



Power for Kids, Inc.

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

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CHILDREN'S STORY:

Uncle Bert

By Patricia Rust

Uncle Bert was a really fun uncle who lived in Hawaii. If you went to his house and asked for chocolate milk, you could be sure that he would have some for you and that he would make it himself. It sounds hard to believe, but his cows were right outside and they started the whole process!

Uncle Bert always had cookies in his cookie jar and really sweet bananas that he grew right outside his door! He liked to work in his yard and pick up leaves and let the neighborhood kids help outdoors.

One day, Kiara knocked at Uncle Bert's door, "Uncle Bert! Uncle Bert! Are you awake?" But Uncle Bert was sound asleep. So, Kiara yelled really loud. "Uncle Bert, wake up, I need

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chocolate milk!" but Uncle Bert just kept sleeping because he was tired from working as a fireman all day.

Kiara went to the cows and said, "I need chocolate milk!" but the cows only mooed. Kiara thought chocolate milk came that way right out of the cow. But cows are complicated with lots of stomachs that help them produce milk that comes out white and to which Uncle Bert added yummy chocolate.

A sleepy Uncle Bert came outside. He didn't want Kiara to feel bad for not knowing cows don't make chocolate milk, so he told Kiara, "Only once, when I was a boy, did I find a cow that could make chocolate milk. But I've never seen one since."

"Maybe we could find one," Kiara said, jumping up and down. "Let's look right away." But first Uncle Bert cut a stalk of bananas for them to munch on. As they ate the bananas and looked around the green expanse, Uncle Bert told Kiara another story.

"See those tree covered mountains in the distance?"

"Yes," answered Kiara.

"Well, those trees make the best lemonade you ever tasted!"

"Wow!" said Kiara. "Let's go get some."

"And what about that tall tree over there," asked Kiara pointing. "It has coconuts growing under its leaves!"

"Everything we eat and drink comes from a plant or an animal. They're all a part of nature, and so are we," Uncle Bert said.

"That's right. Plants and animals come in a lot of varieties, just like people."

"Well, I need some chocolate varieties right now!" Kiara said.

"Will you help me feed the cows first?" Uncle Bert asked. "Then you can see how they work."

"I know how they work. They give us delicious food, but we need to take care of them, right?" asked Kiara. Uncle Bert smiled. It was time for some chocolate milk. If only they could find a chocolate cow.

(Copyright 2005. From a forthcoming children's book by Patricia Rust)



CHILDREN'S NEWS:

Where Sayings Come From

In the old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the food in the pot had been there for quite a while, hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

IN THE NEWS:

Patricia Rust Reads at Orphanage Holiday Party

Patricia Rust was invited by Sherri Murphy to read *The King of Skittledeedoo* at several orphanage holiday parties. One such party took place at Del Mar Orphanage, one of the few remaining orphanages in Los Angeles for children through high school. It is famous for rearing Marilyn Monroe. We welcome all of our friends to join in the joy of reading at schools, orphanages, and other events.

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 to make a tax-deductible donation.

Newsletter Sponsors Sought

In our continuing efforts to improve the newsletter, we'd like to establish a monthly postal mail version featuring a full page of children's activities. In order to fund such a mailing, we need one or more sponsors who can provide the \$1500 per month necessary. Please contact us for at 310-281-3332 for more information about how you can sponsor one or more issues of the newsletter.

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.

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 and click the "Buy" link at the top of the page.

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS:

The new year has just started and that means it's time to start planning your summer vacation. Here are a few tips to help you plan your trip:

- Make rules before you go.
- Look for where your kids can run around even if you are there to visit history.
- Schedule both running around and quiet time.
- If you can drive at night, your kids can sleep.
- Bring books and games for airport waits and car rides.
- Pack healthy snacks like fruit and water.
- Allow time for bathroom breaks and spontaneous exploration.
- Have fun!
- After the trip, ask your kids to send stories or drawings about the trip to Power for Kids so it can be posted on our website.

CHILDREN'S POEM:

Let's Live

By Patricia Rust

*People abound
All round this fun town;
Some never look up!
They only look down!*

*So much to see,
Just so very much to do;
Watch the clouds somersault
Then see if you can, too!*

*The trees spring new growth
The flowers open to say hi!
The grass gets greener with rain
And the sky changes without a try.*

*Think of yourself
As a flower ready to bloom;
Give yourself space,
And plenty of room!*

*You can watch the world
And play with it, too,
There is just so much to see
And just as much to do!*

*You are the only you
The one and truly only you
In this whole wide world of global blue
Your life will be as you make it; it's up to you!*

Kids: Want to see your poem in the next newsletter? Please email your poem to poems@powerforkids.com. We'll post it on the website and include it in our newsletter.

RECENT DONORS:

Thank you to Warner Bros. for the donation of two tickets to RACING STRIPES. Courtney and McKenzie from the Carden School in Orange County, CA were thrilled to attend the film.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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- President, Mark De Fries
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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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