

2008 ~ 2009



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.

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

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## *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."*



# My Grampy Can't Walk

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

Grampy can't walk anymore because he has Multiple Sclerosis. But his MS doesn't slow him down. And it doesn't keep him from doing some pretty spectacular things with his grandchildren! This is a truly inspiring and enlightening story about the vitality of people who are dependent on a wheelchair for ease of mobility.

"Multiple Sclerosis is like having an elephant in your living room – *permanently*," says the author, whose husband, Jim, must use a wheelchair because of his MS. "You can ignore him and pretend he isn't there. Or get upset and try everything to get him out. Or you can accept that he's there to live with you until a cure for MS is found. One of the things Jim and I learned is that our grandchildren couldn't see the MS elephant."

"What they CAN see is Jim – "Grampy" – in a wheelchair. A wheelchair full of possibilities. A wheelchair that could take them places where only grandparents and grandchildren can go. So, it was because of how our grandchildren see Grampy, and don't see MS, that I decided to write a book for them – but, hopefully, for the rest of us as well."

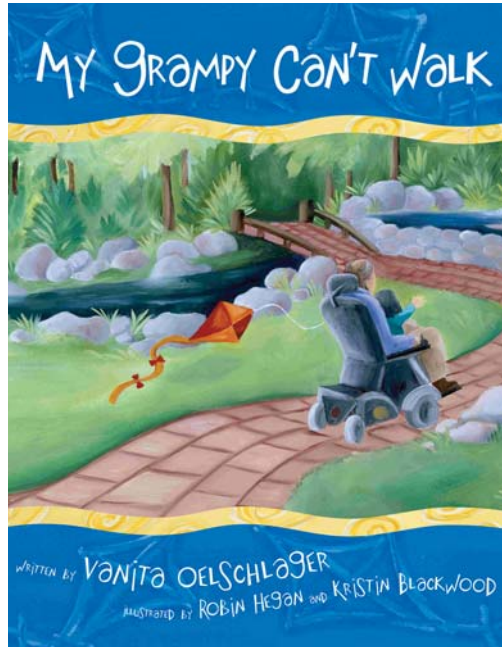
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**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.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATORS

**Robin Hegan** has many artistic talents but she enjoys illustrating children's books the most. She is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Integrative Arts. Robin resides in Pennsylvania with her husband and two daughters.

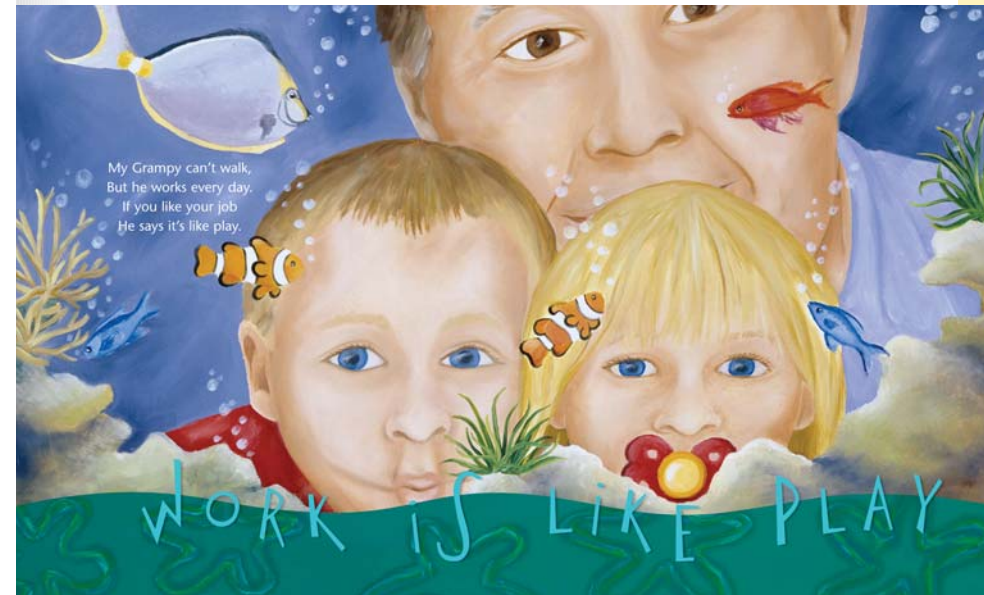
**Kristin Blackwood** is an experienced illustrator. She has a degree from Kent State University in Art History. In addition to teaching and her design work, Kristin enjoys being a mother to her two daughters.



## PRAISE

"Here's an upbeat story with a happy message. There is an authentic ring to Vanita Oelschlager's tale, and the illustrations are young and lively. 'Grampy', the hero of this story, soars!"

**Eric Carle** *Children's Book Author & Illustrator*



## SALES & MARKETING POINTS

Adults often have trouble explaining why someone is in a wheelchair or has some other disability. Through beautiful poetry and extraordinary illustration, *My Grampy Can't Walk* is a perfect instrument for explaining disabilities to children in a classroom or at home. It also enables older children to read about a disease like MS and understand that it is not as frightening as they think and that being in a wheelchair need not limit life's possibilities.

## MY GRAMPY CAN'T WALK

**AUTHOR:** Vanita Oelschlager  
**ILLUSTRATORS:** Robin Hegan, Kristin Blackwood

**HOMETOWN:** Akron, Ohio

### Trade Paperback

**ISBN:** 978-0-9800162-0-8

**PRICE:** \$9.95

**FIRST PRINT:** 5,000

**ON SALE:** March, 2008

### Hardcover

**ISBN:** 1-59624-015-6

**PRICE:** \$17.95

**FIRST PRINT:** 5,000

**ON SALE:** 2006

**HEIGHT:** 12

**WIDTH:** 10

**PAGES:** 36

**BISAC:** JUV015000

**BISAC 2:** JUV013030

**BISAC 3:** JUV039150

## INTENDED MARKETS

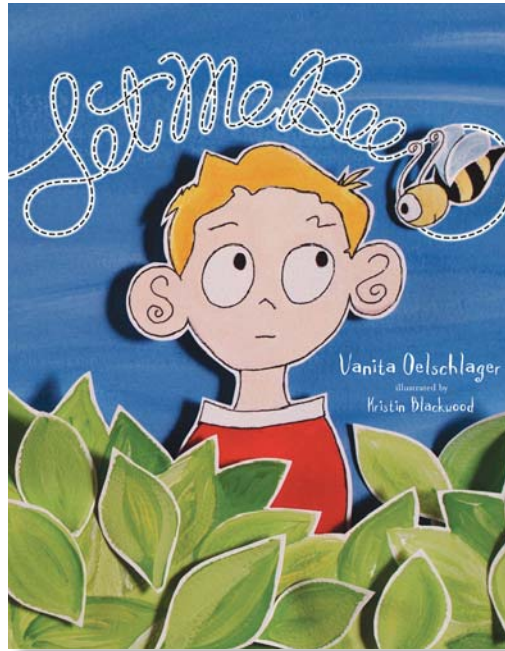
Children ages 4-8, in any setting. Home use, school, professional seminars, training/teaching groups, related support groups.



*For more information:*

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# Let Me Bee



## ABOUT THIS BOOK

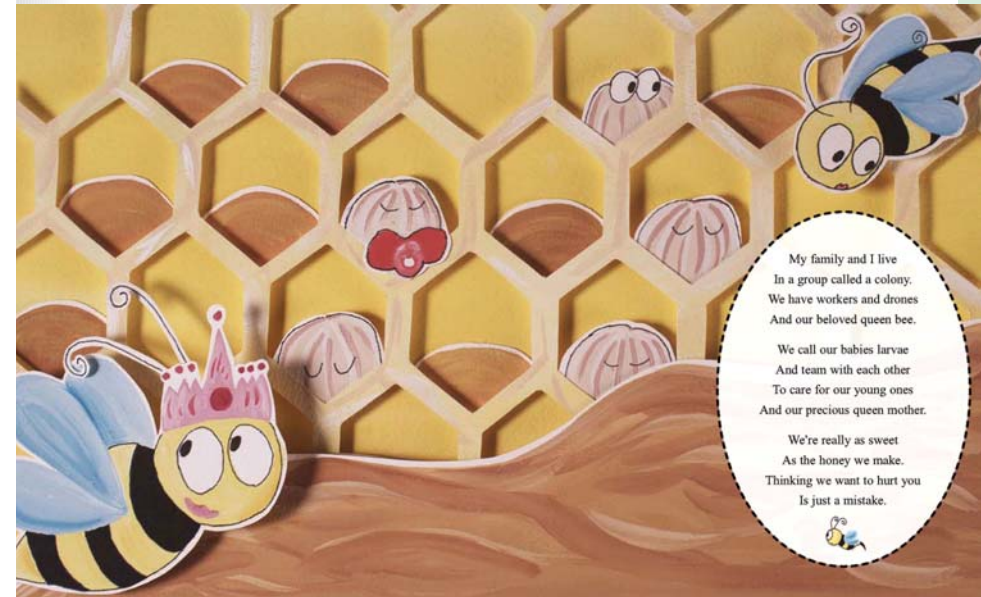
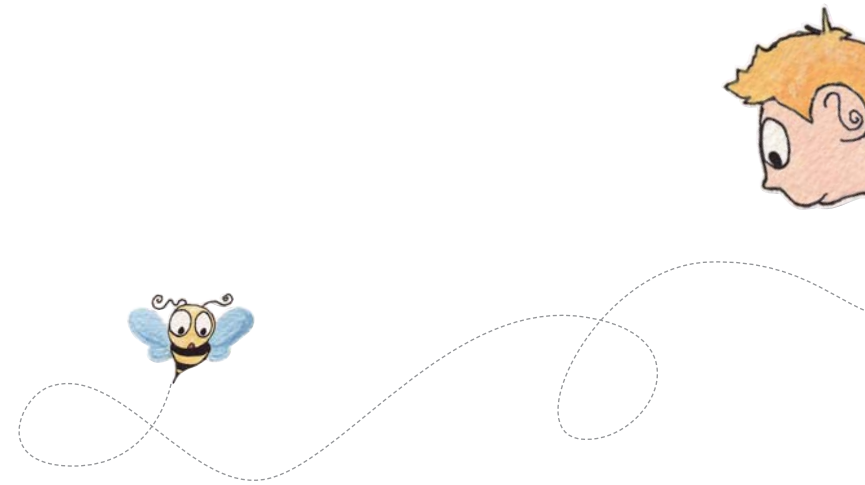
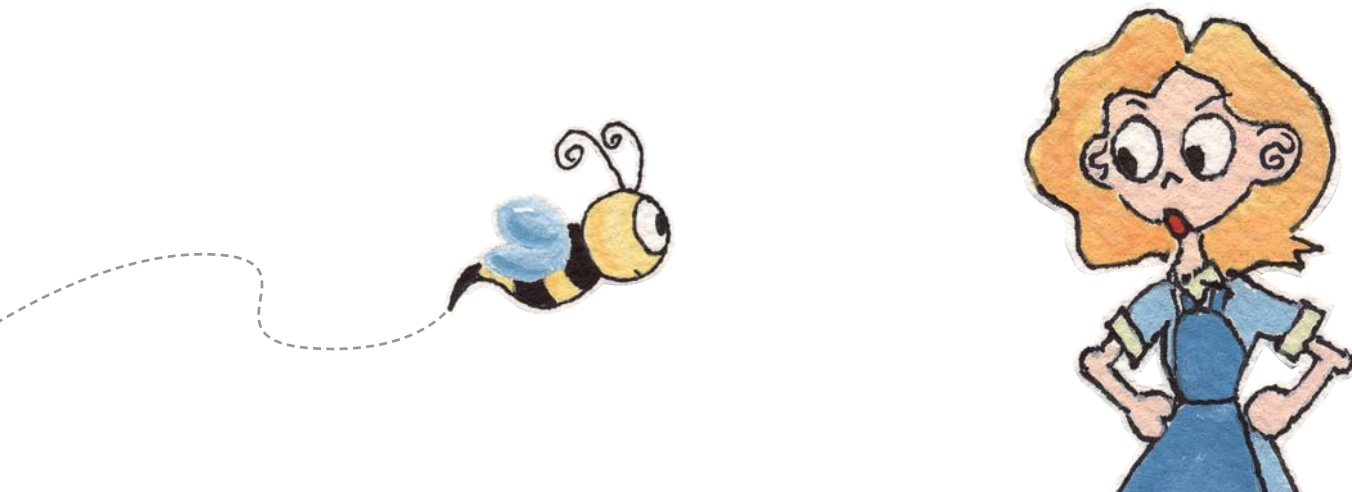
*Let Me Bee* is about unfounded fear and how children can reduce these anxieties as they learn and understand more about the source of their alarm. A little boy is, understandably, afraid of bees. “You don’t know how I feel when I see a bee and it seems like they always come straight after me!” But the bee responds, “I’m no wasp or hornet, I’m a sweet honeybee. I don’t think you’re seeing the actual me.” The dialogue continues as the boy and the bee learn about each other. Mom helps our little boy understand that there are many places to learn about bees. Together, Mom and bee help our boy overcome his fear and learn to enjoy the natural world.

## 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.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Kristin Blackwood** is an experienced illustrator. She has a degree from Kent State University in Art History. In addition to teaching and her design work, Kristin enjoys being a mother to her two daughters.



My family and I live  
In a group called a colony.  
We have workers and drones  
And our beloved queen bee.

We call our babies larvae  
And team with each other  
To care for our young ones  
And our precious queen mother.

We're really as sweet  
As the honey we make.  
Thinking we want to hurt you  
Is just a mistake.

## LET ME BEE

**AUTHOR:** Vanita Oelschlager  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Kristin Blackwood  
**HOMETOWN:** Akron, Ohio  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9800162-1-5  
**PRICE:** \$17.95  
**FORMAT:** Hardcover  
**HEIGHT:** 11.75  
**WIDTH:** 9.6875  
**FIRST PRINT:** 5,000  
**PAGES:** 40  
**ON SALE:** April, 2008  
**BISAC:** JUV002140  
**BISAC 2:** JUV039050

## INTENDED MARKETS

Children ages 4-8, in any setting. Prime markets include family time discussions, teacher training for lessons on fears, bees or for reading time and story time in grades pre-school thru 4th grade.

## SALES & MARKETING POINTS

- How parents can handle reasonable fears of a child.
- As told through the fears of a child, the story helps parents understand more clearly why their fear exists and how to help overcome it.
- Makes the “next time” a subject like this comes up much easier to resolve.
- Excellent school and class room lesson opportunity.
- Good subject for a library reading program matched with an expert on bees or bee stings.



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## What Pet Will I Get?

### ABOUT THIS BOOK

What parent hasn't heard their child say "I want a puppy, or a kitten?" Or he or she might want a more exotic pet like a ferret, snake, hamster, lizard, even a snail. How do you explain that your home may not be right for a pet? Still, parents often give in, deciding that caring for a pet helps teach responsibility. In this wonderful story the **kind** of pet is the surprise. It's told through the voice of a child hoping for the pet he's "wanted all his life." The reader shares our child's excitement as he imagines Mom coming home with a large pet. He is literally jumping with anticipation: "I've pictured this day / So long in my head / I'm so excited / I make my own bed."

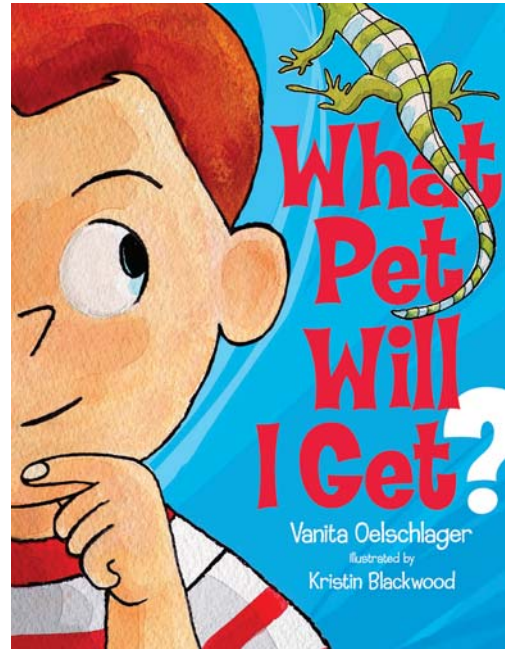
But when Mom comes home with only a single guppy our narrator is crushed – until he begins to actually find out more about guppies on his computer. Soon he begins to "decorate" the guppy's home and learns that his fish is more than a pet, but a new and wonderful part of his life. As the child realizes, "From my guppy I learned / Something important and true – / You can love any pet / If he's special to you."

### 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.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Kristin Blackwood** is an experienced illustrator. She has a degree from Kent State University in Art History. In addition to teaching and her design work, Kristin enjoys being a mother to her two daughters.



### PRAISE

"We love our pets, not for what we teach them, but for what they continually teach us. This boy learns to respect and value a pet he thought he didn't want. What a wonderful lesson and message!"

**Georjette Thomas** *One of A Kind Pet Rescue*



### SALES & MARKETING POINTS

- How parents can handle the ubiquitous "pet" question.
- As told through the eyes of a child, the story helps parents understand both sides of a difficult issue like getting a pet.
- How parents can handle a child's reaction to a disappointment.
- How to teach children that disappointments can be turned around and then bring happiness.
- How parents can compromise with a child that leaves everyone happy.
- Makes the "next time" that much easier.

### WHAT PET WILL I GET?

**AUTHOR:** Vanita Oelschlager  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Kristin Blackwood  
**HOMETOWN:** Akron, Ohio  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9800162-2-2  
**PRICE:** \$17.95  
**FORMAT:** Hardcover  
**HEIGHT:** 11  
**WIDTH:** 8.5  
**FIRST PRINT:** 5,000  
**PAGES:** 40  
**ON SALE:** April, 2008  
**BISAC:** JUV002190  
**BISAC 2:** JUV013000  
**BISAC 3:** JUV039220

### INTENDED MARKETS

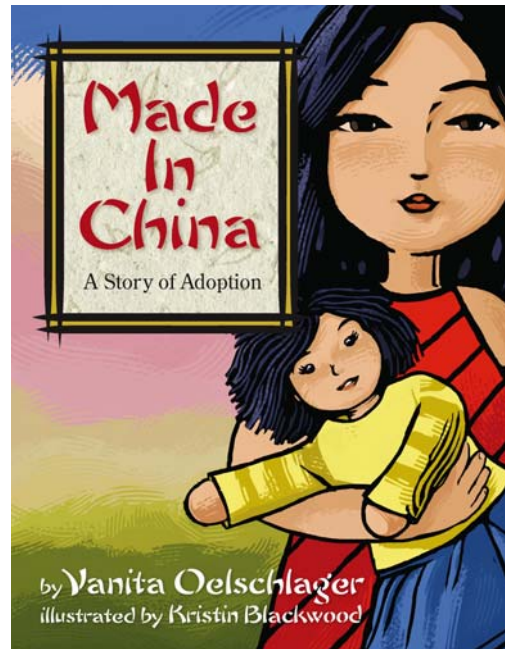
Children ages 4-8, in any setting. Prime markets include family time discussions, teacher training for lessons on pets, disappointment, or for reading time and story time in grades pre-school thru 4th grade.



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## Made In China



### ABOUT THIS BOOK

*Made In China* touches on two emotionally charged subjects – adoption and sibling relations. As told in this story, these are intertwined and very important to one young child who was “made in China.” The story begins when the child is teased by her older sister that she is adopted from China, and “marked” just like her broom and toys. Upset, she goes to her father who tells her how she came to be their child. But he says, “you’re not made like a toy, you were made in China to give us joy.” He also reminds her that “you are much more than what people say about you.” The story is resolved with her older sister and she is reassured that “in all the wide world we couldn’t love you more.”

### 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.

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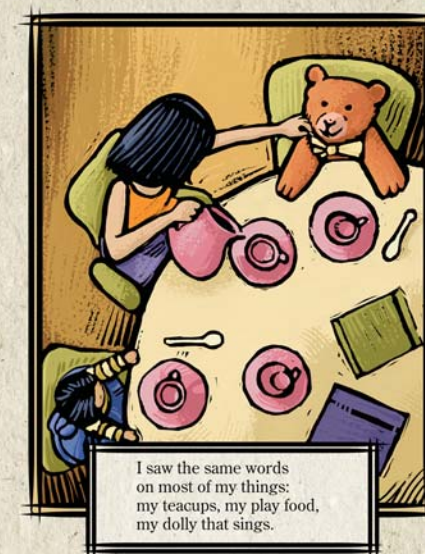
### PRAISE

“The best, and perhaps only real way to talk about adoption is through stories. Vanita Oelschlager and Kristin Blackwood are a remarkable mother – daughter team who have joined up to tell a great story that will be helpful to many. Every now and then, when



I tuck my son Benjamin into bed, we pull out a story and picture book to cap off the day. Benjamin is adopted from Korea and he frequently request one of the adoption stories that he has in his bookshelf. These are stories that embrace both truth and extraordinary love. This is the essence of *Made In China* as well. It is a book that needs to be in the bookshelves of every adoptive family.”

**Gary N. Gamer** *President & CEO, Holt International Children's Services*



### SALES & MARKETING POINTS

- How parents can handle adoption questions and issues between other children in the family.
- As told through the eyes of a child, the story helps parents understand both sides of a difficult issue like this one.
- How parents can handle child’s reaction to teasing and fear of abandonment.

### MADE IN CHINA

**AUTHOR:** Vanita Oelschlager  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Kristin Blackwood  
**HOMETOWN:** Akron, Ohio  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9800162-3-9  
**PRICE:** \$17.95  
**FORMAT:** Hardcover  
**HEIGHT:** 11  
**WIDTH:** 8.5  
**FIRST PRINT:** 5,000  
**PAGES:** 32  
**ON SALE:** April, 2008  
**BISAC:** JUV013010  
**BISAC 2:** JUV030020  
**BISAC 3:** JUV013070

### INTENDED MARKETS

Children ages 4-8, in any setting. Prime markets include family time discussions, teacher training for lessons on adoption, sibling rivalry, or for reading time and story time in grades pre-school thru 4th grade.



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# Mother Goose, Other Goose

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

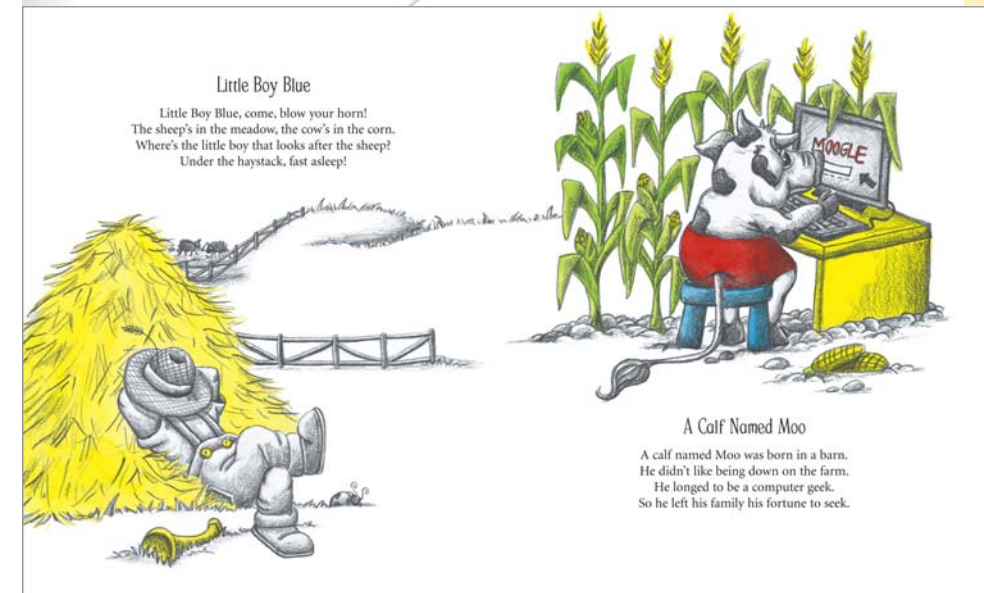
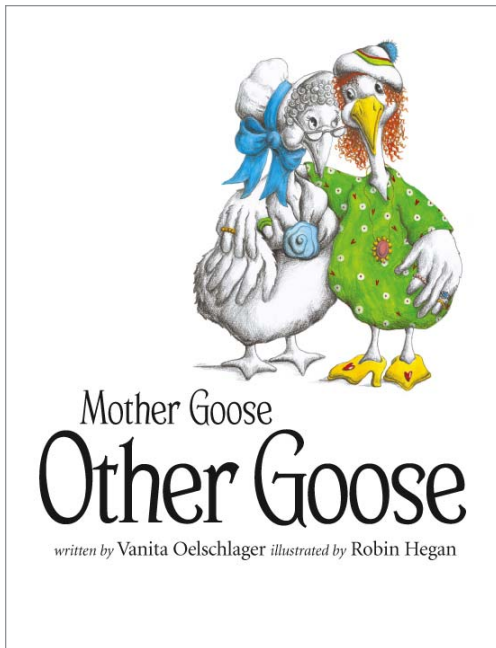
*Mother Goose, Other Goose* is both a fun twist on the traditional rhymes of Mother Goose and a teaching tool. Each page is designed to help children learn to create rhymes and rhythms. The book provides the original verse, and a sample, new, funny twist on that rhyme. Children are then urged to create their own *Mother Goose, Other Goose* rhymes. Parents will enjoy this book because it will remind them of the classic rhymes they grew up with and children will enjoy the funny twists on each rhyme that Vanita creates with her unique and playful style. The readers can learn to explore their own creativity. Children will enjoy making up their own other goose rhymes time and time again.

## 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.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Robin Hegan** has many artistic talents but she enjoys illustrating children's books the most. She is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Integrative Arts. Robin resides in Pennsylvania with her husband and two daughters.



## SALES & MARKETING POINTS

- Parents can share a treasured memory with their children.
- Excellent school and class room lesson opportunity.
- Good subject for a library reading program matched with fun and subjects that require rhythm such as music.

## MOTHER GOOSE, OTHER GOOSE

**AUTHOR:** Vanita Oelschlager  
**ILLUSTRATORS:** Robin Hegan  
**HOMETOWN:** Akron, Ohio  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9800162-6-0  
**PRICE:** \$17.95  
**FORMAT:** Hardcover  
**HEIGHT:** 11  
**WIDTH:** 8.5  
**FIRST PRINT:** 5,000  
**PAGES:** 32  
**ON SALE:** October, 2008  
**BISAC:** JNF042020  
**BISAC 2:** JNF045000  
**BISAC 3:** JNF013000

## INTENDED MARKETS

Children age 4-8, in any setting. Prime markets include family time discussions, teacher training for lessons on the importance of music and rhythm. Also for reading time and story time in grades pre-school-4th grade.



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# Big Blue

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

*Big Blue* is a cautionary tale for all of us, but especially children who may not realize that their actions can have unexpected consequences. Big Blue is a happy bird, and member of a large family that spends their winters in the warm south. Big Blue gets lazy though and instead of working, he lies about eating and sleeping. Soon, the flock leaves – but Blue is too fat and heavy to go, so he spends the winter cold, but working hard just to survive on his own. He soon learns that hard work has its rewards because he is now strong, fit and the *leader of the flock*.

## 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.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Kristin Blackwood** is an experienced illustrator. She has a degree from Kent State University in Art History. In addition to teaching and her design work, Kristin enjoys being a mother to her two daughters.

## PRAISE

“With childhood obesity becoming such a major public health issue, how wonderful to see the story of *Big Blue* come along. Overweight children are not only at higher risk of multiple, typically adult diseases, they tend to have more self-esteem problems as well. This engaging book offers parents a sensitive and thoughtful way to talk with their children about developing healthier eating and exercise habits. I would recommend this book to any parent or teacher.”

**Keith Ruppel, MD** *Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics*



## BIG BLUE

**AUTHOR:** Vanita Oelschlager  
**ILLUSTRATORS:** Kristin Blackwood  
**HOMETOWN:** Akron, Ohio  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9800162-5-3  
**PRICE:** \$17.95  
**FORMAT:** Hardcover  
**HEIGHT:** 11  
**WIDTH:** 8.5  
**FIRST PRINT:** 5,000  
**PAGES:** 32  
**ON SALE:** October, 2008  
**BISAC:** JNF003030  
**BISAC 2:** JNF024040  
**BISAC 3:** JNF051000

## INTENDED MARKETS

Children age 4-8, in any setting. Prime markets include family time discussions, teacher training for lessons on the importance of doing chores and being responsible, or for reading time and story time in grades pre-school-4th grade.

## SALES & MARKETING POINTS

- Parents will buy the book to promote happy healthy lifestyles in their families.
- The book is funny, but also broaches the ever increasing problem of childhood obesity. Childhood is where we need to introduce the foundations that create healthy lives.
- Teachers may use this book for both healthy eating and nature units that will be available at VanitaBooks.com.
- How parents can handle childhood laziness through a positive story.
- Makes the “next time” a subject like this comes up much easier to resolve.
- Excellent school and class room lesson opportunity.
- Good subject for a library reading program matched with an expert on child psychology.



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 toll free: 888-558-2638

# Francesca

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

Francesca is a little girl literally ahead of her time: Francesca wants to be grown up, but doesn't realize how precious the experience of childhood can be. She's only a child but she "thinks about being grown up all day and all night" and spends too much time inside fantasizing about what she wants to become. Francesca is impatient to become an astronaut, a movie or rock star, a teacher or a cheerleader. However, her neighbor Mrs. Pinkler helps her to understand that she needs experiences gained as you grow, she tells her, "don't miss out on everything in the middle. There is something magical about being little." Francesca has a wonderful imagination and is full of life but her neighbor wants to make sure she not only has the chance to achieve her dreams but also to play and have fun with kids her own age.

## 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.

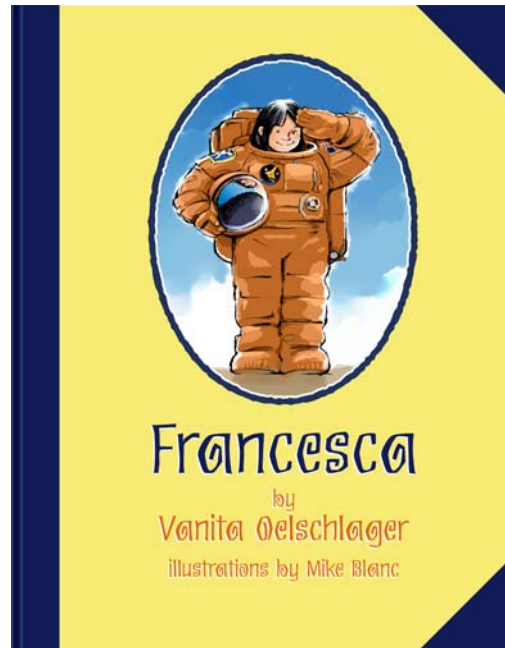
## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Mike Blanc** is a life-long professional artist. His artwork has illuminated countless publications for both corporate and public interests, worldwide. Mike contributes creative direction and illustration. He lives with his wife, Gail, in sunny Doylestown, Ohio. They enjoy their four children, and five grandkids.

## PRAISE

"Wow! This is a beautiful and necessary book. Vanita reminds us how sometimes children (with help from overanxious parents) can forget the most important part of childhood, which is to play. During play children learn about themselves and their world, how to make friends and cope with the ups and downs of their lives. I give *Francesca* a lot of thumbs up!"

**Dr. Ivonne H. Hobfoll** *Child Psychologist*



Francesca knew if she grew up this minute  
she could be a rock star  
and sing in ways  
that were really bizarre.  
She could die her hair green or purple or pink.  
She could wear high heeled shoes and a coat made of mink.



How, Francesca, can you be a hard rocker  
if at first you don't jam in your room,  
with the music blaring and your friends hair frizzing  
holding a microphone made from a broom?

## SALES & MARKETING POINTS

- How parents can handle childhood expectations without discouraging them.
- As told through the eyes of a child, the story helps parents understand more clearly why a child may fantasize and why this is not always a bad thing.
- Makes the "next time" a subject like this comes up much easier to resolve.
- Excellent school and class room lesson opportunity. How? This helps young children feel strong, particularly empowering young girls.
- Good subject for a library reading program matched with an expert on child psychology.

## FRANCESCA

**AUTHOR:** Vanita Oelschlager

**ILLUSTRATORS:** Mike Blanc

**HOMETOWN:** Akron, Ohio

**ISBN:** 978-0-9800162-4-6

**PRICE:** \$17.95

**FORMAT:** Hardcover

**HEIGHT:** 11

**WIDTH:** 8.5

**FIRST PRINT:** 5,000

**PAGES:** 32

**ON SALE:** October, 2008

**BISAC:** JNF053160

**BISAC 2:** JNF053050

**BISAC 3:** JNF053000

## INTENDED MARKETS

Children age 4-8, in any setting. Prime markets include family time discussions, teacher training for lessons on childhood behavior, children's life goals, or for reading time and story time in grades pre-school-4th grade.



*For more information:*

Karen Strauss

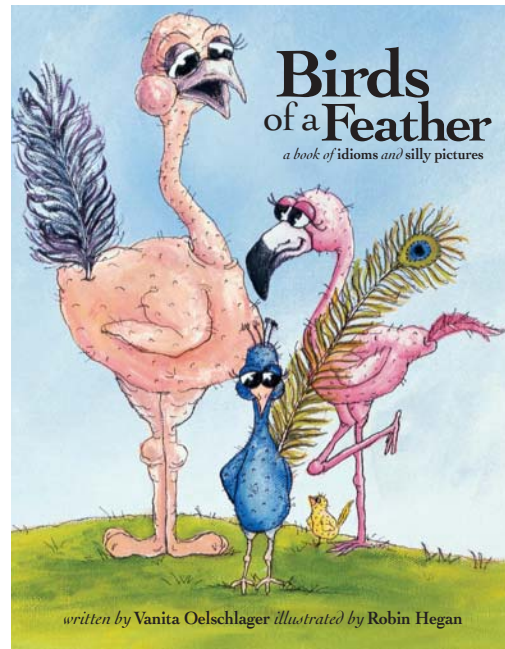
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## Birds of a Feather



### ABOUT THIS BOOK

Children are innately curious about words, especially phrases that make them laugh (“Ants in your pants!”), sound silly (“Barking up the wrong tree” or “Goosebumps”) or trigger images that tickle a child’s sense of the absurd (“Like a bull in a china shop”). *Birds of a Feather* introduces children to the magic of idioms – words that separately have one meaning, but together take on something entirely different.

*Birds of a Feather* introduces idioms with outlandish illustrations of what the words describe literally. The reader then has to guess the “real” meaning of the phrases (which is upside down in the corner of each spread). At the end of the book, the reader is invited to learn more about these figures of speech.

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### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

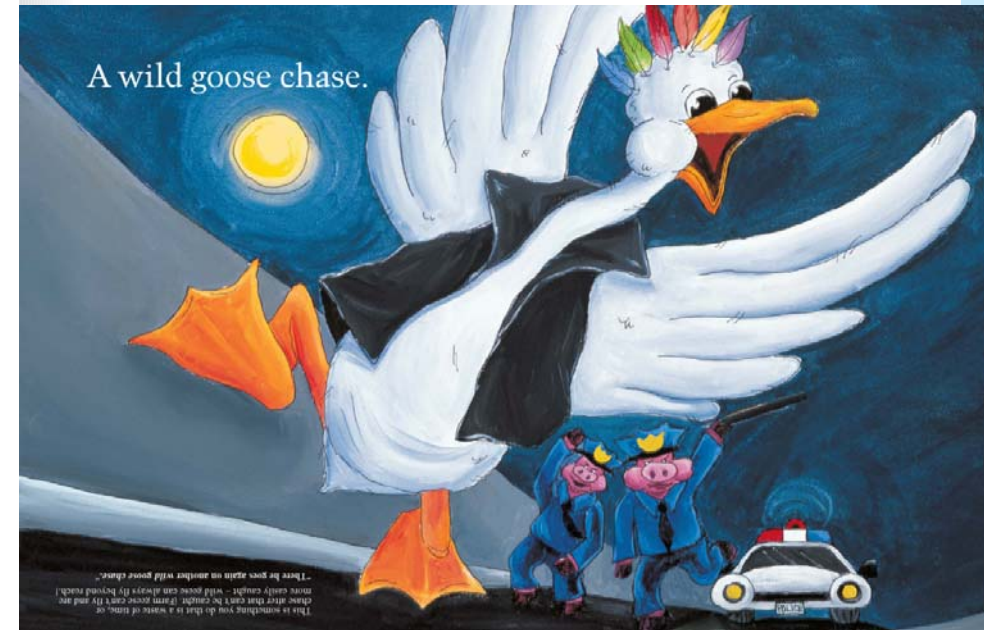
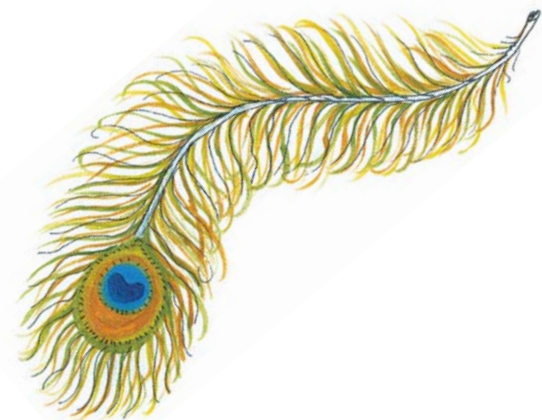
**Robin Hegan** has many artistic talents but she enjoys illustrating children’s books the most. She is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Integrative Arts. Robin resides in Pennsylvania with her husband and two daughters.

### PRAISE

“This book helps children have fun with language by learning about idioms. Vanita Oelschlager and Robin Hegan have *taken the bull by the horns* with their words and illustrations in showing how common phrases started meaning one thing and now mean another. By the end, *Birds of a Feather* had me *tickled pink!*”

### Cinda Dehner

NBPT (National Board Professional Teacher)  
Library Media Specialist  
Twinsburg, Ohio Schools



### SALES & MARKETING POINTS

Children learn how to have fun with language, plus how words can evolve from one meaning to something entirely different. This book is a good tool for group discussions, as well as for individual creative time. Children and parents who like other VanitaBooks will want this one also.



### FRANCESCA

**AUTHOR:** Vanita Oelschlager  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Robin Hegan  
**HOMETOWN:** Akron, Ohio  
**ISBN:** 978-0-9800162-8-4  
**PRICE:** \$17.95  
**FORMAT:** Hardcover  
**HEIGHT:** 11  
**WIDTH:** 8.5  
**FIRST PRINT:** 3,000  
**PAGES:** 32  
**ON SALE:** Spring, 2009  
**BISAC:** JNF029000  
**BISAC 2:** JNF028000  
**BISAC 3:** JNF013000

### INTENDED MARKETS

Children, ages 4-8, in any setting. Prime markets include family time discussions, teacher training for lessons on vocabulary and creative writing, or for reading time and story time in grades pre-school-4.



### For more information:

Karen Strauss  
Strauss Consultants  
212-913-9894  
sales@straussconsultants.com  
toll free: 888-558-2638

## Ivy in Bloom

### ABOUT THIS BOOK

*Ivy In Bloom* captures the weariness of a young girl tired of a long winter. “I stare out the window,” she says on the first spread of brown and gray, “looking for birds or flowers/or even warm showers/ but I don’t see any such thing.” But then Spring comes when “March is out of breath...snow melting to flowery waters and watery flowers...spring rose from its wintry rest.” And Ivy’s “heart dances with daffodils.” As these words also dance across each spread, Ivy’s world erupts into a riot of color.

*Ivy In Bloom* introduces the poetry of Dickinson, Longfellow, Browning, Wordsworth, Frost and others. Excerpts from their writings, as seen through Ivy’s eyes, will open up poetry as a way for children to express their own feelings about the changing of seasons. This book includes longer excerpts and brief bios of each author.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

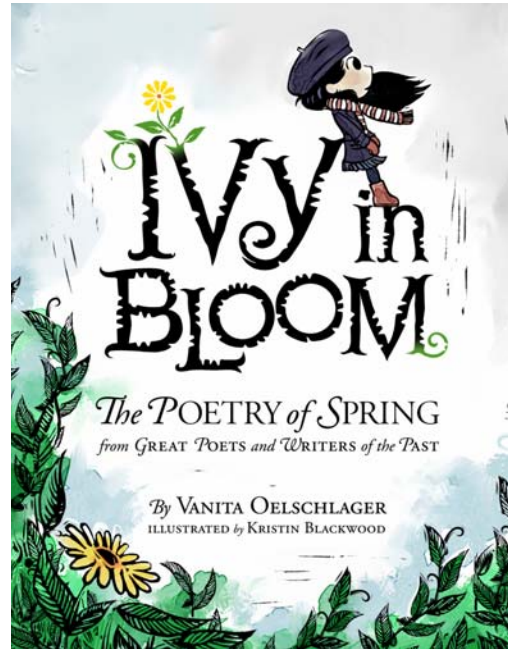
**Vanita Oelschlager** is a wife, mother, grandmother, philanthropist, former teacher, current caregiver, author, and poet. She is a graduate of Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio, where she currently serves as a Trustee. Vanita is also Writer In Residence for the Literacy Program at The University of Akron.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Kristin Blackwood** is an experienced illustrator. She has a degree from Kent State University in Art History. In addition to teaching and her design work, Kristin enjoys being a mother to her two daughters.

### PRAISE

“Vanita Oelschlager and Kristin Blackwood have created one of the most memorable visual explorations of great poets and writers for children. Through Oelschlager’s inventive writing technique, the initial narrative passage introduces Ivy and then the remainder of the story is told through the selected verse from poets and writers such as Dickinson, Whittier, Whitman and Milne. Detailed renderings of their timeless works can then be found in the back of the book.



Children, parents, teachers and librarians will enjoy this fresh approach as the change of seasons introduces great poets and writers. Recommended for all children’s collections and for all little ones who find it hard to wait patiently on winter days so they can once again jump, skip and run under sunny spring skies!”

**Carolyn S. Brodie, PhD**

Professor, Kent State University  
School of Library and Information Science



### SALES & MARKETING POINTS

Children learn through reading how others have approached a task like writing poems. This book shows how a child can express their feelings in rhyme about a subject that is important to them. Children and parents who like other VanitaBooks will want this one also.



### FRANCESCA

**AUTHOR:** Vanita Oelschlager

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Kristin Blackwood

**HOMETOWN:** Akron, Ohio

**ISBN:** 978-0-9800162-7-7

**PRICE:** \$17.95

**FORMAT:** Hardcover

**HEIGHT:** 11

**WIDTH:** 8.5

**FIRST PRINT:** 3,000

**PAGES:** 40

**ON SALE:** Spring, 2009

**BISAC:** JNF042000

**BISAC 2:** JNF045000

**BISAC 3:** JNF013000

### INTENDED MARKETS

Children, ages 4-8, in any setting. Prime markets include family time discussions, teacher training for lessons on poetry, or for reading time and story time in grades pre-school-4.



*For more information:*

Karen Strauss

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## The Creative Team



**Vanita Oelschlager** is a wife, mother, grandmother, former teacher, caregiver, author and poet. She is a graduate of Mount Union College, where she is currently a member of the Board of Trustees. She was named “Writer in Residence” for the Literacy Program at The University of Akron in 2007.



**Kristin Blackwood** is an experienced illustrator. She has a degree from Kent State University in Art History. In addition to teaching and her design work, Kristin enjoys being a mother to her two daughters.



**Robin Hegan** has many artistic talents but she enjoys illustrating children’s books the most. She is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Integrative Arts. Robin resides in Pennsylvania with her husband and two daughters.



**Mike Blanc** is a life-long professional artist. His artwork has illuminated countless publications for both corporate and public interests, worldwide. Mike contributes creative direction and illustration. He lives with his wife, Gail, in sunny Doylestown, Ohio. They enjoy their four children, and five grandkids.



**Jennie Levy Smith** is an art director and graphic designer. She has been creating award-winning work for more than 20 years recognized for its distinctiveness and effectiveness. Jennie has a B.F.A. in Graphic Design from The University of Akron. Her two daughters are a constant source of inspiration.



VanitaBooks, LLC