MEDT 6465 REVIEW 2: Elementary Grades Fiction

Use the fiction review guidelines below (from School Library Journal) as you evaluate titles for the fiction reviews (media log reviews 2, 3, & 4).

Your name
Godwin, Megan

Title of book being reviewed
April’s Kittens

Author of book being reviewed
Clare Turlay Newberry

Publisher, Publication date
Harper Collins Publishers, 1940

ALA or other award list on which this title was found (if applicable)
Caldecott Honor Book

Plot: type of story (fantasy, mystery, adventure, etc.)
Life Lessons

Plot: setting
New York “one cat apartment”

Plot: period
New York in the 1940’s

Plot development
State in the review and note briefly here
Excellent   Good   Fair   Poor

Character development
State in the review and note briefly here
Excellent   Good   Fair   Poor

Integration of background and any other factual material
State in the review and note briefly here
Excellent   Good   Fair   Poor
Language and writing style
State in the review and note briefly here

   Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Creation and sustaining of mood
State in the review and note briefly here

   Yes  No

If the story has a dominant theme, is it too obviously superimposed on the plot
State in the review and note briefly here

   Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

How does the story compare with others
State in the review and note briefly here

   Distinguished  Above average  Average  Below average

Grade level at which most children will read this book or enjoy hearing it
Note at head of review
K-5

Is this interesting enough to recommend to reluctant/slow readers?
YES

Note in the review the quality and type of illustrations, any unusual format or print, etc. (optional)
i.e., if it applies
The illustrations are quite wonderful, simple yet precise and have a very enduring timeless quality to them

Recommendations

   First purchase
   For general purchase
   Strictly additional
   Not recommended (this should be implicit in your review so that the words "not recommended" are not necessary.)

Do you feel this book is outstanding?
Star books distinctly above average in quality, appeal, and/or usefulness. If you have given the book an outstanding review and yet do not feel it should be starred, please explain.

   Yes  No
Godwin, Megan
April’s Kittens by Clare Turlay Newberry
Harper Collins Publishers, 1940
Caldecott Honor Book

April is a young child who lives with her mother and father in a small apartment in New York. April has a cat named Sheba who is loved dearly by April and her parents, but Sheba has been warned by April’s father that they live in a one cat apartment and it will strictly stay a one cat apartment. Well needless to say Sheba ends up having three kittens which creates a dilemma for the family and the one cat rule. April’s parent’s solution to the problem is to find homes for the kittens before April becomes attached to them, but before long they have grown a bit and have been given names. Even if you don't like cats (and are allergic like me), the sheer beauty of the illustrations has your heart melting for April, the little kittens, and the mother cat. The book is written back in a time when things seemed much simpler and the language used is more proper than what a youth might hear in a household in todays present time. The book is timeless which is why it has probably been a favorite of many for so long. For a small moment the outcome of poor Sheba and her kittens is unknown and we feel sad for April and begin to have hope for the best outcome for everyone involved and then with its happy ending we are brought into a better mood. The illustrations are pure, innocent and simple, much like a small child is.