



## The Fire Cat

By Esther Averill

GRL J

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Pickles has big paws and aspires to do big things with his life, so he does not like living a quiet life with Mrs. Goodkind. When Pickles gets stuck up a tree, Mrs. Goodkind calls the fire department to rescue him. The fireman who rescues Pickles climbs a ladder, puts Pickles in his coat, and carries him down the ladder. Back on solid ground, the fireman notices Pickles's big paws and decides to take him to the firehouse. At the firehouse, Pickles soon learns to be a fire cat, a role in which he can achieve magnificent things!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does Pickles do to earn the chief's respect? How does the chief reward Pickles?
2. How do Mrs. Goodkind and the fireman help Pickles accomplish big things?
3. Why doesn't Pickles want to live with Mrs. Goodkind?
4. Why doesn't Pickles make friends with other cats? What changes so that Pickles does make friends with other cats?

*The above questions correlate to Common Core State Standards (Reading): RL.1.1, RL.2.1, and RL.3.1; (Speaking & Listening): SL.1.1, SL.2.1, and SL.3.1; SL.1.3, SL.2.3 and SL.3.3.*

### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

**Achieving a Goal:** Ask students to write Pickles's goal and then to list the steps Pickles takes to achieve his goal. Then ask students to write down on a sheet of construction paper a goal they have and to list the steps they need to take to achieve it—including at least one step they can take right now to help them achieve their goal. Have students post their goals in the classroom and, periodically, return to their goals and action steps during the year. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.1.2, RL.2.2, and RL.3.2; (Writing): W.1.1, W.2.1, and W.3.1; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and L.3.1; L.1.2, L.2.2, and L.3.2.*

**Importance of Friendship:** Brainstorm with students the events that occur so that Pickles can learn the importance of friendship. Students should be sure to also include the role Pickles's emotions play in allowing him to learn this lesson. Then have Pickles write a thank-you note to either Mrs. Goodkind or the chief for the friendship they display to Pickles. Have students read their thank-you notes in small groups. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.1.2, RL.2.2, and RL.3.2; (Writing): W.1.1, W.2.1, and W.3.1; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and L.3.1; L.1.2, L.2.2, and L.3.2.*

**A Day in the Life of a Fire Cat:** Based on what Pickles does during a day at the firehouse, as the class to brainstorm and create a schedule for Pickles entitled "A Day in the Life of a Fire Cat." Then have students think about their dream job or avocation. Have them create a "Day in the Life of . . ." schedule that correlates to their selected job or vocation. Have students share their schedules with a partner and post in the classroom. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.1.2, RL.2.2, and RL.3.2; (Writing): W.1.1, W.2.1, and W.3.1; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and L.3.1; L.1.2, L.2.2, and L.3.2.*

**The Kindness of a Heart:** With a partner, ask students to make a list of character traits Mrs. Goodkind possesses based on her interactions with other people and her cats. For every trait listed have students provide an interaction with other people or her cats that demonstrate that trait. Then ask students to write and illustrate a poem about Mrs. Goodkind's character by focusing on her actions and concluding with a final statement that summarizes her character. Have students share their poems in a poetry read-around and post poems and illustrations in the classroom. *This activity correlates to Common Core State Standards (Reading Literature): RL.1.3, RL.2.3, and RL.3.3; (Writing): W.1.1, W.2.1, and W.3.1; (Language): L.1.1, L.2.1, and L.3.1; L.1.2, L.2.2, and L.3.2.*

Visit [www.icanread.com](http://www.icanread.com) for more teaching guides!

