



2009

Cat Dreams

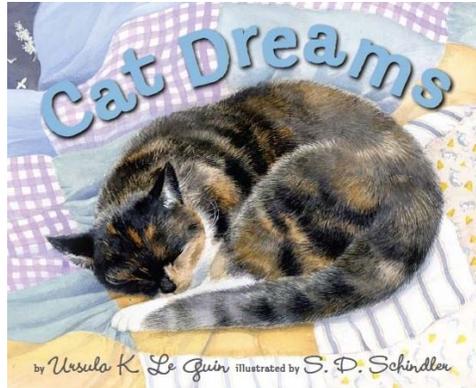
Laurien Clay

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Le Guin, Ursula K. *Cat Dreams*. Illustrated by S.D. Schindler. Scholastic, 2009. ISBN 9780545042161. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Laurien Clay

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Humorous stories; Picture books;

Subject: Stories in rhyme; Cats--Juvenile fiction; Dreams--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

After having a good bit of exercise, a cat decides to curl up on the couch for a refreshing nap. While asleep, it has dreams of a place not unlike a feline paradise—mice rain from the sky, dogs all run away, pools of cream and kibbles exist for the consuming, trees of catnip stand for the climbing, and to top it off, blue jays do a spot of serenading. However, this cat Elysium comes to a screeching halt as the cat falls from the catnip tree and out of its dream. It wakes up, realizing that naptime is incomplete without its human companion.

Le Guin's gift for words and Schindler's gift for depiction combine into an insightful delving into the feline brain. Schindler's illustrations transport both the reader and the adventurous cat into a magical dream world of pastel skies, vividly colored plants and animals, and a cat's wishful thinking. The warmth of affectionate love is felt throughout the book with Le Guin's cascading prose and Schindler's attention to detail and realism. An echo of her *Catwings* series, Le Guin creates a believable story that furthers a heartwarming message: the only true warmth is to be found in human companionship. Ursula K. Le Guin has been a finalist for The American Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize, and has won the National Book Award and the Margaret A. Edwards Award.

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