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Loneliness is something that everyone experiences in life. It can make people feel isolated, depressed, and even angry. It is with us throughout our lives and we all have to figure out how to deal with it. Both Spaghetti by Cynthia Rylant and Journey by Patricia MacLachlan are stories about lonely characters who find the ^{cure} when they befriend an animal.

In Spaghetti, Gabriel being lonely reminds me of Journey being lonely. One way, Cynthia Rylant shows Gabriel's loneliness is that she had Gabriel looking longingly at people in his neighborhood "talking quietly among themselves." He is not sitting with them but is alone on a stoop. He is not part of a group but seems to want to be because he "wished for some company." It is like Gabriel is on the outside looking in at his neighbors and hoping that one of them or someone will invite him in. Journey is a lot like Gabriel in this way. Journey feels on the outside of his family and he longs to find a connection with them, especially with his absent mother and father. Journey's loneliness makes him angry. When his grandfather takes a family picture, instead of the ^{picture} looking like a family who is together, it looks like Journey is separate from the rest and reveals his anger.

Another way, Rylant shows Gabriel's loneliness is through the description of the building. In the text it said that Gabriel sat in front of a "tall building of crumbling bricks and rotting wood." This image of a run down building is used to show how like the building Gabriel has no one to take care of him and the building represents that Gabriel is depressed because he is lonely. Patricia MacLachlan like Cynthia Rylant also shows Journey's loneliness through the use of objects. The pictures of his mother tell the story of a mother who wasn't really there even when she was physically there. She wasn't emotionally. The grandmother tells Journey, "Your mama always wished to be somewhere else," Journey like Gabriel are trying to fill their holes of loneliness.

When Journey was lonely, "and then the cat came," Patricia MacLachlan said. Bloom, the cat, showed up one day at Journey's window and walked right into his life. Bloom being there made Journey less lonely, because he loved Bloom and she loved him. Gabriel also found a cat for his friend. His cat was named Spaghetti. When he found Spaghetti, he stopped wanting to live alone outside and started wanting to "live together" with Spaghetti in his room. Both boys started off being apart and then had someone to be "together" with once they found Spaghetti and Bloom.

So both stories show that the protagonists got less lonely when they found an animal to befriend. Maybe sometimes when you feel very alone, it's easier to make friends with an animal who loves and needs you. Then when you have done that, you can start to make friends with people, too.