



# Power for Kids, Inc.

501(c)(3) Not-For-Profit

Power for Kids, Inc. helps children by encouraging literacy and a lifelong commitment to reading.

Volume 3, Issue 12

December, 2004

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## HOLIDAY CONTEST:

### Holiday story or poem contest deadline approaching!

The deadline for the holiday contest is less than two weeks away. To be eligible to win, be sure to send your holiday poem or story [aryn@powerforkids.com](mailto:aryn@powerforkids.com) or 12021 Wilshire Blvd. #924, Los Angeles, CA 90025 by December 15. Your contribution will be posted at <http://www.powerforkids.com/kids/KidsWork.html> and each of three winners will receive a copy of *The King of Skittledeedoo* and a free pass to Disneyland, donated by Friend of the Board Richard Armstrong. The winner will be announced in the January newsletter.

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## CHILDREN'S NEWS

### Spinach Boosts Battery Power

According to a recent *New York Times* article, scientists have discovered that the protein found in spinach boosts the power in batteries. If it's good for electronics, just imagine what spinach can do for your brain!

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## CHILDREN'S STORY:

Power for Kids

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## A Visit to the Emergency Room

By Patricia Rust

Erin was playing hopscotch with her best friend, Ryan. Erin loved to hop on one foot and she practiced doing this during recess at school. She could hop better than anyone and decided to take up jump roping with another friend, Tabitha. At first, Erin got tangled in the ropes, but laughed it off. She and her friends learned as many jump roping cheers as possible, such as "I scream you scream, we all scream for ice cream!"

Soon Erin was as good at jump roping as she was at hopscotch and she was feeling a little bit older, too! It made her feel special when the kids looked to her to learn! Their school decided to put on a show for all the kids who loved recess and had special or unique ways of showing their outdoor skills and talents. Erin was jumping rope when she missed a hop and fell down hard onto the pavement. She burst out crying because she was bleeding and her knees and hands were badly cut. Worse, she couldn't move her left leg! "Ouch!" cried poor Erin.

The school principal called 911 and the paramedics came instantly. They were strong and friendly and took Erin to the local hospital's emergency room. Her parents got there at the same time. Erin couldn't stop crying. She was scared of getting stitches and her leg hurt worse than it had ever hurt. Then, the Paramedic Firemen came in to check on her. One paramedic who looked like a giant to Erin asked, "Don't you think all the kids at school will want to know what it's like in the emergency room? What a tale you can tell!"

Erin thought about this and stopped her tears. She looked around at the clean white walls, the busy nurses, and the doctors. Everyone was moving so fast and doing all sorts of things like measuring pulses and blood pressure. Erin was so interested that she forgot about her own injuries, which were soon cleaned, bandaged, and put in a cast. It was time to go home. "No," Erin said. "I need to stay here to see what happens to all these patients. They are all going on adventures, just like me!" Then, she saw a Paramedic bringing her ice cream and said, "This is almost as fun as jumping rope!"

(From a forthcoming children's book by Patricia Rust)

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## IN THE NEWS:

### Women of Los Angeles Selects Power for Kids for Support

Each year Women of Los Angeles selects six charities to receive support from their Non-profit Alliance. Power for Kids is honored to be one of this year's charities. Our efforts will be featured at a Women of Los Angeles luncheon and each member will receive information about our literacy programs. We owe special thanks to Loreen Arbus for championing our organization to the selection committee.

### Non-Profits Still Struggling as Economy Improves

It's a challenging time for foundations. We are sorely in need of funding and do not have a person to fill out grant applications, which we tried doing for a year to no avail. We see no other way to generate much needed funding at this time unless you or your company can make a generous tax-deductible donation. Please contact us for donation forms or visit [www.PowerforKids.com](http://www.PowerforKids.com) to make a tax-deductible donation.

### Chopped Liver for the Family Spirit Available Now

The second book in the *Chopped Liver* series is now available. Buy one for everyone on your holiday list. Patricia Rust contributed a tribute to legendary animator Jules Engel. Like *Chopped Liver for the American Spirit*, the book is a collection of uplifting stories written by regular Americans. Buy your copy today and share it with those close to you. Signed copies are available at [www.powerforkids.com/book/buy\\_book.html](http://www.powerforkids.com/book/buy_book.html).

### Signed Copies of *The King of Skittledeedoo* Still Available

*The King of Skittledeedoo* is a wonderful learning tool for every child in your family, or your friend's family. It will help motivate your young students to read, read, read and makes a wonderful holiday gift. A limited number of signed copies of *The King of Skittledeedoo* are still available. To order your copy now, visit [www.powerforkids.com](http://www.powerforkids.com) and click the "Buy" link at the top of the page.

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## PRESS RELEASE

Nothing helps a charity more than publicity. If you know of a news source looking for a feel-good story, please send them this press release.

Give the Gift of Reading with *The King of Skittledeedoo*

LOS ANGELES , CA -

'Twas the night before Christmas  
and all through the house...  
not a creature was stirring...  
not even a mouse...NO WONDER...THEY WERE ALL READING!

*The King of Skittledeedoo* tells the story of a King who must learn to read to save his kingdom. Skittledeedoo is a happy kingdom where their King is much loved. His people are dazzled by his bejeweled crown and finely woven duds. All is well and peaceful in the land, until one day when the kingdom burns down and the King escapes from his castle wearing only a towel.

The people are amazed. Without his crown and robe, the King has no proof that he is, in fact, the true King. And to make matter worse, he cannot read or spell. His subjects are stunned. But, they are benevolent and the children send him to school where he becomes the star pupil. After he triumphantly fashions a new crown, the people recognize him as their King and everyone lives happily ever after.

Told in verse, and beautifully illustrated, children reading *The King of Skittledeedoo* learn to pick out letters and spell words along with the king.

Literacy is currently a "hot-button" issue and many celebrities are coming out in support of the cause. Although Oprah Winfrey has not aligned herself with a specific organization, she said on an episode of her show, "I started reading at three. I can't say enough about reading... what learning to read feels like."

Patricia Rust, Founder and Executive Director, believes the change will foster greater understanding of the organizations goals and promote her message that "No child should be thrown away."

A key tool in Power for Kids's campaign is its namesake website, [PowerforKids.com](http://PowerforKids.com), which features learning games, coloring pages, and stories and poems contributed by children and Patricia Rust. Teachers can also obtain hints on class activities and projects that make learning to read an adventure, not a chore.

Since the book's publication in 1999, numerous governors and state first ladies, Verizon, the Hilton Foundation, the Mattel Children's Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education have applauded Ms. Rust for her work in literacy. Teachers and librarians nationwide are raving about the book and using it in their own literacy programs. Through her non-profit literacy organization Power for Kids, Inc. ([powerforkids.com](http://powerforkids.com)), Ms. Rust has visited hundreds of schools around the world to present her Royal Readers and Create-a-Book programs, both of which help empower children to become lifelong readers. Power for Kids has been supported by the Writers Guild Foundation and the Screen Actors Guild Foundation.

Priscilla Presley said, "What a way to educate our children, through storytelling."

Marian Rees, Hallmark Hall of Fame producer said, "Your book is a book for all ages." A customer review on Amazon.com commented, "Skittledeedoo will enthrall the reader and the read-to."

Author Patricia Rust is an award-winning television and feature film writer. She won the Best Animation Screenplay award in 1996 from the Santa Clarita International Film

Festival and has written episodes of "The Wonder Years" and "Golden Girls". She is currently developing several children's animated series and is a contributor to the Los Angeles Times Kids Page.

Patricia Rust encourages schools and bookstores to visit her website for powerful learning tools or to contact her about making a difference and empower the children of today for a better world tomorrow. The book is available through Power for Kids at <http://www.powerforkids.com> and from Amazon.com at <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0965589056/002-5630630-0952051>.

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**RECENT DONORS:**

We'd like to thank Tobey Moss of the Tobey Moss Gallery for her generous donation.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Power for Kids, Inc. is guided by a dedicated group of professionals and community leaders:

- Founder, Patricia Rust
- President, Mark De Fries
- Treasurer, Bob Tessier
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- Mario Celestino
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- Drew James
- Sherri Murphy
- Lonnie Dilan
- Jackie Rust
- Colonel Douglas Trogstad
- Teresa Howard
- Mark Freeman

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**POWER FOR KIDS, INC. MISSION STATEMENT:**

Power for Kids, Inc. helps children by encouraging literacy and a lifelong commitment to reading.

Power for Kids, Inc. is a grassroots literacy organization whose aim is to educate, motivate, and excite elementary school children to the wonders of reading at an early age. We believe that by reading to a child, helping one child at a time, we can stamp out this problem. Our organization's "Royal Readers" program provides books, interactive reading sessions, and educational activities for children at elementary schools across the country. Our "Create-A-Book" program empowers children by helping them write and bind their own books.

Our motto is Live, Laugh, Learn

### Helping Kids Become Royal Readers!

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