



A Note from Vanita

I wanted to start VanitaBooks for many reasons. But the first one begins with my life.

I am blessed to have been a mother and now a grandmother. I have been a student and a teacher, and now in another sense a student again. I have also been a wife and partner, co-worker and caregiver.

As an adult, one of my responsibilities has been to pass along life's lessons to my children and grandchildren. But I have also learned that as we grow older, they have things to teach us, too, *if we let them*.

For example, I saw how our grandchildren had no inhibitions about seeing their grandfather in a wheelchair. What were they saying to us? That their love was unconditional, their lives unbounded. And what we saw as a companion to disability, they saw as a world of possibility.

I also saw how fear can paralyze the life force of a child. Things we face in childhood are the things we face in adulthood. We need to work them out together.

My instincts as a teacher were to pass along these lessons.

My fulfillment from writing led me first to publish these books for family and friends, and then offer them to a wider audience. I believe in the joy, beauty, power and necessity of books.

All net profits from this press will be donated to charitable organizations, with a gentle preference towards people serving people with my husband's disease – Multiple Sclerosis.

Our primary audience has been, and will be, children, their parents, grandparents and teachers.

I believe that the experience and lessons of childhood need not be buried and lost when we leave those years behind. That we are never too old to discover and re-discover them again and again. Nor to write about them when we do.

So VanitaBooks will be a special press. Small, intimate, energetic and absolutely dedicated to liberating the wonders, possibilities and, most of all, the unbounded love that springs from our earliest years.

From scribble sheet to store shelf, I hope you will see these qualities shining through in each of our offerings. Or, as our imprint declares, *"Books with a Heart."*



VanitaBooks, LLC

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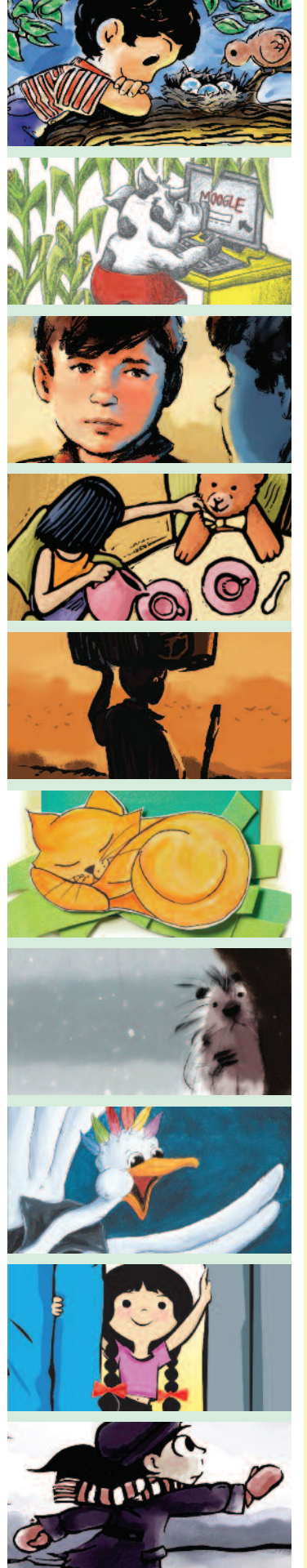


ORDER: Phone 888-558-2638 – Fax 800-838-1149

VanitaBooks publishes books for children ages 4-8. Stories are told in the classic fable style: short tales teaching a moral or value, often through animals as the main characters. Each book presents a dilemma or fear that a child may have, and resolves those issues through the loving and reassuring guidance of a parent, or through the plot of the story itself. The books are written in verse and authored by Vanita Oelschlager.

VanitaBooks donates all net profits to help people with Multiple Sclerosis and to other charities where people help people help themselves.

www.VanitaBooks.com



2010

Porcupette Finds a Family

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Porcupette Finds a Family, is a story about how a baby porcupine (called a porcupette) finds a new family after losing his mother. He wants to have an attachment to the bear family he finds, but is afraid his “bear” mother and “bear” brother and sister will leave him too. This causes him to act out his fears in ways that jeopardize acceptance from his adopted family. However, with the understanding and help of Mother Bear, Porcupette finally accepts that he is truly loved and wanted despite, or maybe because of, his differences.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vanita Oelschlager is a wife, mother, grandmother, philanthropist, former teacher, current caregiver, author and poet. She is a graduate of Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio, where she currently serves as a Trustee. Vanita is also Writer in Residence for the Literacy Program at The University of Akron. She and her husband Jim received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in 2006. She won the Congressional “*Angels in Adoption*” Award for the state of Ohio in 2007 and was named *National Volunteer of the Year* by the MS society in 2008. Vanita was honored as 2009 *Woman Philanthropist of the Year* by the Summit County United Way.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Mike Blanc is a life-long artist. His work has illuminated countless publications for both corporate and public interests worldwide. Accomplished in traditional drawing and painting techniques, he now works almost exclusively in digital media. *Porcupette Finds a Family* is a collaboration with author, Vanita Oelschlager. Previous titles by Mike and Vanita include *Bonyo Bonyo*, *A Tale of Two Daddies*, *Postcards from a War*, and *Francesca*.

PRAISE

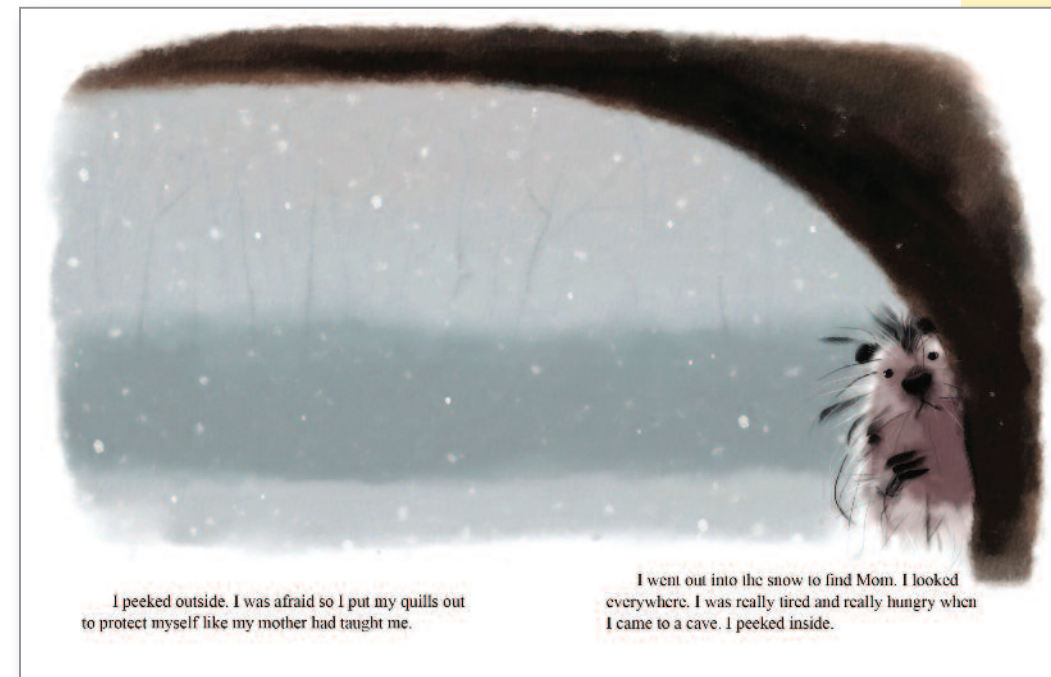
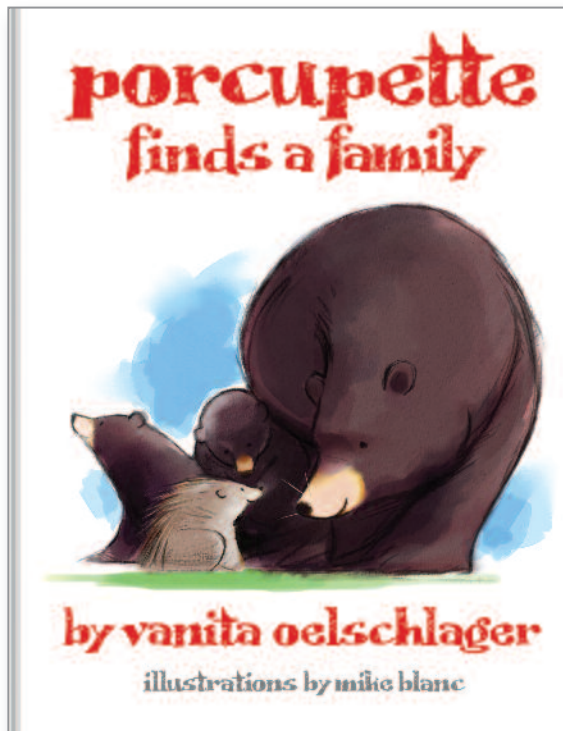
“Finally, a beautifully written and illustrated book celebrating the frustrations and joys that come with growing a family through adoption or foster care...”

- Fellow, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Member of Section on Adoption and Foster Care
- Assistant Clinical Professor Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine
- Medical Director, Oak Adoptive Health Center, Akron Children's Hospital
- Real Mother to three adopted Children
- Grandmother to one gorgeous baby.”

Ellen Kempf, MD

SALES & MARKETING POINTS

- Parents, teachers and child psychologists can use this book to talk about attachment problems.
- This book will be especially helpful for foster or older adopted children, who think the new mother might leave them too.
- The subject of hurting those you love the most can be discussed.
- Excellent school and class room lesson opportunity.
- Teachers can use this book in classes where there is an adopted child that isn't like the other children in the family.
- How parents, teachers and child psychologists can show that any type of family is good if there is love. This mother loved her ‘different’ baby no mater what he did.
- Also a learning lesson that black bears will take in another baby if it smells like her. Also information about porcupines can be discussed.



I peeked outside. I was afraid so I put my quills out to protect myself like my mother had taught me.

I went out into the snow to find Mom. I looked everywhere. I was really tired and really hungry when I came to a cave. I peeked inside.

PORCUPETTE FINDS A FAMILY

AUTHOR: Vanita Oelschlager

ILLUSTRATORS: Mike Blanc

HOMETOWN: Akron, Ohio

Trade Paperback

ISBN: 978-0-9819714-8-3

PRICE: \$8.95

FIRST PRINT: 2,000

ON SALE: Fall, 2010

Hardcover

ISBN: 978-0-9819714-7-6

PRICE: \$15.95

FIRST PRINT: 1,000

ON SALE: Fall, 2010

HEIGHT: 11

WIDTH: 8.5

PAGES: 44

BISAC: JUV002000

BISAC 2: JUV002030

BISAC 3: JUV013050

BISAC 4: JUV013010

BISAC 5: JUV039050

INTENDED MARKETS

For children 4-8 in family, school, and group settings. This is a book that child psychologists could use with adopted or foster children who are dealing with attachment problems. This book can also be used in other settings to help children adjust to the death or prolonged absence of a parent.

Carrot

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Carrot is a delightful story about a common house cat who finds that the grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence. Carrot envies the fancy white cat she sees on a yacht in the bay and fantasizes a life of wealth: *"She would be asked to marry / the Earl of Kent's cat. / Nothing could be / more romantic than that."* Finally Carrot realizes her "common" life has much to offer that idleness aboard a yacht could never fulfill: *"Without their sweet Carrot / what would her poor family do? / And what of the mouse? / Who would tend to his flu?"*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vanita Oelschlager is a wife, mother, grandmother, philanthropist, former teacher, current caregiver, author and poet. She is a graduate of Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio, where she currently serves as a Trustee. Vanita is also Writer in Residence for the Literacy Program at The University of Akron. She and her husband Jim received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in 2006. She won the Congressional *"Angels in Adoption"* Award for the state of Ohio in 2007 and was named *National Volunteer of the Year* by the MS society in 2008. Vanita was honored as 2009 *Woman Philanthropist of the Year* by the Summit County United Way.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kristin Blackwood is a teacher and frequent illustrator of books for children. Her works of art are published in: *My Grampy Can't Walk, Let Me Bee, What Pet Will I Get?, Made in China, Big Blue, Ivy in Bloom and Ivan's Great Fall, A Tale of Two Daddies*, and *Bonyo Bonyo*. A graduate of Kent State University, Kristin has a degree in Art History. When she isn't designing or teaching, she enjoys being a mother to her two daughters.

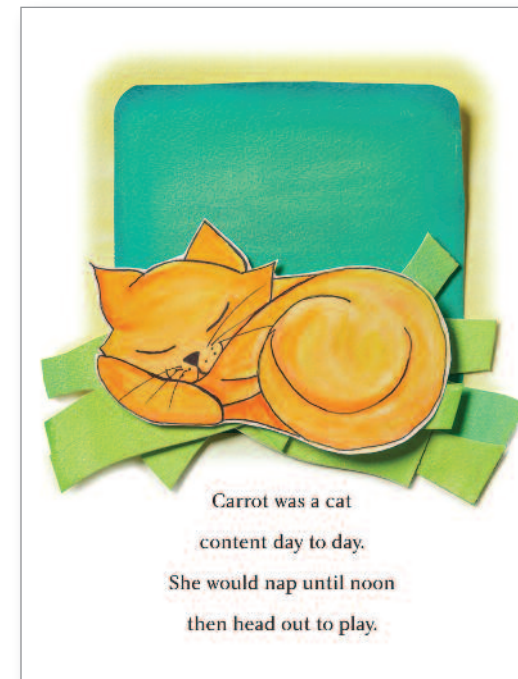
PRAISE

"What's a plain old house cat to do when she sees another living the life of pampered luxury on board a yacht? Why, dream of course! Of trips around the world. Of sumptuous foods brought right to her cushion. And then marriage to a prince! But dreams give way to realities. Of the people who depend on her company. Of the familiar streets and haunts. Even of the old, sick mouse whom she brings food daily. In the end, our Carrot decides that her life is really far richer than the isolation she sees with the white, fluffed and distant object of her initial envy."

Kurt Landefeld

SALES & MARKETING POINTS

- This is a playful story that teaches an often-told moral... the grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence.
- It also introduces rhyme and meter while telling a tale about a delightful cat we can all identify with.
- This would be a great book for a library setting.
- The art is simple and cute... something kids could copy.
- This is ideal for parents and grandparents who just want to read something fun to their children.



CARROT

AUTHOR: Vanita Oelschlager
ILLUSTRATOR: Kristin Blackwood
HOMETOWN: Akron, Ohio

Trade Paperback

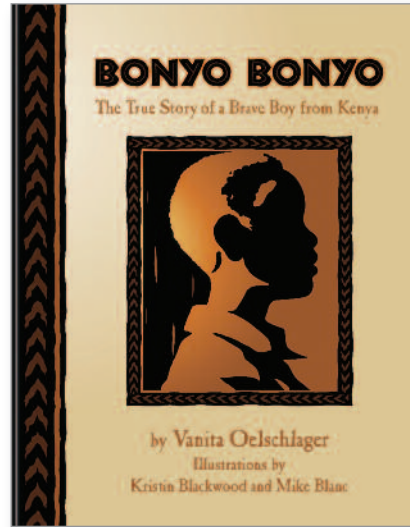
ISBN: 978-0-9826366-0-2
PRICE: \$8.95
FIRST PRINT: 2,000
ON SALE: Spring, 2011

Hardcover

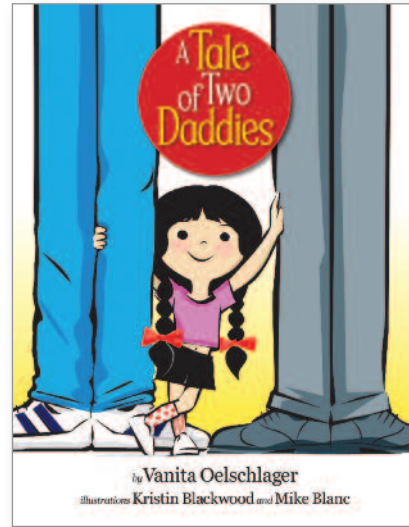
ISBN: 978-0-9819714-9-0
PRICE: \$15.95
FIRST PRINT: 1,000
ON SALE: Spring, 2011
HEIGHT: 11
WIDTH: 8.5
PAGES: 44
BISAC: JUV039140
BISAC 2: JUV002050
BISAC 3: JUV039130
BISAC 4: JUV002190
BISAC 5: JUV019000

INTENDED MARKETS

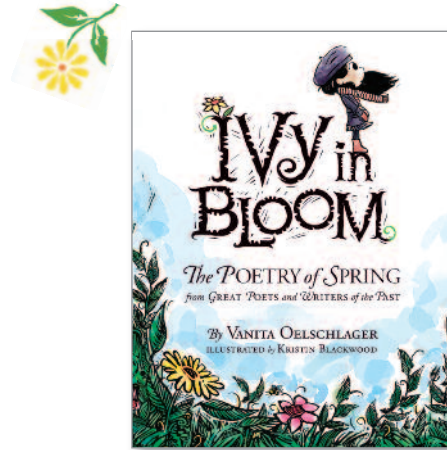
For children 4-8 in any setting. Prime markets include family time discussions, teacher training for lessons on the importance of being happy with who you are. This book gives children opportunities to talk about the people and experiences that are really important to them and begin to understand how to keep material wealth in perspective.



Bonyo Bonyo
The True Story of a
Brave Boy from Kenya
Bonyo's vision and
determination lead him
on a real-life adventure
bearing the fruits of
core values – growth
despite loss and pain.
Trade Paperback
ISBN: 978-0-9819714-4-5
Hardcover
ISBN: 978-0-9819714-3-8



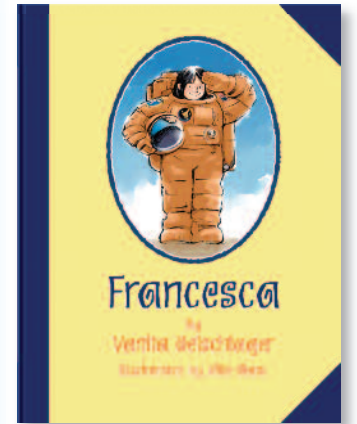
**A Tale of
Two Daddies**
Introduces a type of
family increasingly
visible in our society
and reflects a child's
practical and innocent
look at the adults
who love her.
Trade Paperback
ISBN: 978-0-9819714-6-9
Hardcover
ISBN: 978-0-9819714-5-2



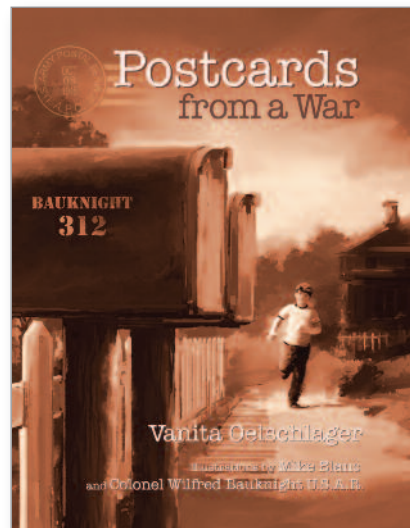
Ivy in Bloom introduces the poetry of
Dickinson, Longfellow, Browning,
Wordsworth, Frost and others.
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-7-7



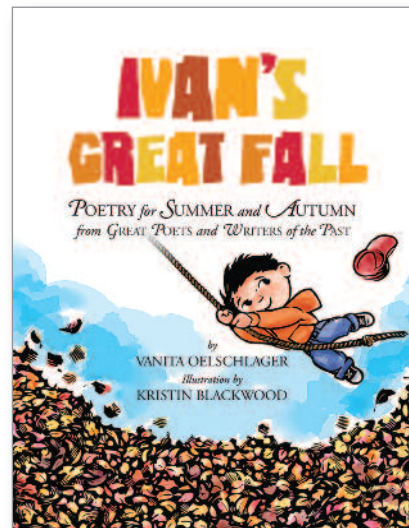
Birds of a Feather introduces children
to the magic of idioms.
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-8-4



Francesca is a daydreamer – she wants
to leave her childhood behind, right now.
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-4-6



**Postcards
from a War**
Postcards from a War
is about a boy whose
mother has recently
been deployed overseas
to a war. His grand-
father, who was about
the same age when his
father left to serve in
World War II, helps
him understand why
she has gone away.
Trade Paperback
ISBN: 978-0-9819714-0-7
Hardcover
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-9-1



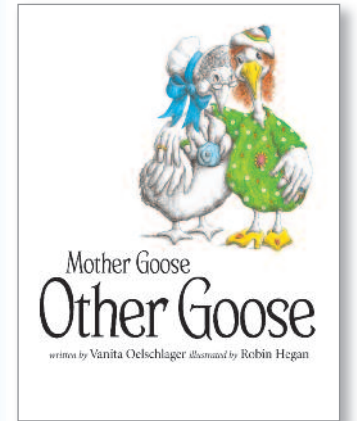
Ivan's Great Fall
Everything about
summer makes Ivan
happy. As summer
turns to fall, he discov-
ers autumn has a charm
of its own. *Ivan's Great
Fall* introduces children
to the poetry of Keats,
Dickinson, Sandburg,
Bronte and others.
Trade Paperback
ISBN: 978-0-9819714-2-1
Hardcover
ISBN: 978-0-9819714-1-4



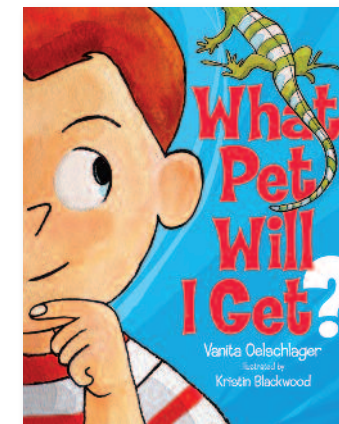
Big Blue Blue is a very happy bird until
he realizes he's gotten too big to fly south
with his flock for the winter.
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-5-3



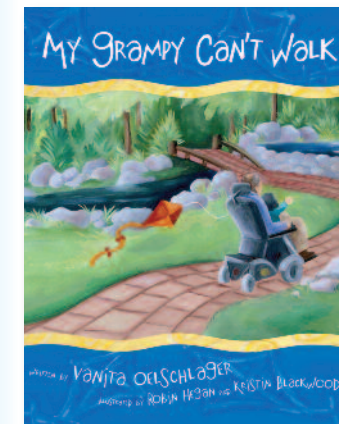
Made In China An adopted Chinese girl
learns to cope with understanding her
adoption and sibling rivalry.
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-3-9



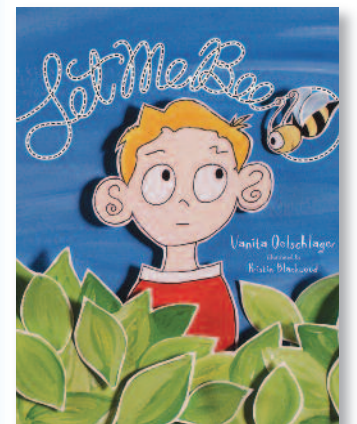
Mother Goose, Other Goose
Everyone knows Mother Goose rhymes.
But what about Other Goose?
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-6-6



What Pet Will I Get? What parent
hasn't heard their child say "I want
a puppy or a kitten?"
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-2-2



My Grampy Can't Walk How do children
see and react to a disabled grandparent?
ISBN: 1-59624-015-6 (hardcover)
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-0-8 (paperback)



Let Me Bee Fear of bees is something
many children have to learn to overcome.
ISBN: 978-0-9800162-1-5

