



Hero Cat

Eileen Spinelli , Jo Ellen McAllister Stamm

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Five tiny kittens cry for their mama, as smoke begins to fill the abandoned warehouse that has been their home. But Mother Cat has left her cozy heap of kittens to go in search of food. Determined to save her babies, Mother Cat dashes into the burning building and follows the sounds of frightened meowing. In five daring acts, she saves each kitten—a true hero cat! This story, accompanied by beautiful illustrations rendered in pastel, honors the tenth anniversary of the real story of a homeless cat who rescued her kittens from a burning building in 1996.

Hero Cat Details

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Author : Eileen Spinelli , Jo Ellen McAllister Stammen

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Carole says

Mother Cat is homeless and about to have kittens. She tries several places to have her kittens but is driven away each time. Finally she finds an abandoned building and has her beautiful kittens. She has to leave them briefly to find food so that she will be able to make milk for them. While she is gone the building catches fire. Braving the flames she goes into the building repeatedly to save her kittens.

This story is based on a real event. All the kittens were saved, at the cost of the brave mother getting burned but surviving. She and her kittens were found by a fireman who took her and her kittens to a shelter where she and her kittens were adopted after they recovered from their ordeal.

Aspasia says

Based on a true story, the feline heroine lived until 2008....

Peacegal says

Scarlett the cat has been the subject of several books--and for good reason. In 1996, this brave former stray rushed into a burning building to rescue her kittens--despite suffering severe burns in the process.

Scarlett reminded us all that the idea of motherly love and bravery is not confined to the human species. What a fine idea to impart in a book designed for youngsters.

This lushly illustrated book gives Scarlett a bit of a back story, and is simply worded to encourage young readers. It would also be a fine read-aloud for a unit on the theme of bravery or compassion. *Hero Cat* is a great humane education choice.

Relyn says

My daughter is reading every Show Me candidate this year for a school library project. The Show Me Award is an award from the Missouri Librarians Association to recognize the best children's story book of the year. Missouri librarians choose ten candidates and Missouri school children read each book and vote for the best. Many, many wonderful children's books have won in past years. If Sloane reads all ten nominees, she'll get a hardback copy of the winner for this year. YIKES!! I hope this one doesn't win. It is a sweet enough story, but I found it a little boring. My daughter loved it, though. I guess that's what matters. I guess I had just come to expect a little more from Spinelli.

Eva Kelly says

O.K., so here's the thing. I like cute books and funny books and all that, and even fact books are good sometimes if they're not too hard. And books with just pictures and no words too. But you know what the best books are? Books that are stories and the stories are TRUE.

And that's what this one is. It's about this cat that no one likes, not even the other cats, but then she goes and has her kittens and she's a really good mom, but guess what? When she goes out for dinner, there's a FIRE and so she has to go back into her house and get her kittens. That makes her a hero, but I don't know. What else was she SUPPOSED to do? Let them burn up?

Anyway, the story is good enough, but then at the end they show a picture of the REAL CAT, and her hair is all burned up and she's lying there with her babies, and you can just tell she's the best mom ever!! So this is one of the best BOOKS ever. Wow!!

Elizabeth Castro says

I was immediately drawn into Hero Cat emotionally by the sweet illustrations. Very simple and to the point text had me holding my breath as to what would happen next to Mother Cat and her kittens. Somewhere in the book, I forgot I was not there, actually with Mother Cat. After finishing Hero Cat, I was relieved to see her photograph on the final page.

Eileen Spinelli does a fine job of portraying just how far a parent will go for a child, family bonding, and animal welfare. Parents, caregivers, or teachers, there are many conversations to be had after reading Hero Cat beyond the family unit, animal compassion and adoption, but also fire prevention and safety.

I think Hero Book should be a must for the 4-7 year old crowd!

Elizabeth says

Great book based on a true event

Amy Lafleur says

Sweet story about a mama cat who loves her kittens so much that she'll risk her life for them. Mother Cat finds a place in an abandoned building to give birth to her babies: Black-and-White, Gray, Siamese, White Paws, and Smokey. She sets out to find food for the kittens and returns to find the building on fire.

The illustrations are what really makes the book. Jo Ellen McAllister Stammen's pastel illustrations - especially of the cats - are realistic and expressive. The cats look furry and like they could jump off the page. Stammen also reflects the light of the flames in the burning building and the soot on the cats' fur.

The best part of the book is that it's based on a true story. Read the author's note to learn about Scarlett the cat's real life story and see a photograph of her and her kittens! All in all wonderful story whose illustrations make this book too cute to pass up.

Lynn says

A TRUE HERO!

The story of Scarlet the cat who went into a burning building time and again to rescue her kittens is amazing. It's nice that it has been put in a book for young children. She is a testament to what a mother is willing to sacrifice for her children.

Jane E. Estrada says

Love reading these books to my grandson.

My grandson loves it. I love reading to him. Every time we find something new that he likes. Thank you.

Lobstergirl says

Charming pastel illustrations - I especially love the cover, which is worth 5 stars by itself. The text is very simple, aimed at the 4-6 yo crowd, and based on the real-life story of Scarlett, a cat who rescued her five kittens from the burning garage where they lived in Brooklyn in 1996. "Firefighters spotted Scarlett, despite burns to her eyes, ears and face, toting each kitten out of the building to safety. Once outside, Scarlett nudged each baby with her nose to make sure she found all five." (New York Daily News) Four kittens survived, all were adopted by families, and Scarlett received Mother's Day cards from around the world. She passed away in 2008 after battling lymphoma, kidney failure, and a heart murmur (not covered in the book).

Michaela says

My daughter loved this book so much we read it twice in a row!

La La says

A heartwarming story about a mother cat's love. I took away one star because some of the charming pastel art illustrations were not as good as others.

Stephen M. Lewis says

Hero Book!!

Are you owned by a cat? If so, you need no explanation. If you are not a cat's OTP (opposable-thumbs person) you have yet to live a full life, so GET CRACKING. I was midwife to a rescued cat's litter of six kittens...born in our living room...I felt special even though Mama Kitty did all the work. This book brings her, those kittens, and that special night back to me — No flames needed. Oh yes, I love this book. Anyone with a heart will love this book. Have no fear: Share it with children of all ages.

Abigail Kuhn says

Beautiful Story

This was an absolutely beautiful story!! My daughters thoroughly enjoyed it!
I even read the true story part with Hero Cats real name, they thought it was awesome!
