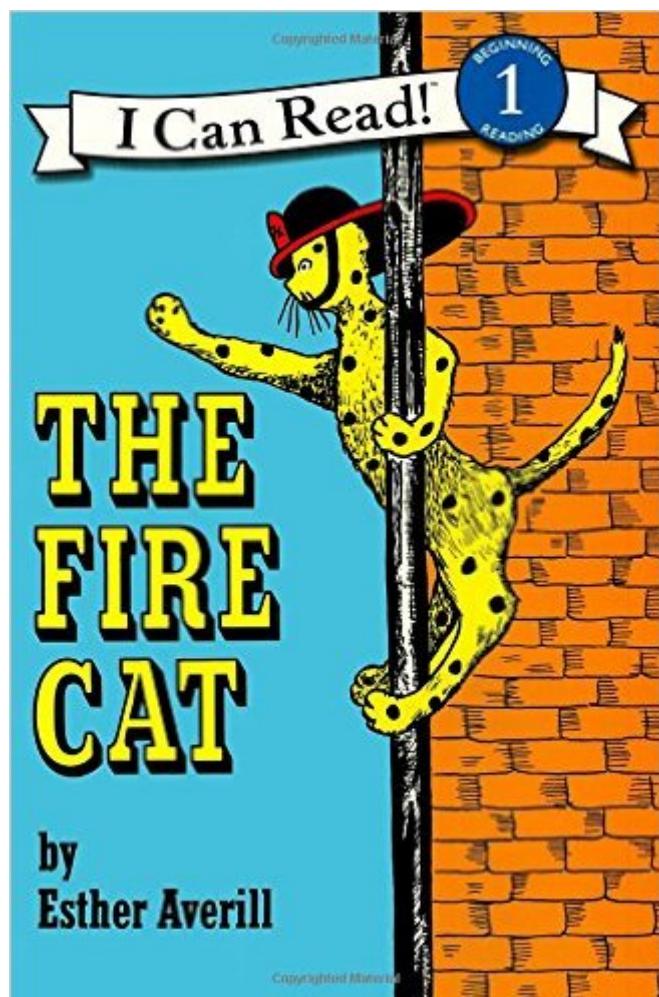


The book was found

# The Fire Cat (I Can Read Level 1)



## **Synopsis**

Pickles is a young cat with big paws who wishes to do big things with them! When he's adopted by the local firehouse, Pickles works hard to be a good fire cat. He learns to jump on a fire truck. He learns to help put out a fire, and he even helps out in a rescue! Beginning readers will cheer as Pickles gets his wish and finds something big to do with his paws. With sweet illustrations from author-illustrator Esther Averill, this Level One I Can Read book is perfect for children learning to sound out words and sentences. Supports the Common Core Learning Standards

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 400L (What's this?)

Series: I Can Read Level 1

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (September 7, 1983)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064440389

ISBN-13: 978-0064440387

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (129 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #13,424 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills #78 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values #79 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

I had a most unusual experience recently with this book. I was browsing at a local children's bookstore (sorry, !) when I saw this book on the shelf. A thrill of recognition shot through me like a bolt of lightning! This book had been one of my favorites (...).I immediately purchased it, and read it to my kids. Have you ever had fond memories of something from your childhood, but found out when you revisited it as an adult that it didn't hold up over the years? Luckily, that is NOT the case with The Fire Cat--this book is every bit as wonderful today as it was 40 years ago.The illustrations deserve comment. Esther Averill was amazingly deft in her illustrations of cats; anyone who has

owned a cat will appreciate the subtle perfection of the way she captures the poses of the cat in various situations. Yet her illustrations of the people and objects in the story are pretty crude. They don't have the obvious charm of Maurice Sendak's work, or the zany energy of Dr. Seuss. But I assure you the illustrations will captivate any young reader as the perfect companions for the text. And what a text! It is elegant and beautifully structured, yet it's so simple and straightforward that any preschooler can easily follow along. Pickles, the main character, starts off as a bit of a bully, but by the end he has completely redeemed himself and is a hero. I especially like that the good things that happen to Pickles don't just happen by chance, as they do in so many other children's stories--Pickles actually works hard to better himself. This book is truly a classic. If your budget permits, spring for the library binding. I guarantee that if you get it for your kids, they will someday be reading it to their own kids!

My daughter (she's six) just finished reading this book herself, out loud to me at bedtime. It took her four or five nights to read the three short chapters. In the middle of the book, when Pickles the cat has a small triumph, she said "it makes me cry!" and at the end she said "I wish it just kept going". I felt so glad for her to have the experience of what it's like to read a good book - these are the feelings that make one a real book lover for life! Like another recent reviewer I thought the pictures a little crude but the cats were remarkably cat-like; there was no effort to make them cute or cuddly. Yet, perhaps because of that simplicity, Pickles invokes a strong sense of feeling/identification as the he "grows" into a better cat through the three short chapters. I think this was the perfect book for my daughter to read at this time. Just challenging enough, a great story and illustrations that work very well with the story. I'm also am glad to find a good children's book that's NOT about a boy (though Pickles IS a "he"); I'm sure all parents with daughters know that the vast majority of kid's books are about boy hero (yes I know there are some excellent exceptions) so a wonderful book that's not about a boy is a great find.

This is the first book I can clearly recall reading on my own (I'm 39). My Dad used to read it to me, and one day I read it to him. I remember him proudly calling my Mom into the room to hear me read it from cover to cover. I recently discovered a copy at the "used books for sale" section of my library, and excitedly rushed home to read it to my five year old. He loves it. This is a conceptually brilliant book for children. This is a great book for several reasons. First, it teaches the virtues of kindness and hard work. Second, it has superbly crafted simple sentence construction, and it's written to facilitate early reading by using word and concept repetition. Third, it has great illustrations and

easy-to-read type. It also has three chapters, which was a new concept for my son. This is one of the all time great early reader books. If there is an early reader in your life, get it for him or her!

Okay, maybe that is an exaggeration, but *Fire Cat* was one of the first books I read as a child. I was thrilled when I found a beat-up copy at a garage sale a few years ago, thinking I had the last copy on earth. Then, working in a local bookstore, I saw it was still in print. How cool is that? Very cool, my friends, very cool. I highly recommend this for your favorite little people. It teaches that everyone has goodness within them, if given a chance.

This is just a great kids story, but has a lot of advanced themes in it. The protagonist in the story starts off as a bully and ends up as a contributing member of the community. Nature versus nurture, the essence of "good", and faith in human nature are themes here that can easily be explained even to very young readers.

I read this book to my sons 20 years ago and always remembered it fondly. I thought about it recently and wondered if it was still available for my grand daughter. To my delight, I found it. It is a great story with a profound message. This "street" cat that couldn't make it on the domestic scene, took the love and attention it received from Mrs. Goodkind, and found its niche in the firehouse. We are all different. We are all a little good and a little bad. There is a place for us somewhere, at least for Pickles. He found his joy.

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