Tim and Charlotte (Little Tim) by Edward Ardizzone

Believable Story About Friendship And Loyalty

Charlotte lives in a big house with lots of toys. Most little girls would be happy with so many toys, but not Charlotte! She wants to play with real friends and have real adventures. And on one dark and stormy day, Charlotte pops up — literally — in Tim and Ginger’s maritime world. Her adventures — and a veritable sea of delightful troubles — are just beginning. The Little Tim books have been cherished by readers young and old for their spirited adventures told by a storyteller who speaks straight to childrens imaginations, and for their indelible portrait of life in a sleepy English coastal community.

My Personal Review:
Edward Ardizzone had the knack of writing and illustrating wonderfully satisfying adventure stories for young children. You can read this story to a five year old, and both of you will interested - even enthralled. There is a quietude to his illustrations that my children loved. Pen and ink with watercolor washes, they convey the mood of an English seacoast town, the moods of this storys many characters, and allow room for the viewers moods and varied reactions to the text. Children dont so much gawk at his drawings as enter them - safely. In this story, despite wearing a life belt, a little girl nearly drowns, and is rescued by the boys Tim and Ginger. They carry her limp body into Tims house where Tims mother put her to bed with lots of hot water bottles and blankets. No one knows who she might be. The doctor is called, and her convalescence begins. Her recovery is rocky and it is that process, with plenty of drama, that forms the rest of the story. Ardizzones messages are in favor of friendship and sticking out ones neck for others. There are some disturbing but manageable events in the story that parents might want to talk about with children. (Charlottes amnesia; the absence of her parents; Tims treatment at school - for writing to Charlotte, later - whom he misses.) Another wonderful childrens book by Edward Ardizzone.