Chapter 51

I Love Cats

Jerry Biberman

Keywords: politics, ingratiation.

Key OB Topics: politics.

The narrative:

John's supervisor, Linda, loved cats, and had a number of cats as pets. Eager to ingratiate himself and to make a good impression on Linda, John (who had never had any pets and had never been near a cat) told Linda that he loved cats, and that, in fact, he had always had at least one cat as a pet.

One day, as a surprise to John, Linda brought in one of her cats to the office, and asked John to watch it for a while. John picked up the cat. He immediately began to tear up and his face began to swell. John did not know that he was allergic to cats until he actually held this one. He was then caught in a lie from which he did not know how to escape.

Reflection

John was trying to ingratiate himself with his boss, so he told her that he liked things that she liked even though he had no experience with them.

Questions

- Would you tell your boss that you liked what he/she liked even though you had no experience with them?
- Why do you think John acted the way he did? Do you think what he did was appropriate? Please explain your answer.