



The Rust Foundation

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The Rust Foundation helps children by encouraging literacy and a lifelong commitment to reading.

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IN THIS ISSUE:

In the News

Children's Poetry

Donation Campaign

Recent Donors

Children's Story

Rust Foundation Mission Statement

IN THE NEWS:

Patricia Rust to Visit Jefferson Elementary

On Monday, March 15, Patricia Rust will visit Jefferson Elementary in Redondo Beach, California as part of their Literacy for a Better World Author/Illustrator Fair. Several schools in the South Bay region host four days of literacy and reading activities during their annual celebrations and Patricia is thrilled to continue to be a part of this empowering experience. Please visit www.powerforkids.com for children's artwork and poems from past school visits.

Major Fundraising Drive Getting Under Way

The Rust Foundation will soon begin a fundraising drive. Past contributors and those who have expressed an interest will receive solicitation letters in the mail. 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.

Writers Guild Foundation to Host Table at Writers Guild Awards

In their ongoing effort to increase the Writers Guild Foundation's visibility and raise money for expanded literacy activities, including the Rust Foundation's "Royal Readers" program, the Writers Guild Foundation will be hosting a table at the Writers Guild Awards on February 21. If you are attending the awards, please stop by the table to learn more about the Foundation's important work with students aged five to eighteen.

The Rust Foundation

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Please visit our web site at www.powerforkids.com

Still Scheduling School Visits for 2004

The Rust Foundation continues to schedule "Royal Readers" program presentations for 2004. Patricia Rust is also available as a motivational speaker. If you would like a brochure about the presentation for your school, please call (310) 281-3332 email aryn@powerforkids.com and leave an address where we can send it.

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 and click the "Buy" link at the top of the page.

Rust Foundation Plans Theme Party

The Rust Foundation is planning a theme party to be held at the Magic Castle in Hollywood because reading is magic. Watch this space and check www.powerforkids.com for updates as more information about this exciting event becomes available.

CHILDREN'S POETRY:

Kids! Send us your Valentine's Day poems so we can post them in the newsletter and on our website. Visit www.Powerforkids.com for the contact us link!

This and other children's contributions can be seen at www.PowerforKids.com.

DONATION CAMPAIGN:

The Rust Foundation 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, 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 – your 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:

The Rust Foundation, 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.

RECENT DONORS:

This space will soon be filled with the names of our generous 2004 donors. Thank you in advance.

CHILDREN'S STORY:

Letter to the Tooth Fairy, part 2

By Patricia Rust

Memo

To: Blake

Re: Destructo Boy

From: The Tooth Fairy

Dear Friend,

I read your letter about your brother tearing up your comic books, breaking your truck, and bending the spokes on your bike with great concern. I'm part of a team of fairies whose job it is to fulfill the dreams of children, and you're obviously way

too busy to be dreaming about the future. I took your letter to my fairy committee meeting, and we came up with a few ideas to help you be happy again.

Remember that you were once a little boy, too, and that's when children like to discover the world and try everything out. They don't know to just look and not touch unless we tell them these things. Plus, they are growing and sometimes don't know how strong their arms or legs have become compared to when they were a baby!

We suggest you show your brother your treasure chest of toys, comics, and even show him how you ride your bike and explain that he will be doing it with you when he is a little older. But in order to do that, he must treat things gently, and maybe you can explain that it would be the same way he treat your pets, with special care.

When he comes to realize that you need your things treated carefully, we believe he will try very hard to do just that. He may accidentally break things once in a while, but we all have accidents. Even I've been known to fly into a tree or tall building every now and then. Once the Fairy Godmother turned a mouse into a shoe rather than a coachman...oh, that's another story, my friend, Blake, for another letter.

I liked your letter. Your goal to travel the world with your bicycle is such a great one. I hope you will make these trips and send me postcards to tell me about what you see in these different and wonderful places in our world.

I have my own favorite places, of course, such as Southern California where children like to have lots of activities and there are so many interesting cultures living together and sharing.

I wish you every happiness this year. The opportunity to help your little brother grow up and become responsible is a wonderful challenge for you. Please let me know how things turn out and send my best to your parents.

Your friend,

The Tooth Fairy

RUST FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT:

The Rust Foundation helps children by encouraging literacy and a lifelong commitment to reading.

The Rust Foundation 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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