

QUESTIONS ABOUT  
*A STREET CAT NAMED BOB*  
*Part 1*

This book is a memoir. The author James Bowen tells how he meets and develops a relationship with a cat and how this relationship helps him overcome his (the author's) heroin and methadone addiction. Part 1 covers chapters 1 through 6 (pages 1 to 92 in St. Martin's Press hardcover edition).

Chapter 1: Fellow Travellers

1. How does James meet the cat? What color is this cat? Describe its condition.
2. James makes a meager living busking. What is busking?
3. After concluding that no one owns this cat, James lures him into his apartment. (Flat is a British word for apartment.) How does he do this?
4. What does he feed this cat for its first meal?
5. The cat has an abscess on the back of a rear leg. How does James think the cat got this wound? How does James treat it?
6. What are James theories about the origin of this cat?

Chapter 2: Road to Recovery

7. James takes the cat to the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ) because the RSPCA offers veterinarian services. Describe what happens when he puts the cat in a box. Where does the cat want to be?
8. How much do the cat's prescriptions cost? How much does James have?
9. What two procedures does the veterinarian recommend for the cat?
10. What does James name the cat? Why?
11. Describe a typical day with Bob. (See pp 22 – 24)
12. Why doesn't James want Bob to eat the mouse? How does James convince him to give it up?
13. James feels a brotherhood with Bob because they have both been homeless. Describe James's journey from childhood to homelessness.
14. Who was James's best friend after he became homeless?

15. The Tottenham apartment is part of James's rehabilitation process. What else is part of this process?

#### Chapter 3: The Snip

16. Why does James want to fix (castrate) Bob?
17. Bob does fine after his "snip" (his operation), but what does James discover about himself and his relationship with Bob? (See p 45)

#### Chapter 4: Ticket to Ride

18. James tries in several ways to get Bob to leave. Describe these attempts. How much success does James have?
19. Bob tries to follow James across Tottenham High Road. How does James get him across the road?
20. What happens after James gets on the bus?

#### Chapter 5: Centre of Attention

21. What is the only thing that frightens Bob while he rides the bus?
22. Why does it take James so long to get from the bus to his busking spot?
23. How do the Covent Gardens police separate the various artists' groups?
24. Why does James perform at James Street where it's forbidden?
25. James attracts a lot of attention when Bob is with him. Who are the first people who stop to listen? What percentage of those who stop are women?
26. James earns three times as much as usual. What reward does James give himself? What does he give Bob?

#### Chapter 6: One Man and His Cat

27. The next day is stormy, and James almost decides to stay home. He believes Bob wants to stay home as well. What actually happens?
28. James started a record label but couldn't make it succeed. Why?
29. James decides Bob needs a better leash. Describe what he buys and tell why.
30. What happens during their third week of busking together?
31. How do people interact with James when Bob isn't present? What does James learn from this? Has James learned anything about himself?