



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 4, Issue 8

September, 2005

Edited by: Patricia Rust, Founder, and Aryn Kennedy

Copyright 2005, Power for Kids

IN THIS ISSUE:

Children's Story

Children's News

Word Search

Contest

In the News

Board of Directors

Power for Kids, Inc. Mission Statement

CHILDREN'S STORY:

Jackie Flies Too Far

By Patricia Rust



Jackie the Angel loved the idea of taking a nap after a busy day of being an angel and helping people. She was pooped and let herself float back on a big puffy cloud that looked like a cotton ball. This kind of cloud is called a cumulous cloud. She loved the way it cushioned her and

Power for Kids

12021 Wilshire Boulevard, #924, Los Angeles, CA, 90025, USA

Tel: 310 281-3332 Fax: 310 445 3251 E-mail: patricia@powerforkids.com

Please visit our web site at www.powerforkids.com

invited her to stretch out and sleep. And that's exactly what Jackie the Angel did. She slept and dreamt about having angel brother and sisters who were playing with her in the cloud.

Since Jackie the Angel was so fast asleep, it was easy for her not to notice the strong wind that was picking up. Had she been awake, she would have felt it because it was so strong. And, it kept getting stronger. All the clouds were being blown in the same direction. Without any sound but wind to let her know, Jackie was fast flying away from her home.

The clouds gathered together and started to create rain, but still Jackie slept. The rain dropped to the earth and still Jackie slept. It was a loud clap of thunder that awakened Jackie the Angel and as she rubbed her sleepy-time eyes, she asked, "Where am I?" The only answer she heard back was the sound of soaring wind and crashing rain. She held her ears as the thunder clapped again and she could see flashes of light. "Lightning!" she exclaimed as she watched the clouds light up with it!

"Where am I?" she asked because it was really hard to see through the rain drops and dark clouds. The land below where she was used to helping people could not be seen at all. It was as if it were invisible. Jackie the Angel was scared. And alone.

The clouds continued to carry her higher and higher until she was well above the rain clouds and white cottony clouds once again filled the sky. "This is more like it!" thought Jackie, but when made a cloud hole to peep down below, the earth seemed different. "Hey, that's not where I live! The land looks all different." Jackie decided to fly down and check it out.

Instead of finding the ocean and her friends who lived not far from a city, she found desert with nothing but cactus. Worse yet, she crashed into a cactus tree as she touched down. "Ouch!" cried Jackie. Before she knew it a big jack rabbit was helping pull out the cactus thorns. "Thank you, rabbit," she said.

And he replied, "Please call me Jack."

"And my name is Jackie! How do you like that?"

"I like it a whole bunch better than these ole prickly needles that are caught in your wings." Then Jack straightened. "Wings! You're a human with wings!"

"That's because I'm an angel," explained Jackie and Jack seemed to understand and accept what she said.

"Well, then, I had better do an extra special job of making your wings ready for take off."

"Where am I going?" asked Jackie.

“Well, you can’t stay here,” said Jack. “It is a very harsh climate here in the desert and you seem so delicate.”

Jackie pointed at some desert flowers. “Aren’t those delicate?” she asked.

“They only look that way,” explained Jack. “They are really quite strong.”

“I guess things aren’t always the way they look,” remarked Jackie. By now, Jackie was looking at the beautiful desert which made her homesick for her village by the sea. “It’s beautiful here of course, Jack, but I need to get back to my home where I am needed.”

“Fine by me,” said Jack just as a rattlesnake swerved its body side to side coming closer and closer to Jack and Jackie. “Fly!” cried Jack as he hopped away. “It’s a snake!”

Jackie took off and hollered a quick, “Thank you!” but Jack was long gone. “I hope he heard me say thanks.” Jackie flew higher and looked down on the snake as it used its muscles to make S-shapes across the sand. “You are quite beautiful to watch, snake.”

And as the snake slithered off to find a warm rock to warm its body, Jackie shivered. “I thought the desert was hot, but this desert is really cold.” So Jackie flew higher. And higher.

Soon she was high enough that she thought she could fly to Mars. But then she remembered all the people who counted on her to help with their problems. “I have no idea which way is home.” Then Jackie the Angel did something very unusual. She stood on top of a cloud as though it were a magic carpet and said, “Home, please!”

And then she heard a voice say, “Right away Jackie the Angel.” And off the cloud went, taking Jackie all the way home!

Do you think the cloud could talk? Do you think it was a magic carpet that just looked like a cloud? Please draw some pictures of clouds and help us find a clue to this mystery. Then, please send your answers to our web page at pictures@powerforkids.com and we will print the best answers. There are lots of things that could have happened and I would like to know what you think about this mystery.

Happy cloud watching from Jackie the Angel.

(from a forthcoming book by Patricia Rust. For more Jackie the Angel stories, visit JackietheAngel.net)



CHILDREN'S NEWS:

Desert Life

When you imagine the desert, you usually picture a lot of sand, but some deserts are actually the home of many plants and animals. Jackie met just a few of them in the story above, but there are many more to learn about. The National Park Service site for the Mojave Desert includes a story about a pair of desert tortoises. Click this link to learn more about them and the desert. <http://www.nps.gov/moja/pphtml/forkids.html>.

FALL STORY CONTEST:

The winner will receive a selection of three Warner Bros. DVDs. A special thank you goes to Board Member Gary Credle for donating them. To be eligible to win, be sure to send your story about your favorite thing about fall to contest@powerforkids.com or 12021 Wilshire Blvd. #924, Los Angeles, CA 90025 by November 1. All answers will be posted at <http://www.powerforkids.com/kids/KidsWork.html> and some will appear in the August newsletter along with the winner's guess.

IN THE NEWS:

Teachers and Librarians: Schedule School Visits Now

Each year Power for Kids presents literacy programs to schools and libraries. The programs are tailored to work with each specific age group and group size. Presentations are made by Patricia Rust or one of our trained volunteers, many of whom are actors affiliated with SAG. To learn more about the programs offered or to inquire about booking the program at your school, visit our website at <http://www.powerforkids.com/parents/appearance.html>. You can also call 310-281-3332 and leave your name and mailing or email address so a detailed brochure and current rates can be sent to you.

Books for the Deaf or Blind

Following her recent visit to the John Tracey Clinic, a Los Angeles center for deaf children, Patricia was inspired to make *The King of Skittledeedoo* accessible to two needy child populations: the deaf and the blind. She is researching ways to publish the

book in Braille for blind children and to communicate the story to deaf children too young to learn to read, but still in need of literacy education. These editions will be in addition to the third English edition and the new Spanish edition currently in the works.

Children's Contest

The deadline for the fall contest is approaching. The winner will receive a selection of three Warner Bros. DVDs. To enter, write a story about your favorite thing about fall and send it to contest@powerforkids.com.

Spanish Poet and Translator Sought

With plans for the Spanish language edition of *The King of Skittledeedoo* moving forward, we are in need of a Spanish-speaking poet to translate the English text into something equally lyrical and magical. Please call 310-281-3332 or email Aryn@powerforkids.com if you or someone you know might be able to help.

Children's Submissions Welcome!

Please encourage the children in your life to send us their stories and artwork for inclusion in our newsletter, on PowerforKids.com, and in future newspaper publications.

Chopped Liver for the Loving Spirit Available Now

The third book in the *Chopped Liver* series is now available. Buy one for everyone on your list. In this edition, Patricia Rust honors philanthropist and spa and health pioneer Deborah Szekely. 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

- President, Patricia Rust
- Treasurer, Bob Tessier
- Secretary, Yfat Reiss
- Member, Mark De Fries
- Member, Gary Credle
- Member, Rich Longaker
- Member, Daisy Torres

Member, Lee Gaither
Member, Steve Binder
Member Emeritus, Bob Strock

Friends of the Board:
Mario Celestino
Lonnie Dilan
Jackie Rust
Colonel Douglas Trogstad
Teresa Howard
Writers Guild Foundation
Hilton Foundation
Screen Actors Foundation
The Annenberg Foundation

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!

This newsletter may be forwarded only in its entirety. If this was forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe, send a blank message to subscribe-powerforkids@yahoo.com.