



# Letter from Katie

Hey Everyone!

It's me, Katie Carew. But you can call me Katie Kazoo. All of my very best friends do. And that includes you, because you're in the Katie Kazoo Classroom Crew!

Can you believe we're back in school already? I am soooo excited! My new notebooks and folders look so clean and neat—I haven't drawn one doodle on them yet!

Right now, everyone in class 4A is buzzing about our newest learning adventure. No, the magic wind hasn't turned me into a bee . . . yet! I just mean that we're really excited because we're having a spelling bee tomorrow. You can have your own Katie Kazoo spelling bee, too. Everything you need to have a honey of a bee is right here in this Classroom Crew Kit. And the best part is, all the words come right from the *Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo* books.

The super spelling fun doesn't have to stop when the spelling bee's over, either. Check out the cool sign language alphabet chart in this Classroom Crew Kit. After you memorize how to make all the letters with your hands, you and your friends will be able to talk to each other—without making a sound!

There are other surprises coming your way in this kit, too. What are they? You'll just have to wait and see. The Classroom Crew kit activities are kind of like the magic wind. They'll arrive when you least expect them!

Have Fun!

## Katie Kazoo



# KATIE KAZOO, SWITCHEROO

Dear Teacher:

Welcome to a whole new year of activities, projects, and programs centered around the *Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo* series. It's all for the fun of it, but you'll find plenty of learning tucked inside our Classroom Crew kits, too.

In this packet, we are starting students off with a journal keeping activity that will last throughout the entire school year. Each of the kits that follow will offer prompts for ongoing reader response and creative writing that will inspire students to keep adding to their journals. We have also enclosed two very innovative ideas to help students sharpen their spelling skills. The first is an opportunity to learn a sign language alphabet and the second is a new-fashioned spelling bee. There's also school yard fun with jump rope rhymes, a great arts & crafts activity, and a "talk about" section to get Katie readers talking to each other about the books they enjoy.

**You'll find that each activity has a curriculum connection:**

- My Very Own Katie Kazoo Journal – x2  
*Language Arts – Responding to Literature and Creative Writing*
- Sign It, Don't Say It!  
*Communication Skills*
- The Katie Kazoo Spelling Bee  
*Spelling*
- Katie's Jump Rope Games  
*Physical Education*
- It's Hat Day, Suzanne Lock  
*Art*
- Talk About ...  
*Communication Skills; Cooperative Learning;  
Responding to Literature*



**Also included in the kit are the following reproducibles:**

- Instructions for making "My Very Own Katie Kazoo Journal"
- Sign Language Alphabet Chart
- Spelling Bee word list
- Hat Award Certificate

# My Very Own Katie Kazoo Journal – x2

Reading is the best way we know to get people thinking and imagining. What's more, reading also helps us to become writers.

Nancy Krulik, the author of the Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo books, tells us:

*I am a ferocious reader—there's always a pile of books on my night stand just waiting to be read. I'm especially into biographies of famous people. Even though I usually know the important things these people have accomplished, it's always fun to find out what people like Benjamin Franklin or Walt Disney were like as children or in their private lives. I also love reading mystery novels, although I have to fight the urge to turn right to the end of the book to find out who the bad guy is. That's how I want my readers to feel about my books, too. If you read the Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo books carefully, you'll notice that I like to end each chapter with just a little bit of a cliffhanger—something that will make you want to read on. My hope is that the books are so exciting that kids will want to read them all night, hiding under their blankets with a flashlight the way I used to when I was a kid. (Now that I'm a grown-up there's no one to tell me to close the book and go to sleep!)*

Bet you didn't realize it, but the last time you read a Katie Kazoo book, you weren't only enjoying yourself, you were also discovering things about how to tell a story; how to describe a place; how to introduce a character; and as Nancy Krulik says, how to hook a reader so that she or he keeps on turning the pages.

It will be fun to keep track of your thoughts as you read the books in the *Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo* series. And the start of the school year is the perfect time to begin.

Take a notebook and make a spectacular, personal cover for it. Actually, make two covers, because this reading/writing journal will have two starting places. We've provided you with instructions for making your two-sided journal.

Once you have your journal in hand, here's how to use it throughout the school year. One side will be the place in which you keep track of the books you read and your responses to them. Your responses can take any form you like. In the activity kits we send, we'll suggest different kinds of responses. For your first entry, how about starting with a letter to one of your friends, telling him/her what you thought of the book you've just read.

The other side of the journal will be where you write your own stories and adventures—stimulated by Katie's tales. For example, Katie's experience with the Bayside Boys in *Bad Rap* might inspire you to write lyrics to a song. Her adventures at science camp in *Get Lost!* might inspire you to write a mystery set in the woods. Just let the books get your imagination and creative juices flowing. Just the way Nancy Krulik does.



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# How to Make Your Very Own Katie Kazoo Journal – x2

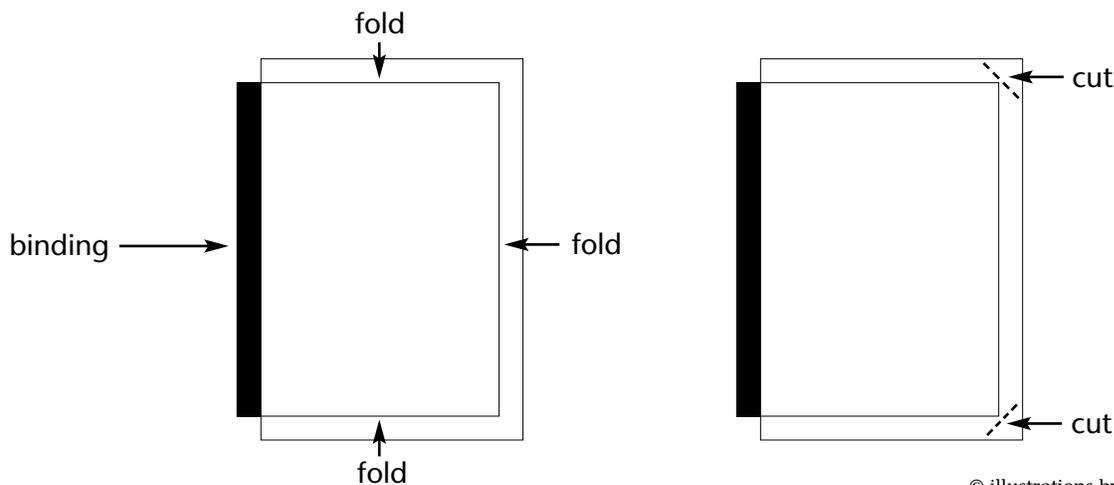
To make a two-sided writing journal you'll need:

- An unlined blank 8 x 10 composition notebook
- Two sheets of white glossy drawing paper cut to 10 x 14 inches
- White glue
- Colorful markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Ruler

How to Make the Covers:

1. Place one sheet of paper, vertically, on the notebook so that the long edge is up against the side of the book's binding. Make sure that the paper overhangs the sides of the book equally. (See illustration 1)
2. Gently crease the paper around the edging of the book. Then set the book aside.
3. Fold down the creased lines.
4. Draw a diagonal line in the upper and lower right hand corners of the paper, where the creases overlap. (See illustration 2)
5. With your scissors cut along the drawn line.
6. Place white glue on the flaps of the paper and carefully glue them to the inside front cover of the notebook.
7. Turn the book over and repeat steps 1-6 to create the back cover.
8. Now its time to decorate! Be sure to label both sides of your new journal. On the front cover write "Katie Kazoo Response Journal" and on the back write "My Creative Writing Journal."

**Note:** Be sure to divide the pages of the notebook evenly. A good way to do this is to open the notebook to the middle and fold one of the pages in half so that you can easily identify where one section ends and another begins.



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# Sign It, Don't Say It

In *Karate Katie*, Suzanne gets a very bad sore throat and can't speak. Jessica tells the girls: "Ms. Sweet said that since Suzanne couldn't talk, she is going to teach us how to spell in American Sign Language. It's the language some deaf people use to talk to each other. Ms. Sweet has a chart that shows us how to make all the letters with our hands."

"That's cool," Emma W. said. "Maybe you could teach Katie and me how to do sign language, too. We can all sign to one another. It will be like our secret code."

Just like Suzanne, we've provided a Sign Language Alphabet chart so that you and the members of your Katie Kazoo Classroom Crew can learn the letters and sign messages to each other.

It's important to practice, not only making the letters and spelling out words, but "listening" to someone else spell out words.

Start with your name. Practice until you can do it quickly, without looking at the chart. Then open any of the *Katie Kazoo*, *Switcheroo* books and slowly try to sign a sentence. When you and all of your pals perfect this, you really will have a secret language for your crew!



© illustrations by John and Wendy

# The Sign Language Alphabet



# The Katie Kazoo Spelling Bee



Spelling Bees are all the rage, and your crew can have its own special bee using words found in the *Katie Kazoo*, *Switcheroo* books. We've modified the rules a bit, so here's how your bee will work.

We've provided 58 words on individual cards as a starting place for your bee. For each word, we've provided a sentence or two—taken right out of the *Katie Kazoo*, *Switcheroo* books—to help the speller remember the word in context. Your teacher has a list of the words, too, so all of you will have a chance to prepare for the bee.

Before you begin, select someone from your group to be the “bee-keeper.” He/she will read out the words, while each of the spellers takes a turn. Each speller must repeat the word before spelling it and can ask the keeper to read the sentence. The speller has one minute to try spelling the word. If it is spelled correctly, he/she goes to the back of the line and waits for another turn. If the word is spelled incorrectly, the player sits down and the keeper spells it out loud. Everyone should listen and learn the correct spelling. That word may just come ‘round again, if all of the cards are used and there are still players left.

To add some special flair to your “bee”, students who wish to, can spell out words using the sign language alphabet learned in the previous activity. No extra points will be given for this, but there is sure to be some added fun!

You might also want to add some of your own words to the *Katie Kazoo* Spelling Bee, so we have included some extra cards. Make sure the words and sentences come from a *Katie Kazoo*, *Switcheroo* book.

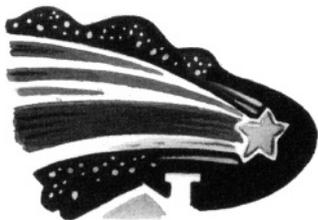


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# Katie Kazoo Spelling Bee Word List

Below are the lists of words that will be used for the spelling bee. The more you study them, the better you'll do.

articles	formula	precious
auditorium	freckles	puffed
bleachers	frilly	recipes
blouse	gazillion	rodents
breeze	helmet	scribbling
camera	honeymoon	siesta
ceiling	hopscotch	skeleton
Cherrydale	humor	sleepover
chocolate	impatient	sleigh
chorus	invisible	slumped
cinnamon	karate	spaniel
clarinet	knickers	squinted
comedians	ladder	stomach
competitions	leopard	tornado
confused	ordinary	traffic
disgusting	panic	trash
exhausted	perfume	trouble
familiar	petunias	vegetarian
forehead	practice	whipping
		yodeling



Katie Kazoo  
Spelling  
Bee



Katie Kazoo  
Spelling  
Bee



Katie Kazoo  
Spelling  
Bee



Katie Kazoo  
Spelling  
Bee



Katie Kazoo  
Spelling  
Bee



Katie Kazoo  
Spelling  
Bee



Katie Kazoo  
Spelling  
Bee



Katie Kazoo  
Spelling  
Bee



## Spaniel

Katie Carew bent down and kissed her cocker spaniel, Pepper, on the nose.

(Book 6, page 1)

## Panic

The kids were starting to panic. Katie had to do something to calm them down.

(Book 6, page 46)

## Exhausted

"I'm exhausted," Katie said as she flopped down on the bottom bunk.

(Book 6, page 27)

## Impatient

Mrs. Derkman was yelling at the movers. She sounded angry and impatient.

(Book 8, page 11)

## Leopard

Becky looked at Suzanne's leopard-print shirt. It had fake fur on the cuffs.

(Book 7, page 16)

## Perfume

"P. U. What's that smell?" George held his nose. Suzanne rolled her eyes. "That's perfume."

(Book 7, page 65)

## Chocolate

Katie tells Jeremy, "I can't believe you gave up a whole bag of chocolate kisses. They looked delicious."

(Book 15, page 5)

## Cinnamon

Katie licked her lips. "Cinnamon's Candy Shop has the best lollipops."

(Book 15, page 5)

## Scribbling

Mandy took a piece of paper from the counter and began scribbling down her message.

(Book 15, page 37)

## Tornado

The magic wind grew stronger and stronger, blowing all around Katie like a tornado.

(A Whirlwind Vacation, Super Special, page 72)

## Knickers

Sweaters were called jumpers, and underpants were called knickers.

(A Whirlwind Vacation, Super Special, page 9)

## Honeymoon

The Fishmans were on their honeymoon.

(A Whirlwind Vacation, Super Special, page 7)

## Sleepover

“But Jeremy, it’s a sleepover!” Katie insisted, describing Suzanne’s party. “Boys can’t come.”

(Book 4, page 7)

## Camera

Annabelle reached down and pulled a yellow cardboard camera from her pocketbook. “I’ll just take a few pictures,” she said.

(A Whirlwind Vacation, Super Special, page 19)

## Siesta

“I sure am ready for my siesta, now. ... My siesta. That’s a mid-afternoon rest.”

(A Whirlwind Vacation, Super Special, page 90)

## Frilly

“Next thing you know, you’ll be putting on a frilly nightgown and going to Suzanne’s dumb old sleep-over party,” George said.

(Book 4, page 35)

## Articles

“Are all the articles for this week’s 3A *Times* written yet,” Suzanne asked.

(Book 3, page 5)

## Invisible

What if the magic wind made me invisible this time, thought Katie.

(Book 3, page 30)

## Formula

Katie licked a drip of sticky baby formula from her lip.

(Book 3, page 40)

## Cherrydale

“No one at Cherrydale Elementary School knows more about fashion than I do,” Suzanne said.

(Book 17, page 4)

## Disgusting

*Now what?* Katie thought nervously. *I can’t do this. I don’t want to touch that disgusting meat.*

(Book 2, page 30)

## Vegetarian

“My mom said we could try making some of your vegetarian recipes in our kitchen,” Suzanne said.

(Book 17, page 25)

## Recipes

These easy-to-make lunch recipes are favorites of the kids in room 3A.

(Book 2, page 73)

## Auditorium

Katie ran out of the auditorium as fast as Nellie Farrow’s feet would carry her.

(Book 17, page 63)

## Rodents

“Snakes eat rodents and guinea pigs are just big rodents,” Andy Epstein said.

(Book 17, page 70)

## Hopscotch

“Come on, Hurry up!” Suzanne urged Katie. “Let’s see if we can get to the hopscotch game before the fourth-graders do!”

(Book 2, page 10)

## Trouble

Keeping a whole class of third-graders busy and out of trouble wasn’t easy.

(Book 11, page 54)

## Precious

“This room is filled with precious and semiprecious gems,” Mr. Weir told the class at the museum.

(Book 12, page 29)

## Forehead

More sweat built up on Mr. Weir’s forehead.

(Book 12, page 34)

## Familiar

Slowly, Katie opened her eyes. She looked around. The room was very familiar.

(Book 11, page 36)

## Blouse

She was wearing a black skirt that just covered her knees, and a long-sleeved white blouse. Katie would never wear boring clothes like that.

(Book 11, page 37)

## Skeleton

“The sign says here that none of the dinosaur skeletons in this room are real,” Kevin said.

(Book 12, page 46)

## Confused

Katie was really confused. How could this have happened? People didn't just turn into hamsters.

(Book 1, page 29)

## Squinted

Katie sat up slowly and rubbed the sleep from her eyes. She squinted at the clock on her wall.

(Book 1, page 22)

## Whipping

The wind was definitely blowing. Katie could feel it whipping through her thick, orange fur.

(Book 2, page 47)

## Gazillion

Katie, Miriam, Mandy and Manny heard Suzanne give the same Cleopatra speech about a gazillion times in the past two weeks.

(Book 7, page 11)

## Petunias

"Katie! Be careful. You almost stepped on my petunias!" Mrs. Derkman shouted.

(Book 8, page 35)

## Sleigh

A big sleigh, pulled by electric reindeer, sat on the roof right beside Santa.

(A Katie Kazoo Christmas, page 10)

## Yodeling

But rather than just reading about Switzerland, the kids in class 4A were standing on a hill in the field behind the school practicing yodeling.

(Book 14, page 2)

## Traffic

Cars moved through the streets. Drivers honked their horns as the traffic grew thicker and thicker.

(A Katie Kazoo Christmas, page 56)

## Slumped

Katie folded her arms and slumped back into her chair.

(Book 14, page 34)

## Ladder

Mrs. Carew was standing on a ladder, putting books on a high shelf.

(A Katie Kazoo Christmas, page 171)

## Ceiling

The classroom ceiling had been decorated with kites that were hanging from the light fixtures.

(Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade, Super Special, page 27)

## Comedians

Mr. Guthrie started to laugh. "Hey, we've got comedians in this class. Rock on, dudes!"

(Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade, Super Special, page 35)

## Chorus

Mr. Guthrie showed them how to do birdcalls, and the kids started the 4A birdcall chorus.

(Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade, Super Special, page 56)

## Stomach

As she cleaned, Katie's stomach grumbled slightly. She was getting hungry.

(Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade, Super Special, page 84)

## Freckles

Katie peered at her reflection in the oven's glass door. Her own red hair, green eyes, and freckles were all back in place.

(Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade, Super Special, page 85)

## Clarinet

Katie struggled to play her first song on her clarinet. It was really hard getting the sound to come out of the instrument.

(Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade, Super Special, page 94)

## Ordinary

Katie was getting used to the fact that Mr. G. was no ordinary teacher.

(*Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade*, Super Special, page 144)

## Humor

"I hope Coach Debbie has as good of a sense of humor as we do," Suzanne whispered to Katie.

(Book 13, page 3)

## Practice

Every one of Katie's muscles was stiff because of yesterday's tough track practice.

(Book 13, page 22)

## Competitions

"There are other competitions besides relay races at a track meet. With a little work, you could be a top-notch hurdle jumper," Coach Debbie told George.

(Book 13, page 71)

## Karate

Instead of his track team T-shirt and short, Kevin was wearing his white karate uniform. He had a bright yellow belt around his waist.

(Book 18, page 4)

## Helmet

"It's called sparring," Kevin corrected Kadeem. "And you wear a lot of padding and a helmet. So no one actually gets hurt."

(Book 18, page 25)

## Bleachers

By the time Katie got there, a lot of her friends were already seated in the bleachers that surrounded the hardwood floor where the tournament was taking place.

(Book 18, page 47)

## Breeze

Katie felt a cool breeze blowing on the back of her neck.

(Book 19, page 38)

## Puffed

George puffed up his chest proudly.

(Book 19, page 58)

## Trash

The plan was for the kids in each class to pick up trash and put it in large garbage bags.

(Book 20, page 34)

# Katie's Jump Rope Games

When Becky Stern joins Class 3A (*Drat! You Copycat!*), Mrs. Derkman asks Katie to be her buddy. Suzanne is not happy about it. She, Miriam, Zoe and Katie had planned on playing double dutch at recess that day. And Becky was wearing a dress. "She can't jump rope in a dress," Suzanne writes to Katie. "All the boys will see her underpants."

Playing jump rope is one of the girls' favorite lunch time and recess activities at Cherrydale Elementary School. In fact, the book *No Messin' with My Lesson* begins with an old jump rope rhyme:

Cinderella, dressed in yellow  
Went upstairs to kiss a fella.  
Made a mistake  
And kissed a snake.  
How many doctors did it take?  
One, two, three...

Your mothers, aunts and grandmothers probably can recite the jump rope rhymes they remember from their school days. You'll be surprised to discover that many of them are versions of the very same rhymes you know.

We've provided some other jump rope rhymes for you and your crew to enjoy. The first few rhymes are for shared jump-rope games, with two rope turners and everyone else jumping.

## Down in the Valley

Down in the valley where the green grass grows,  
There sat Becky pretty as a rose.  
Up came Kevin and kissed her on the cheek.  
How many kisses did she get this week?  
One, two, three, etc.

**Note:** Feel free to change the names in this rhyme to those of classmates.

## School, School

School, school, the golden rule  
Spell your name and go to school.  
K-A-T-I-E

**Note:** After the jumper spells out his/her name, he/she runs out without touching the rope; Then the next jumper jumps in, repeats the rhyme and spells his/her name.



## Here comes Mrs. Derkman

(The rope turners say)

Oh no, here comes Mrs.  
Derkman

With her big black stick  
Now it's time for arithmetic

(They keep turning and someone  
jumps in)

One plus one is?  
(The jumper responds): TWO

Two plus two is?  
(The jumper responds) FOUR

Four plus four is?  
(The jumper responds) EIGHT

Eight plus eight is?  
(The jumper responds) SIXTEEN

Now it's time for spelling  
Spell cat  
(The jumper responds) C-A-T

Spell dog  
(The jumper responds) D-O-G

Spell hot  
(The jumper responds) H-O-T

**Note:** When the jumper finishes spelling  
H-O-T, the turners turn the rope as fast  
as possible until the jumper messes up.



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## Teddy Bear

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around (jumper turns)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch the ground (jumper  
bends down and touches his/her hand to the  
ground)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, show your shoe (jumper  
sticks his/her foot up)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, that will do! (jumper claps  
his/her hands)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, go upstairs (jumper  
pretends to be climbing stairs)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, comb your hair (jumper  
strokes his/her hair)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn out the lights (jumper  
imitates flicking a light switch off or blowing out a  
candle)

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say good night (jumper  
waves and jumps out of the rope)

## A to Z

This rhyme is good for single-person jumping with  
the goal of getting from A to Z. To make it a little  
more challenging, try to use names of characters  
in the Katie Kazoo books.

**A** my name is Alice and my husband's name is  
Andy and we come from Alabama and we sell  
apples

**B** my name is Betty and my husband's name is  
Bob and we come from Buffalo and we sell  
bananas

**C** my name is Connie and my husband's name is  
Cornelius and we come from California and we  
sell candy

Now it's time for you to create your own jump rope  
rhymes and games. Write them with your friends. Just  
remember they need to have a strong rhythm. Who  
knows, the rhymes you write might last for years and  
years, and be played by children far and wide.

# It's *Hat Day*, Suzanne Lock

Everyone in Cherrydale knows Suzanne Lock is simply crazy about clothes. Whatever the occasion—whether just a regular school day or some kind of event, you can count on Suzanne showing up in the latest fashion.

In *Write On!*, when Katie gets software to create a website from her grandmother, Suzanne suggests that they “do a fashion site.”

“A *fashion site*?” Katie didn’t sound very excited.

“Sure,” Suzanne continued. “We’ll tell people what’s in style.”



And in *Be Nice to Mice!*, before Suzanne and her science fair partner Jessica start their research about ladybugs, they “go to the mall to buy matching dresses with black and red polka dots.”

Suzanne would certainly agree that the right hat can make an outfit, and she’d applaud a day focused on this fashion accessory. So have a hat day for your crew, your class, or your whole school in her honor.

Every participant must make their own hat to reflect their personality. You can start with a baseball cap or an old hat you find at a thrift store. Your parents or neighbors might have old hats in their closets that they could give to you as your starting point. Or you can make one out of newspaper, cardboard, or fabric.

Once you have the basic hat, dress it up. Make your hat your very own individual statement. Pick a theme for your hat: a favorite food, hobby, holiday, or character from a book or movie—and decorate your hat to express that theme.

On hat day have a parade so that each person has a chance to show-off his/her creation. Your crew should create categories and award prizes to hats in the following categories:

- The most colorful hat
- The scariest hat
- The silliest hat
- The prettiest hat
- The funniest hat
- The biggest hat

These are just a few suggestions; feel free to add your own categories as well. We’ve provided you with a reproducible award certificate to be given to the winners of each category. Be sure to take lots of photographs and send them to your town’s newspaper. Who knows, someone just might get discovered as the next big designer! That would make Suzanne very proud.



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# Hats Off to You

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(name)

for the most creative hat in the

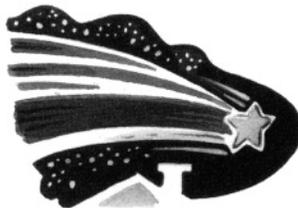
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(name of category)

category

Given by the Katie Kazoo Crew of

Class \_\_\_\_\_



Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# Talk About ...



## Wishes

*Katie was an expert on wishes. She knew that they sometimes came true . . . and not the way you expected them. In fact, the way some wishes came true could be really awful!*

*Katie learned that lesson the hard way. It happened one horrible day back in third grade. Katie had lost the football game for her team. Then she'd splashed mud all over her favorite jeans. But the worst part of the day came when Katie let out a loud burp—right in front of the whole class. It had been so embarrassing!*

*That night, Katie made a wish that she could be anyone but herself. . . ."*

— from *Be Nice to Mice!*

There is a common saying: "Be careful what you wish for. It could come true."

Talk with your friends about wishes. Have you ever wished for something, then have it happen only to discover that it wasn't what you really wanted? What do you wish for now? If a genie gave you three wishes, what would they be? Be careful now . . .

## Winning

*"You all know, it's science week at school. And this year, in addition to your science fair projects, each grade is going to do a special group project . . . We're going to clean up the field behind the school," Mr. G. finished.*

*"Picking up garbage sounds like a really boring project," Suzanne said. "I wish we could do something more interesting."*

*George looked at her. "We could make it more interesting," he suggested.*

*"How?" Suzanne asked him.*

*"We could make it a contest," George told her. "The class that picks up the most trash wins."*

— from *Be Nice to Mice!*

When the fourth grade environmental project becomes a competition between classes 4A and 4B, everyone wants to win. Suzanne gets her classmates to train and exercise so they'll be strong and fast when they go into the field to pick up garbage. But George and Kevin have another plan for winning: they're going to bring their own garbage to the field, so their class will have more filled trash bags. In other words, they are going to cheat.

Back when the kids were in the third grade, they had another experience with competitions and the desire to win. In *On Your Mark, Get Set, Laugh!*, Coach Debbie is all about winning. She won't even let slower runners have a chance in the races.

How important is winning? Have you ever participated in a competition that you felt was judged unfairly? Do you know anyone who makes winning the most important thing?