



Inside
OLLIE'S SCHOOL DAY
A Yes-and-No Book
An interview with
creator
Stephanie Calmenson

Q: *What was the inspiration behind your book?*

A: When I was a teacher, my students loved yes-and-no games, and the sillier the better.

Q: *What makes this book special to you? What important message do you feel it brings to young readers?*

A: The book encourages reading because it's interactive and it's fun! It empowers children as they help Ollie get things right. It helps beginning readers as they make word-and-picture connections: in addition to narrative, there are word labels kids can "read" by looking at the pictures. The combination of silliness and familiar situations invites kids to make up their own YES-and-NO stories, encouraging creative thinking. The story helps with social skills as Ollie learns the proper way to answer questions in class, share snacks, and behave at story time.

Q: *What was your favorite book growing up?*

A: Heidi by Johanna Spyri

Q: *What is your favorite memory from childhood?*

A: My summer vacation at Rockaway Beach when I learned to ride a bike. I set off early in the morning and didn't come home till suppertime.

Q: *Did you have any pets? If so, which one was your favorite?*

A: A few guppies and turtles. I begged for a real dog and got lots of stuffed dogs instead.

Q: *What inspired you to write and when did you know you would become an author/illustrator?*

A: I wanted to be an early childhood teacher, and when I was getting my masters' degree, I took two courses that I loved: Children's Literature and Writing for Children. The very first story I wrote for children was published in *Humpty Dumpty Magazine*. Much to my surprise, I had become a writer.

Q: *If there is one thing you could tell your readers about life, what would you say?*

A: Life is full of surprises. If you learn to ride through the tough days, there are bound to be happy ones ahead.

Ollie's School Day: A Yes-and-No Book

by Stephanie Calmenson

illustrations by Abby Carter

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