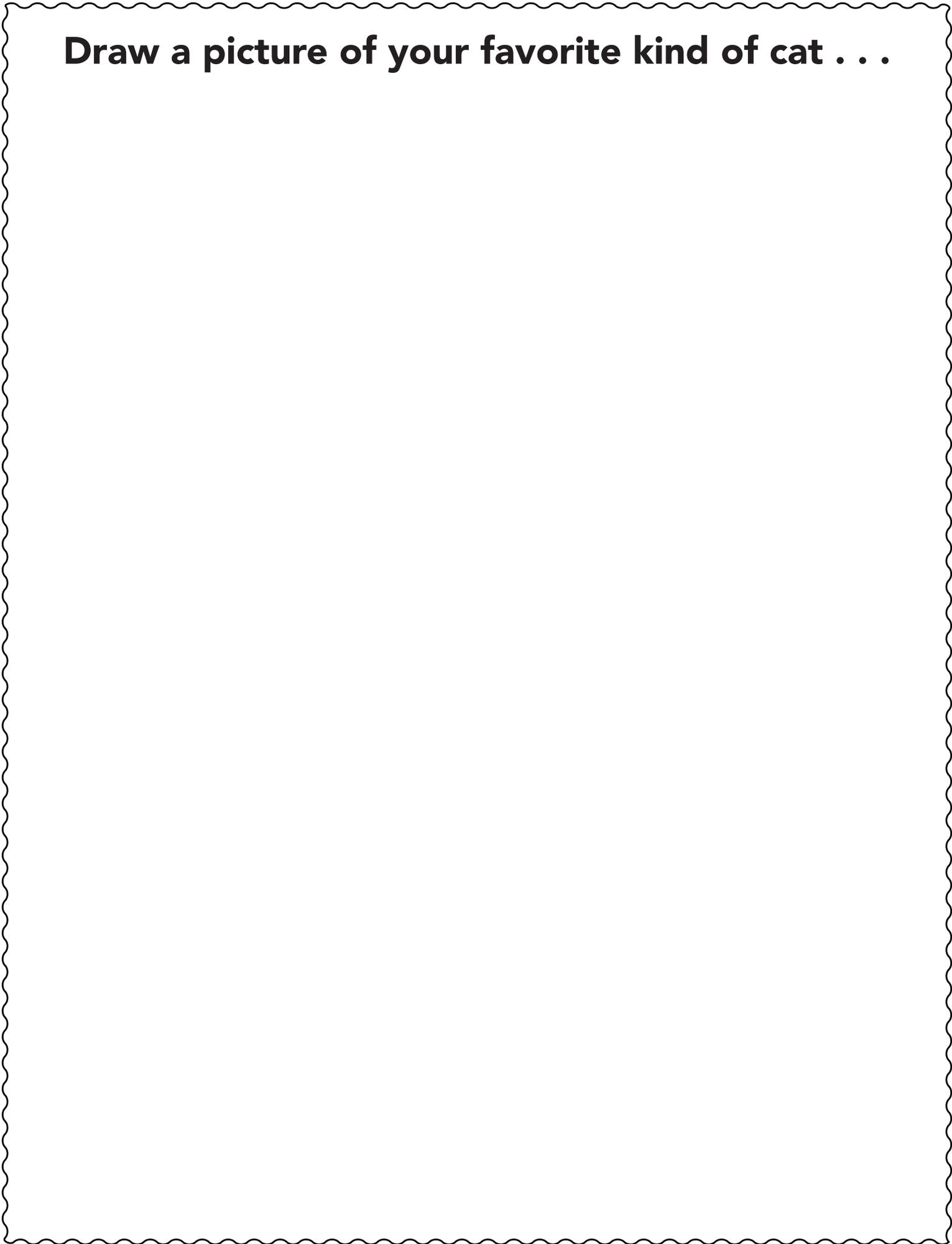
## You Write the Comic Strip!

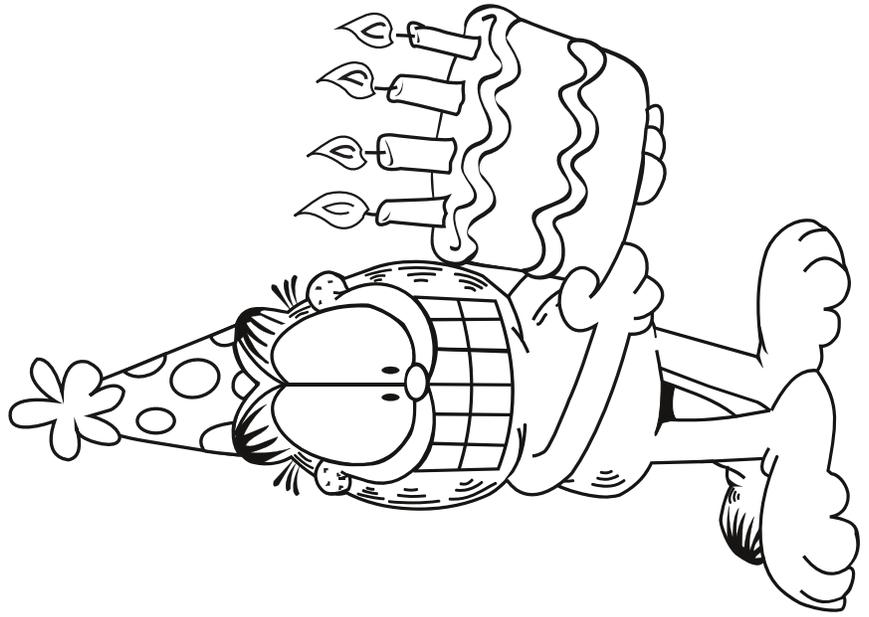
What do you think they are saying in these pictures? Fill in their words in the bubbles in these comic strips.



Find more Garfield comic strips at <https://Garfield.com>

**Draw a picture of your favorite kind of cat . . .**





# You Can Make Garfield's Favorite Food!

*Ask an Adult to Help You*

## Easy Lasagna Recipe

Makes one 8 inch × 8 inch lasagna.

### Ingredients:

#### FOR THE SAUCE

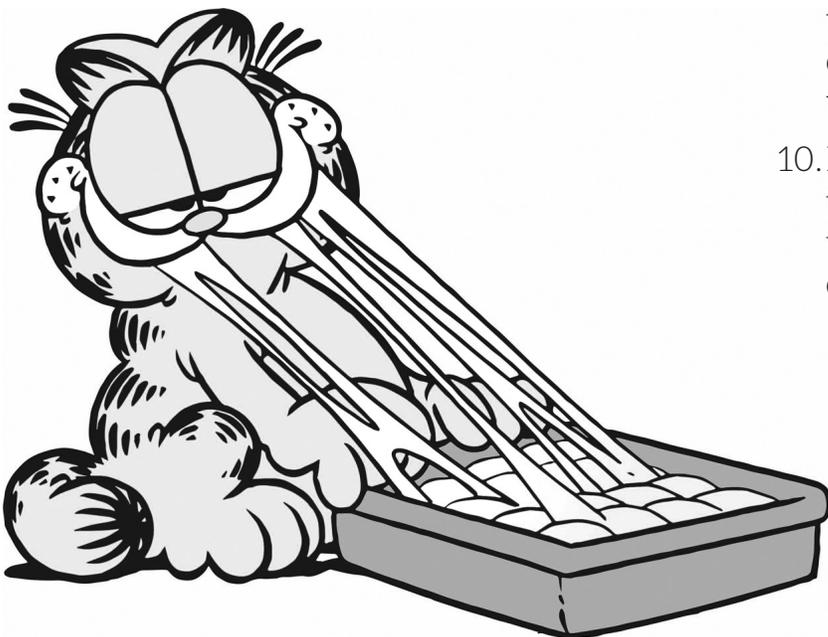
- One 8-ounce package of ground beef or meatless crumbles (seasoned or plain)
- One 28-ounce jar of chunky spaghetti sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### FOR THE FILLING

- One 8-ounce container of ricotta cheese
- One 4-ounce cottage cheese
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup grated parmesan cheese

#### YOU'LL ALSO NEED

- 1 to 2 cups mozzarella cheese
- One package of lasagna noodles (the kind that require no boiling ahead of time—check package instructions)



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Set aside about ¾ cup of mozzarella cheese for step 9.
3. Brown ground beef/crumbs in a pan on the stovetop and drain any grease. In a bowl, add the ground beef to the spaghetti sauce, and stir to combine them.
4. In a separate bowl, stir together all the ingredients for the filling.
5. Lightly grease an 8"x8" square casserole dish or pan.
6. Spoon about ¼ cup of the sauce mixture into the bottom of the pan and spread it evenly.
7. Alternate a layer of uncooked lasagna noodles, 1/3 cup of cheese filling, ¼ cup of sauce mixture, and a layer of mozzarella, until the pan is almost full.
8. Cover lasagna with aluminum foil and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.
9. Remove aluminum foil and sprinkle the remaining mozzarella on top of the lasagna. Continue baking, uncovered, another 15 minutes.
10. Remove lasagna from the oven and set the pan on a wire cooling rack for 15 to 20 minutes. This helps the lasagna cool down and stay together better.

## If you like reading *Garfield*

Try these graphic novels for kids too. Like comic strips, graphic novels tell stories through pictures and words in boxes (called “panels”).

The following books are in the Juvenile Graphic Novel collection at Monroe County Public Library. They also are included on our Graphic Novels for Kids Booklist, available online:

<https://mcpl.info/ZkG>

Ask a Librarian to help you choose graphic novels just right for you.

### **Benny and Penny in Just Pretend: A Toon Book**

Benny wants to play pirates without his little sister Penny—but when Penny disappears, Benny becomes very worried. Look for More Benny and Penny titles.

### **The Big Wet Balloon**

Clemmie and her sister Matilda are in for a surprise on a rainy day.

### **Binky the Space Cat**

Binky dreams of becoming a space cat. Read about his training as he battles “aliens” (bugs), explores “space” (the outdoors), and protects his humans.

### **Otto's Orange Day**

A genie grants Otto the cat's wish by turning the whole world orange. But is Otto's favorite color really the best for everything?



### **Owly: The Way Home & The Bittersweet Summer**

Owly is a kind and lonely little owl who's always on the lookout for new friends and adventures. Look for more Owly titles.

### **Silly Lilly and the Four Seasons**

A young girl named Lilly enjoys different activities each season of the year. Look for more Silly Lilly titles.

### **Sticky Burr: Adventures in Burrwood Forest**

Sticky Burr and his friends come to the rescue when the village in Burrwood Forest is attacked by wild dogs. Look for more Sticky Burr titles.

### **Stinky**

Stinky is a monster who loves pickles and possums—and is terrified of people! When a new kid enters his swamp, this adorable little monster comes up with all sorts of crazy plans to scare him away.

## **A Note to Parents & Teachers**

Comic strips and graphic novels help kids become better readers by:

- Reinforcing left-to-right reading
- Featuring concise text and detailed images that help build decoding and comprehension skills
- Promoting visual literacy
- Introducing new vocabulary words
- Building confidence
- Encouraging a regular reading habit

Source: "Teaching with Graphic Novels," *School Library Journal*, September 2014.

<http://www.slj.com/2014/09/books-media/the-graphic-advantage-teaching-with-graphic-novels/>

### **More about graphic novels in the classroom:**

**"A Guide to Using Graphic Novels with Children and Teens," Scholastic, January 2015**

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/guide-using-graphic-novels-children-and-teens/>

**"Using Comics and Graphic Novels in the Classroom," NCTE, 2005**

<http://www.ncte.org/magazine/archives/122031>

**Graphic Novels in Your Media Center: A Definitive Guide, Allyson Lyga, 2004**

Available at Monroe County Public Library's Parent Teacher Resource Collection

