



The School for Cats

Esther Averill

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Jenny Linsky, the famous little black cat of Greenwich Village, has never been to school before. When her master, Captain Tinker, sends her to a boarding school in the country to learn the special knowledge of cats—manners and cooperation—she is a little afraid, among strangers, and so far from home. As soon as she's settled in, taking off the red scarf that makes her feel brave, another student named Pickles, the Fire Cat, is up to his usual mischief, chasing smaller cats with his fire truck hook and ladder. When he chases Jenny, she runs away from school terrified.

Jenny soon realizes that the Captain would be disappointed if he found out she had left school. It's then that Jenny decides to stand up to Pickles. She returns to school and when Pickles next tries his tricks, he's surprised at the "new" Jenny. Pickles learns his manners and Jenny learns that not only can school be fun, but the friendships she makes there will last forever.

The School for Cats Details

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Author : Esther Averill

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From Reader Review The School for Cats for online ebook

Kathryn says

I just loved this little book. A school for cats what a fun idea for a book series.

Hilary says

Lovely story about a school for cats. Beautiful red,yellow and black illustrations accompany a tale of friendship and overcoming fear. The silver birch beds are lovely and the last line about friendship is very nice.

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

Did you know there was once a Boarding School for Cats? If you were a cat, would you want to go there?

Some who went there were like Pickles, sent by his master to learn manners. Pickles who thrived at the boarding school by running over innocent cats with his hook-and-ladder truck.

Others were sent there like Jenny. She was sent to the boarding school while her master was sailing at sea. Jenny wasn't so sure she wanted to go to boarding school. Especially after Pickles ran over her with his hook-and-ladder truck.

A 1001 CBYMRBYGU.

Sarah Sammis says

The School for Cats by Esther Averill is one of the Jenny's Cat Club books. I've been trying to read the series on and off since reading The Hotel Cat. The stories seem to be at all different reading levels and they've gone out of print and come back into print, making them all the more difficult to sort out and read.

In this one, Jenny, the adorable black cat with the fetching red scarf, is heading to cat school for the summer. The set up reminds me of the times I've taken Caligula cat to "cat camp" for boarding while I visited my family. In Averill's world, though, cats are self sufficient enough to get there on their own. Pickles, the fire cat, for example, drives his miniature fire engine to the school!

Pickles's over abundance of energy and Jenny's natural timidity makes for a volatile combination. Poor Jenny ends up with the scare of her life but she learns from her experience and grows in the process. While Jenny runs off, I couldn't help but be reminded of Jane, the youngest of the Ursula Le Guin Catwings cats, especially in Jane on Her Own. Jenny, though, I like better.

Recommended by Vintage Kids' Books My Kid Love

Miriam says

Boarding school for cats is a terrible idea, but a good book.

Very short, hardly longer than a picture book. Not a difficult read, although kids may need some explanations.

Michelle Knudsen says

I loved the Cat Club books when I was little, and *The Fire Cat* (starring Pickles, one of the Cat Club characters) remains one of my all-time favorite beginning readers ever. I happened across *The School for Cats* in the library and had to take it home; not sure if I read this one before, but I probably did at some point. What's interesting to me about these books is that the plot is almost irrelevant, at least as far as my enjoyment goes. This book is about Jenny going to cat school, being afraid and getting teased and running away and ultimately deciding to go back and face her assailant. It's a decent enough storyline, but what makes the book irresistible are the characters and the overall tone of the writing. And the illustrations, which compliment the writing perfectly. Perhaps there's a nostalgia factor at work, as well, but I think I would still love these books if I only first encountered them today.

Amber Scaife says

A weird (but not necessarily in a bad way) little book about a cat who goes to a cat school while her owner is on vacation and gets bullied by another, bigger cat.

Abigail says

Sent to a School for Cats in the country while Captain Tinker is away, shy Jenny Linsky is at first terrified by the antics of Pickles the Fire Cat, who chases her up a chimney. But a night as a runaway in the forest, and the arrival of some new cats, give her the courage to stand up for herself.

This very brief book, suitable for younger chapter-book readers, presents another engaging story of the Greenwich Village cat and her group of friends. The appearance of Pickles - one of my favorite childhood storybook characters, whose adventures are chronicled *The Fire Cat* - would be enough to win my approval, but *The School for Cats* has an appeal all of its own.

Averill, whose adorable illustrations accompany the story, keeps scrupulously to the feline perspective, but the observant reader will perceive that Jenny's "school" is a boarding house for pets, and will be charmed by the reminder of how differently things must appear to animals.

Becky says

The School for Cats was originally published in 1947. It is part of a larger series of books starring the (black) cat Jenny Linsky and her friends. The School of Cats is not the first in the series, but, it is the first in the series that my library actually had. In this "Jenny's Cat Club" book, readers meet Jenny as she leaves her home in Greenwich Village to attend school in the country. She is very, very, very unsure about the whole school thing. But her master, Captain Tinker, wants her "to study cat lore in the country." There is definitely something of an adventure in this one when Jenny runs away from school. But it also contains a lesson on friendship and adapting to new situations.

I enjoyed this one. I look forward to reading others in the series.

Mumbler says

Not quite as good as the first one. But at times it sure was:

MAKE WAY FOR THE BIGGEST FIRE IN THE WORLD!

was an amazing moment. :)

Anina says

I had these when I was a kid! They are so cute! Exclamation points some more!!!!

Tisha (IG: Bluestocking629) says

Oh my gosh what a sweet little book! I am officially in love with Jenny the little black cat. I cannot wait to read about her next adventure.

The illustrations are wonderful!

I also love that the book is older than me by decades ;)

Mary says

In this Jenny episode, she goes off to the school for cats while Captain Tinker has to go to sea. She also meets the impressively macho Pickles, the fire cat. Because I had read The Lottery's Plus One before reading this book, I got a kick out of Pickles bringing his personal fire truck everywhere, creating havoc, like Brian in the former title.

First Line: "Once upon a time there was a Boarding School for Cats off in the country, in a white house surrounded by a field of daisies."

Amy says

I read this one on the day I found out that Elliott Rodger killed a bunch of college students in California. Like a dum dum, I watched the video he made of himself talking about his murder plans and the reasons behind them. It kind of destroyed me, so the only thing I could think to do was read the cheeriest book out of my collection of children's books. While I remained disturbed for days, this book helped lift my spirits that evening. It's about a little black cat named Jenny Linsky (!) whose owner sends her to a school for cats for the summer. She's very apprehensive, and apprehension turns to fear when a jerky little guy named Pickles keeps chasing her on his toy fire engine. She runs away, but a chance encounter with two charming good-time cats convinces her to give school a second try. Pickles is still an jerk, but Jenny learns that there's also lots of fun to be had at school. The writing isn't great, but it has an old-timey lilt to it, and that gives it charm. The best part of the book is the illustrations, which are so adorable I can hardly stand it. This book definitely deserves to be a classic, and I'm going to do my best to keep putting it in the hands of kids and caregivers! Long live Jenny - thanks for cheering me up when the world seemed unspeakably depressing.

Rosa Cline says

Nice longer read book (almost like a beginner chapter book) about a cat being homesick at summer school. Being bullied and how she over came both to enjoy herself and make new friends
