



# Power for Kids, Inc.

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Power for Kids, Inc. helps children by encouraging literacy and a lifelong commitment to reading.

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Edited by: Patricia Rust, Founder, and Aryn Kennedy

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## CHILDREN'S STORY:

### *I Wish I Had a Tail*

*By Patricia Rust*

*An elephant has a tail  
with which he swats away pesky flies.*

*A doggie wags his tail  
when he's happy or his master sighs.*

*Some animals have tails,  
Some do not.*

*I wish I had a tail  
So on its end I could tie a big knot!*

*I would like a tail to swish around;  
I would swish my tail all over town!*

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](mailto:patricia@powerforkids.com)

Please visit our web site at [www.powerforkids.com](http://www.powerforkids.com)

*I could wipe my windows, polish my shoes,  
Clean my glasses, and twirl it around till it's time to snooze.  
Who knows what a tail is for?  
It's a work of art and a whole lot more.  
It looks so cute when it's short and stubby;  
And it's ever so elegant when it's long and chubby.*

*Monkeys have great tails;  
That's for sure.  
Monkeys have model tails with which  
They're very secure.*

*I wish I had a tail.  
Would you like one as well?  
We could hop about town  
Showing off or being clowns.*

*If you had a tail  
What would you do?  
I would fly through the air.  
That would please me times two.*

*Kangaroos have super huge tails;  
They sit atop them when they polish their nails.  
Sharks have tails to steer through the sea.  
Their tails are so perfect, they're like high-tech machinery.*

*Lizards have tails for balance I think...  
To keep them from falling off the brink!  
Some birds have tails, and their feathers fall out.  
A tail feather from an eagle is a true work of art.*

*Compared to a cute cotton-tailed bunny,  
A human with a tail might look pretty funny!*

*Maybe we're fine just the way we are.  
A tailless creature and the silliest of all.*

*But, if you ever crave a tail  
Here's an idea that zips:  
Make your own tail  
And tie it round your hips.  
See how it slides;  
Whether it needs a snip.  
Try to move it from side to side,  
Then up and down and down and up.*

*If you want to, you can strut it all around town.  
Let people think what they will.  
Only you will know how  
Having a tail really feels!*

*The End*

(Copyright 2005. From a forthcoming children's book by Patricia Rust)

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**CONTEST:**

**What am I?**



What do you think this is a picture of? Email your best guess to [contest@powerforkids.com](mailto:contest@powerforkids.com). The winner will receive a family portrait sitting and hand-printed 8X10 valued at \$200 from professional photographer Lee Brubaker. To be eligible to win, be sure to send your spring poem or story [aryn@powerforkids.com](mailto:aryn@powerforkids.com) or 12021 Wilshire Blvd. #924, Los Angeles, CA 90025 by May 1. All answers will be posted at <http://www.powerforkids.com/kids/KidsWork.html> and some will appear in the May newsletter along with the winner's guess.

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### CHILDREN'S NEWS:

#### *Can You Stand an Egg on Its End?*

*You may have heard that an egg can only be stood on its end on the spring equinox, which falls on March 20 this year. Power for Kids is sorry to report this legend isn't true. Philip Plait, author of Bad Astronomy, proved that you can actually stand an egg on its end any day of the year! At his site badastronomy.com he recommends putting a little salt under the egg to support it. You might have to try more than one egg to make it work though, some eggs stand better than others.*

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### IN THE NEWS:

#### **Patricia Rust Expands Horizons to Support Foundation**

To continue her efforts to support Power for Kids and spread its message of literacy for all, Patricia Rust has embarked on new projects, including writing feature travel articles for Polo.com's online magazine, and participating in AngelHaven.com's upcoming AngelCruise. For more information about this exciting Alaskan cruise scheduled for Sept. 10-17, 2005, visit [AngelCruise.com](http://AngelCruise.com). If you've always wanted the inside scoop on visiting Tahiti, checkout Patricia's article at [entertainment.polo.com/magazine](http://entertainment.polo.com/magazine).

#### **Power for Kids to Visit Ramona School**

Ramona School in Hawthorne has invited a volunteer from Power for Kids to visit their kindergarten through third graders on March 18<sup>th</sup> as part of their literacy week. The volunteer will read *The King of Skittledeedoo* and perform an abbreviated Royal

Readers program. The students will also compete in the story contest open to all who read this newsletter. The winner's work will be published on [www.powerforkids.com](http://www.powerforkids.com) and in our next newsletter.

### ***The King of Skittledeedoo in Spanish***

Power for Kids is in search of donors to support a Spanish-language printing of *The King of Skittledeedoo*. Many children in California's school speak Spanish as a first language, so a Spanish-language version of our book would be a powerful tool in helping them become literate not only in Spanish, but bridging the gap to becoming literate in English as well.

### **Women of Los Angeles Luncheon to Feature Power For Kids**

At their May 18<sup>th</sup> luncheon, Women of Los Angeles will feature Power for Kids as one of the six charities selected to receive support from their Non-profit Alliance. Power for Kids is honored to be a part of this powerful group. The luncheon keynote speaker will discuss women's health. For ticket information, go to [Womenof.org](http://Womenof.org).

### **Newsletter Sponsors Sought**

In our continuing efforts to improve the newsletter, we'd like to establish a monthly postal mail version featuring a full page of children's activities. In order to fund such a mailing, we need one or more sponsors who can provide the \$1500 per month necessary. Please contact us for at 310-281-3332 for more information about how you can sponsor one or more issues of the newsletter.

### ***Chopped Liver for the Family Spirit Available Now***

The second book in the *Chopped Liver* series is now available. Buy one for everyone on your list. Patricia Rust contributed a tribute to legendary animator Jules Engel. Like *Chopped Liver for the American Spirit*, the book is a collection of uplifting stories written by regular Americans. Buy your copy today and share it with those close to you. Signed copies are available at [www.powerforkids.com/book/buy\\_book.html](http://www.powerforkids.com/book/buy_book.html). Patricia has also agreed to participate in the next *Chopped Liver* book with an article on Golden Door founder Deborah Szekely. Watch this space in future newsletters for more information.

### **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](http://www.powerforkids.com) and click the "Buy" link at the top of the page.

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### **RECENT DONORS:**

Power for Kids would like to thank John Morrissey for his generous donation.

If you would like to donate, please visit [powerforkids.com](http://powerforkids.com).

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

Founder, Patricia Rust  
President, Mark De Fries  
Treasurer, Bob Tessier  
Secretary, Yfat Reiss  
Member, Gary Credle  
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Jackie Rust  
Colonel Douglas Trogstad  
Teresa Howard  
Mark Freeman  
Writers Guild Foundation

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## **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!

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