



# Power for Kids, Inc.

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

Volume 3, Issue 6

June, 2004

Edited by: Patricia Rust, Founder, and Aryn Kennedy

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## IN THE NEWS:

### Rust Foundation Becomes Power for Kids, Inc.

In order to keep our name in tune with our mission, The Rust Foundation has changed our name to Power for Kids, Inc. Read more about the change in the May edition of the newsletter that was mailed to your homes. The newsletter is also available on our website at [www.powerforkids.com/news.html](http://www.powerforkids.com/news.html).

### Major Fundraising Drive Under Way

Power for Kids recently mailed out our annual solicitation letter and May newsletter. If you did not receive a copy, please view it on our website or request a copy by emailing [aryn@powerforkids.com](mailto:aryn@powerforkids.com) with your mailing address. We hope to surpass last year's returns and will use the funds to expand the "Royal Readers" program. With budgetary cutbacks hitting schools across the country, the need for literacy programs from outside sources has never been more urgent.

### Local Libraries offer Summer Reading Programs

With many children out of school for the summer, Power for Kids would like to encourage all families to participate in local reading programs this summer. Call or visit your local library to sign up for a reading challenge program. Be sure to ask them to put *The King of Skittledoodoo* on the list of titles for children ages 4-8. For online stories by Patricia Rust, visit <http://www.powerforkids.com/stories/stories.html>.

Power for Kids

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Please visit our web site at [www.powerforkids.com](http://www.powerforkids.com)

## Signed Copies of *The King of Skittledeedoo* Are 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. 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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### CHILDREN'S CORNER:

#### SUSHI

by Bridgette Kluger, age 8

These little cylinders  
fit in the palm of your hand  
the bits of seaweed  
shine  
and sparkle  
rice like snow  
disappears into your mouth  
like distant screaming  
disappears into  
the forest  
drowning in soy sauce  
made with the warmth  
of hands  
the taste brings you  
into your  
own world

This and other children's contributions can be seen at <http://www.powerforkids.com/kids/KidsWork.html>. To submit your own poem or story for our newsletter and website, send it to [aryn@powerforkids.com](mailto:aryn@powerforkids.com).

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### DONATION CAMPAIGN:

#### Power for Kids, Inc. Needs Your Help

It's the time of year to create tax write-offs and get kids excited about reading! As part of our continuing efforts to ensure that all children at risk for illiteracy have access to copies of *The King of Skittledeedoo* through their libraries and classrooms, and to make schools aware of the powerful tools offered through our website at [www.PowerforKids.com](http://www.PowerforKids.com), we need to send mailings to schools, increase the number of our school visits, print additional copies of *The King of Skittledeedoo*, manufacture literacy kits, and train literacy volunteers to create a national Royal Readers network. But we can't do it without you. We need funding to continue our imperative work.

Your donation of \$30 provides a child with a book and a Royal Readers learning kit.  
Your donation of \$100 sponsors a classroom visit.  
Your donation of \$500 sponsors a school visit with books donated to each classroom and the school library.

We also offer membership levels:

Silver club:

\$500-\$1000 – you will receive a signed copy of *The King of Skittledeedoo* and the link of your choice, either to your company or another organization with which you are affiliated, will be added to our website.

Gold club:

\$1000-\$5000 – you will receive a signed copy of *The King of Skittledeedoo* and your website banner link will be added to our website.

Platinum club:

\$5000 and up – you will receive a signed copy of *The King of Skittledeedoo* and your company logo will be featured prominently on our website, and your company link will be included in this newsletter.

Tax-deductible donations are now accepted online. Please visit

<http://www.powerforkids.com/parents/contacts.html> and click the “Make a Donation” link.

You can also mail your check or money order to:

Power for Kids, Inc., 12021 Wilshire Blvd. #924, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

If your employer offers a donation-matching, or employee-donation program, we are eligible to receive funds through it, as an educational organization. Please contact your human resources department for more information.

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### RECENT DONORS:

Responses to our spring mailing have already started coming in. We'd like to thank:

Anne and Charles Floyd Johnson  
Kathleen Schuler

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### CHILDREN'S STORY:

#### GRANNY TUTU AND THE PAPIO FISH

By Patricia Rust

One upon a time a tiny papio (pap-ee-o) fish was born to parents who lived in the shallows inside the reef near Ala Moana Beach in Hawaii. He was called Little Brother because he was the youngest and smallest of his brothers and sisters.

They all swam together in a large school of fish and exercised a lot by swimming back and forth in the bay. When they weren't exercising, they were eating and growing.

One day, a huge wave came, and the papio fish were hit hard by the rough waters. Little Brother's brothers and sisters held tight together, but Little Brother slipped away. When the storm was over, no one could find him. He swam up and down the reef looking for his family.

Many fish tried to eat him, but he was able to scurry away because he was a quick and agile swimmer. Still, he could not find his family or friends. He was scared to be alone. In order to protect themselves, the fish always swam together. It made them look like one giant fish to any predators who might want to eat them. And they searched for food together. Being the youngest, Little Brother hadn't been taught to find food yet.

Now he was lost and hungry. He would have cried, but he was trying to be brave. Then, he saw a large moving shadow! Was it a shark? Little Brother thought, "Well, I'm too small for a shark to bother with me so I'll take a better look." And look he did. He swam right up to the dark blob. He thought maybe it was a school of holi holi fish who sometimes swarm at the shoreline until they are big enough to live inside the holes of the coral reef.

The blob made a shady protection for him over the waters. "Hey," thought Little Brother, "This is great! These fish will lead me home."

Now, it so happens that we humans would call this blob a person! The blob was really a grandmother, or *tutu*, and in this case a very sweet *tutu*. When she saw the tiny fish, she said, "Well! What are you doing here? You are much too small to be swimming alone where a bigger fish might eat you!"

Little Brother couldn't hear her, but the more the blob moved around, the better he liked it. He would dart in and out of little spots, playing games, and giggling just like when he had been with his family. Granny Tutu used her hands to guide the little fish. She seemed to enjoy the swimming game as much as the little fish! Soon, Granny Tutu had coaxed the little fish toward the reef. "Where is your school of fish?" asked Granny Tutu. They were hiding even better than Little Brother and were nowhere to be found!

Granny Tutu did not want to give up her search, but it was getting late and she had to get out of the ocean. She didn't want to leave Little Brother so she made a fish bowl out of her swim cap and took Little Brother with her. At home, she made him his own home, where he could look at Granny Tutu and feel safe in his large, round, glass fishbowl.

Little Brother was growing big and Granny Tutu decided it was time to take Little Brother back to the sea. She put on her swimsuit and picked up the fish bowl and off they went, back to the ocean where Little Brother was born. This time, Granny Tutu found a school of papio fish exactly the same size as Little Brother! She dropped him into the water and he swam happily around the school of fish.

"Mother, father, sisters, brothers, you're all here! I have had such an adventure. I lived out of the ocean high in the air in a giant bubble with water inside!" Little Brother's family was so happy to see him that they hugged him and told him how much he was loved. Even his sisters gave him tiny fish kisses.

It was time for Granny Tutu to leave. "Have a good life, little fish," she told him.

Little Brother smiled a big smile. "Thanks, Granny Tutu, I hope you will always come and swim with me." And so she did. Every day! People on the beach often wondered what this funny grandmother was doing in the water swimming this way and that.

Then one day, Granny Tutu didn't show up for their swim. Little Brother was worried. The next day passed and then the next. Granny Tutu didn't come. Little Brother would jump out of the water and try to look for her in the distance but he never found her.

A few days later, an outrigger canoe came. The man inside it threw brightly-colored flower leis onto the water. "These are for Granny Tutu and her little fish friend," he said. "Where are you Little Brother?" he asked.

Little Brother swam up to the flowers. He'd never seen flowers before and thought maybe they were a new kind of fish. "Granny Tutu couldn't come to the water herself," said her son, "But she wanted to send her aloha. She hopes to see you soon when she feels better." Little Brother was grown up now and had baby

fish of his own. He understood about being sick and that Granny Tutu would always be his best friend, in or out of the water.

The End

(From a forthcoming book honoring the traditions and heritage of Hawaii by Patricia Rust)

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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  
Secretary, Yfat Reiss  
Member, Gary Credle  
Member, Archie Purvis  
Member, Rich Longaker  
Member, Bob Strock  
Member, Daisy Torres  
Member, Steve Binder  
Member, Lee Gaither  
Member, John Lazares

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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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