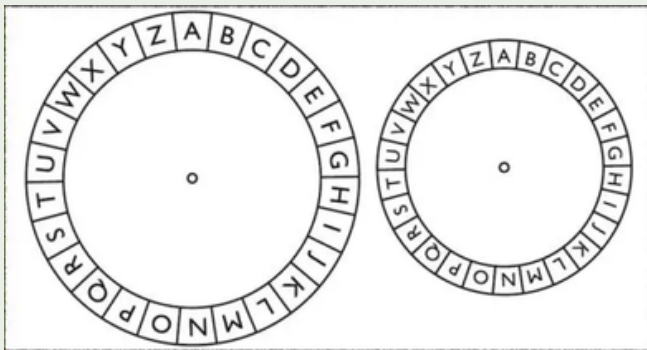# WE ARE NOT ALONE
Activity

MAKING AND BREAKING CODES WITH SAM AND CAT

Introduction:

The teacher selects a code phrase. An example might be a pep rally cry, such as "Go, Wildcats!" Tell students the basics of a Caesar shift . Caesar ciphers use a substitution method where letters in the alphabet are shifted by some fixed number of spaces to yield an encoding alphabet. When students have the key, they can solve the code!

K = 2 Shifts the alphabet 2 characters to the right

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L

Example:
A Caesar shift with the key "shift 2, or K=2"

Activity:

Using the example code phrase above (*Go, Wildcats!*), select a key and encode the message. For a key of "shift 2," for example, the message would read:
Iq, Yknfecvu!

Advanced:
Have students make their own cipher wheels and give them a key.

Wrap-up/Pair share:

Have students create their own keys and codes with a partner or to share with the rest of the class!