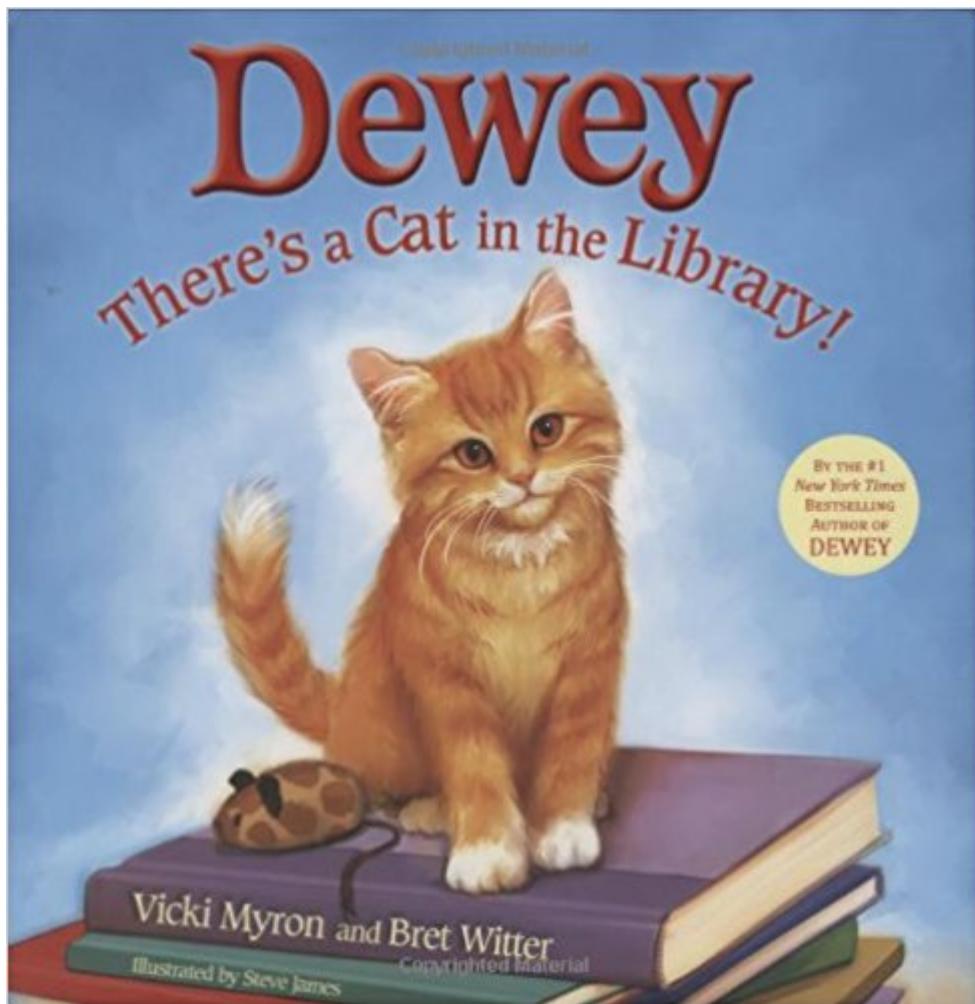


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# Dewey: There's A Cat In The Library!



## Synopsis

The story of Dewey the celebrated library cat is now available for the youngest of readers in this new, fully-illustrated picture book adventure. When Librarian Vicki Myron finds a young kitten abandoned in the Spencer Library return box, she nurses him back to health, deciding then and there that he will be their library cat, and naming him, appropriately, Dewey Readmore Books. Dewey loves his new home, but once he discovers the littlest library visitors-who like to chase him, pull his tail, and squeeze him extra tight-Dewey begins to wonder if he's truly cut out for the demands of his new job. In the end, he is triumphant as he realizes that helping people big and small is what he is meant to do, and that by sharing his special brand of Dewey love, he can be the best library cat of all.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 590L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Gift edition (September 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316068748

ISBN-13: 978-0316068741

Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.5 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 1,343 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #89,164 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Essays #145 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries #365 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 2 •This heartwarming picture book is based on the authors' adult title, Dewey (Grand Central, 2008). It describes how on a cold night Myron found a tiny kitten in the return box at Spencer Public Library in Iowa, and the feline's impact on the library community. Dewey Readmore Books overcame unpleasant encounters with young children who picked him up upside down or petted him the wrong way and settled in, "happy" to help people. The realistic illustrations, done in vibrant watercolors, bring the tale to life (the orange cat's expressions are

priceless). The story moves along swiftly, and will be a hit with readers requesting animal books. •Beth Cuddy, Seward Elementary School, Auburn, NY END

Vicki Myron was born on a farm fifteen miles from Spencer, Iowa. At the age of thirty-four, after a failed marriage, single motherhood, and a stint on welfare, she graduated summa cum laude from Mankato State University and has a masters degree from Emporia State University. She worked at the Spencer Public Library for twenty-five years, the last twenty as director. She lives in Spencer, Iowa. Bret Witter is a book editor and professional writer. Raised in north Alabama, he currently lives in Louisville, Kentucky, with his wife, two children and his fourteen-year-old cat Kiki. Steve James has always enjoyed making pictures. Steve received his BFA in illustration from Brigham Young University where he studied traditional painting techniques. He now lives in Lehi, Utah with his wife and crazy cat.

I wasn't careful when I was ordering this book and thought I was getting the adult version of this book. I was surprised when I opened up my package and it was the children's version. I checked my order and sure enough it was me that made the mistake! Regardless, I gave the book a try, since I am a cat lover and didn't mind having a quick and easy read. This was a really sweet story. I loved reading about how Dewey made his life at the library. In addition to being a cat lover, I also work in a library. It made me wish for a library cat of my own! I enjoyed all the little anecdotes and loved the photos. I admit I teared up in a few spots. I certainly enjoyed the book, and will probably pass it on to my nieces. Just make sure you're ordering the right version!

"Dewey" is a memoir of a cat who inhabited the Spencer, Iowa public library for 19 years. Intertwined with Dewey's story is the story of Dewey's human, Vicki Myron, and the ups and downs of her life and the life of Spencer as a community. This is not merely a collection of cute cat stories (although there are plenty of those as well), but is more the biography of a cat, and his relationship with the many people in his life. Parts of this story are quite sad, and Myron doesn't flinch from the sorrow, rather she discusses how Dewey helped her cope with issues in her life, and how he did the same for others. Obviously Myron and Dewey had a very special bond, one that even exists even after Dewey passed away. I am a believer in the power of the human-animal connection. Sometimes animals are a greater comfort than other people can be, and they have more noble causes. While Myron doesn't shy away from telling the bad with the good, there are numerous

passages explaining Dewey's playful side and the uplifting effect he had on his human companions. I found the last portion of the book difficult but rewarding to read. As Dewey reached old age, he became more enfeebled as is normal, but never lost his spirit. This is hard for people who love animals, as most pet owners have to live with the realization that they will outlive their pets; I've been there, and the book brought all the emotions associated with that back to me. This isn't to say that you should avoid the book, in fact, quite the contrary. Dewey and Vicki Myron had a wonderful 19 year relationship, and Myron and Dewey emotionally depended on each other. While parting is difficult, it is still overcome by the wonders of the relationship itself. (As an aside, I actually felt more sorrow for Myron's parent's cat, Max, who was killed due to neglect at the veterinarian's office in the prime of his life.) This book is wonderful, although sometimes emotionally challenging. Many things went wrong in Myron's life, and she shares them unflinchingly; no matter how bad things got though, her best friend was always there for her. Thank you Vicki for the book and for taking care of a wonderful feline friend, and thank you Dewey for being an emissary for the human-animal bond and reminding ourselves of the value of love and friendship.

The namesake of the story, Dewey, will win your heart just as he did for people in the town of Spencer, Iowa and across the world. I very much enjoyed the stories of how he won over the hearts of many who were hardened to life and affection. The author goes into great detail to describe Dewey's hometown and its history, which is valuable at times because it shows the effect this little cat had in helping to preserve it. The only complaint I have is with the awkward transitions between Dewey's story and the author's life. There are several chapters that have nothing to do with Dewey's story and are completely about the author's past; and there is no smooth transitioning between the two. It's almost like, "Enough about the cat, let's talk about me now." Not to say that it wasn't an interesting read, it was just...awkward. I understand tying two separate timeframes together to weave one story together, but this book did not succeed in that. She could have correlated a struggle of Dewey's to a struggle of hers, but there was none of that. The story of Dewey would rock along happily, only to be interrupted by two chapters of what its like to be a single mom. It's kind of like this review; everything's adorable, now let me rant about molding two stories into one. Now, in earnest, I got what I expected from the story, which was a touching tale about an adorable cat. I was excited to see how the little guy became famous and how his story culminated in this book. If you are a cat lover, Dewey is worth the read.

If you've ever owned a cat, you will just eat up every word, every adventure, every cuddle in this

book. If you "don't know cats" this will take you into their world; it will show you the depth of their intelligence and capacity to love and care. The tale of the small almost-frozen cat being rescued by the library staff and becoming a fixture in the museum is well told. You can just see the cat chasing things, or being chased, and how it interacts with people -- particularly with grumps and physically disabled. The few sections about the health of the author (librarian) did not interest me, and I could have done without. I could re-read this book every few years and still giggle, swoon, or cry. It must be one of the top "gift books" published, as you will want to share it, and bring joy to others' lives.

Because I enjoyed the first book about Dewey, I wanted to see how much of the story would be included in the children's book. As it turned out, it was just right. This is one of the cutest cats I have ever seen and the illustrations are wonderful. I have six cats that I adore and I would gladly add a cat like Dewey any day. He is truly a cat who made a difference and touched the lives of many - both young and old. He could also be named Dewey - a Cat of Peace. I am taking this book as a gift to our local library where I volunteer and I cannot wait to see the children's faces when they check in the book. I highly recommend this book and thank you, , for letting me know that it was coming on the market.

Dewey is a delightful story for cat lovers. It is a story about the power a pet can have in our life. In this case, Dewey actually effected his town and beyond.

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