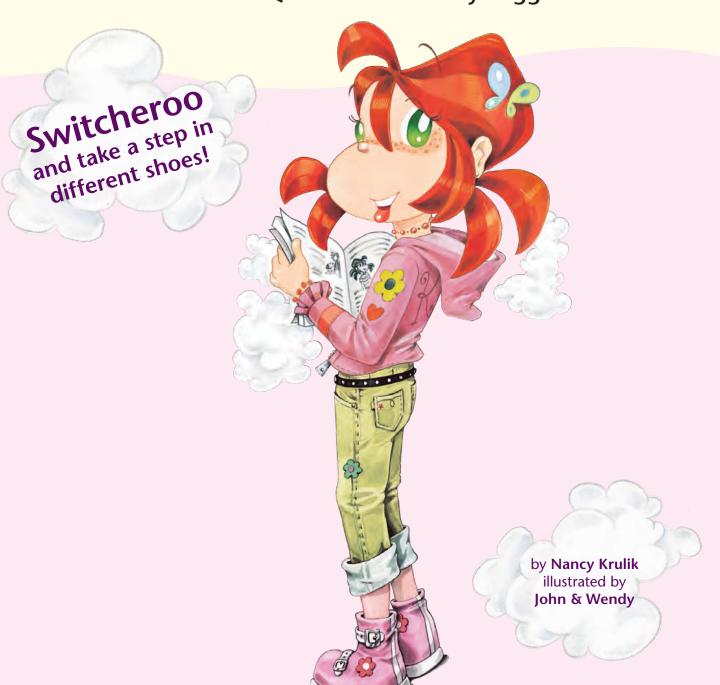
Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo

Classroom Crew

Discussion Questions & Activity Suggestions



Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo

Dear Educator:

Katie is an ordinary student with one extraordinary talent! While many of the problems she faces in her everyday life are situations your students find themselves in as well, Katie has the magic wind to help (er, sort of) as she deals with each obstacle. Each time the wind blows and she switcheroos into someone else, she learns how to view a situation through another's eyes, leading her to make choices that work best for everyone. By studying the Katie books, your students will learn how to identify with others and to make responsible decisions, even in the most challenging of situations.

This booklet provides you with ways to incorporate a variety of Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo books into your year-long lesson plans, allowing students to extend the enjoyment of reading across all curriculum areas.

Included in this guide, you'll find:

- "Getting to Know You"—conduct an interview to learn about others
- Meet Author Nancy Krulik!
- Reading log—a must-have for keeping track of reading progress
- Series discussion questions—perfect for hosting a book club
- Cross-curricular lesson plans and activity ideas—including geography, nutrition, science, history, and writing
- Character Counts! Exercises to learn how to differentiate right from wrong and make good decisions—just like Katie!
- Secret message to decode
- Character bookmarks—great gifts for students!
- "Read-a-thon for Charity"—a literature-based community service project
- Book Nook book swap materials

Enjoy!

We are very excited to announce that the Katie Kazoo Classroom Crew is now online!

Crew members can find information on everything Katie Kazoo at our updated and improved website: www.katiekazoo.com. The site boasts creative discussion and activity suggestions, additional lesson plans and thematic celebration ideas for the entire series, a Character Counts! section focused on the lessons Katie learns in her switcheroos, and more! Plus, everything is set up in an easily downloadable and reproducible format. Not a Katie Kazoo Classroom Crew member?

Visit www.katiekazoo.com and sign up!

"Getting to Know You" A Katie Kazoo Interview

Katie gets a BIG glimpse into other people's lives by switching into them. While you may not be able to do that, it is still important to take time to learn about others. Pick a partner in your class whom you do not know very well. Interview him or her using the questions on this sheet. After you're done interviewing your partner, switch places and let your partner interview you. Ask additional questions or interview other classmates if you have extra time.

- 1. Your full name (even your middle name that no one knows):
- 2. Your birthday:
- 3. Your favorites (television show, movie, book, ice cream flavor, candy, food, color, music group):
- 4. Your best subject at school:
- 5. The scariest thing you ever did:
- 6. Your pets:
- 7. Your sisters and brothers:
- 8. Sports, hobbies, instruments you play:
- 9. When you grow up, you'll probably be:
- 10. A big secret about yourself that you're finally ready to tell:





Meet Author Nancy Krulik!

Nancy Krulik is the author of more than 100 books for children and young adults, including three *New York Times* bestsellers. She is best known, however, for being the author and creator of the Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo book series. Nancy currently lives in Manhattan with her husband, composer Daniel Burwasser, their two children, Amanda and Ian, and a crazed cocker spaniel named Pepper.

A Q&A with Nancy

What's your favorite thing about Katie Kazoo?

I love the fact that Katie and her friends are just like real kids. Sometimes they're nice, sometimes they're mean, and often they get into trouble. Katie and her friends are not perfect, but they are all good kids. Katie especially finds herself in a lot of messy situations when the magic wind blows. Luckily, she's always able to solve her problems once she's back in her own body. When Katie gets one of her great ideas it shows what a smart, quick-thinking girl she is.

How did you come up with the name Katie Kazoo?

I adore the word *kazoo*. It sounds funny when you hear it, and it feels funny on your tongue when you say it. It sort of buzzes like an actual kazoo does. Try it, you'll see! Back when I was first thinking about this series, Katie's name was going to be Abby Kazoo. But it didn't sound funny enough. In the end, I changed her name to Katie because I liked the way *Katie* sounded with *kazoo*. And of course *kazoo* rhymes with *switcheroo*, which is what the series is all about!

Why is Katie always turning into someone else?

I think sometimes everyone wishes he or she could be somebody else—a movie star, a sports hero, or just the most popular kid in the class. I guess I wanted kids to see that no one's life is ever as perfect as it seems. You should be happy with who you are. Of course, that doesn't mean you can't keep striving to be the very best person you can be.

Where does the magic wind come from?

Believe it or not, I actually dreamed about the magic wind once. That was where the whole idea for the Katie Kazoo books began—in a dream. It's a good thing I keep a notebook near my bed to write my dreams down. Otherwise I might have forgotten all about the magic wind, and Katie her friends might never have existed.

Where do you get your inspiration?

A lot of the inspiration for my books comes from my own kids, lan and Amanda. The characters in the books are definitely like them. Amanda has modeled and acted, so some of Suzanne's passions are similar to hers. Of course in real life, Amanda is much nicer than Suzanne. She's actually a lot like Emma W., very sweet and good with little kids. Ian is in fourth grade, just like Katie. Like Kevin, he loves tomatoes, and like Jeremy, he plays a lot of sports. A lot of the things that happen in Cherrydale Elementary School happen in lan's school, too (although the magic wind has never shown up there. I made that part up!). Katie's beloved chocolate and white cocker spaniel, Pepper, is actually based on my dog, whose name is Pepper, too. My Pepper is a mixed breed though—part cocker spaniel and part springer spaniel.

Did you always want to be an author?

I didn't always want to be an author. When I was a teenager I had the lead in my camp's production of *Grease*, and for a long time I wanted to act on Broadway. But when I got to college, I joined my college newspaper and discovered that I was a much better writer than I was an actress (I'm actually a pretty terrible actress!). I liked writing a whole lot more than anything else I had ever done. I still do. In fact, the only thing I like better than being a writer is being a mom.

What's it like being an adult and writing for kids?

Writing for kids is what keeps me from ever really growing up. Most of my friends say I'm really just a 12-year-old in a grown-up's body. I like that idea. Who wants to act like an adult? Adults are boring. Kids are much more fun!

How long does it take you to write a book?

In the beginning, it took almost four weeks to write a single first draft of a Katie Kazoo Switcheroo book. But now, I know Katie and her friends much better. I can figure out what they'll say or do almost without thinking. The hardest part of writing the books is coming up with who Katie will become when the magic wind comes and what will happen to her. After I figure that out, the actual writing of the first draft takes two weeks to create. Then I send the book to my editor and she makes suggestions. It takes another week or so to polish up the story so that it is in its final form.

Which of your books do you like the best?

I have three favorite books in the Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo series. The first one, *Anyone But Me*, will always have a special place in my heart because that started the whole series. I love *Who's Afraid of Fourth Grade?*, because Katie goes through so many changes in that book (and not just the ones that the magic wind brings!) and yet she remains the same funny, nice, sweet friend she has always been. It's pretty funny when the twins run away from her when she's been turned into Emma W. And I love the scene when she becomes her school music teacher, and the whole band becomes a big, noisy mess! Here's a special fun fact for Katie's biggest fans: I named her music teacher Mr. Starkey to honor Ringo Starr, the drummer for the Beatles. His real name is Richard Starkey. I also love *Girls Don't Have Cooties*, because I think it's hysterical to have Katie in a boy's body. She doesn't know which bathroom to go to, or how to act like a boy at all. I like this one a lot because I remember how it felt when the boys in third grade suddenly decided girls had cooties and wouldn't play with them. I always wondered what it would be like to be one of them and find out why they hated girls so much. I still haven't completely figured it out. I don't think Katie has either.

Who was your favorite teacher?

My favorite teacher was one I had in both 4th and 6th grades. Her name was Miss Zuczek. We read all sorts of amazing books in her class, like *The Hobbit* and *Call of the Wild*. We had a reading corner with beanbag chairs to sit on so we could be comfortable, and there were always cool things hanging from the ceiling and on the walls of our classroom. Sounds a lot like Mr. G's room, huh?

What do you like to do when you are not writing books?

I love to swim—I try to put in one hour in the pool at the local gym every day. I also love going to the theater. I'm lucky because I live in New York so I get to see Broadway shows. And of course, I love to read!

Invite Nancy Krulik to your school or library!

Visit www.penguin.com/authorappearances to find out how!



Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo Reading Log

My name is:		
My page goal for the month of _	is	—· 🛴

Start a Katie Kazoo Reading Challenge in your class and see who can read the most pages!

Date	Book Title	Pages Read	Comments
	<u> </u>		



Discussion Questions for the Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo Series

Not only are Katie's adventures fun (and funny!), but they teach kids a lot about what it means to see the world through someone else's eyes. As a class, or in small groups, host a book club discussion about Katie's antics. Use the following discussion questions to guide your conversation or let students make up their own for a thought-provoking discussion.

- There is a common saying: "Be careful what you wish for. It could come true." Katie once wished to be anyone but herself and wound up turning into a hamster! Talk about wishes. Have you ever had a wish come true only to discover that it wasn't what you really wanted? If a genie were to give you three wishes now, what would they be? Be careful . . .
- Another well-known saying tells us never to judge another person's actions until we've "walked a mile in their shoes." What does this mean? Over the course of the series, Katie gets to walk in many people's shoes. She even gets to walk in a couple of animals' paws! How does Katie feel about this ability? How would you feel if you were Katie? List three people who you might wish to switcheroo with and state your reasons for choosing them. What do you think a day in the life of each of these people might be like? What might you learn from the experience?
- In *Friends for Never*, Katie hates the fact that she is in a different class from Suzanne and Jeremy. Talk with your own friends about whether they think kids can stay close friends if they are not in the same class or the same school. What happens when a good friend moves away? Can a friendship continue? Can people have two best friends, the way Katie does? Do you have different kinds of friends? Why are your friends special to you?
- When movie star Rosie Moran comes to Cherrydale in *Quiet on the Set!*, she stirs up a lot of jealous feelings, especially in Suzanne. Most of us feel jealous every now and then. Think about the times you've been jealous, either of someone famous or of someone you know. Why were you jealous? How did you get over your feelings of jealousy? Do you think anyone is ever jealous of you and your accomplishments?
- In *I Hate Rules!*, Katie (as Mr. Kane) announces over the PA system that there will be no more rules. Discuss the consequences of Katie's actions. Why do we have rules in school? In our families? In our communities? Which rules do you think are fair? Which do you think are unfair? What might happen if we didn't have as many rules in our lives?
- Like all children, Katie and her friends sometimes get into fights with one another or hurt one another's feelings. In fact, this happens a lot with Suzanne and Jeremy. Talk about the importance of apologizing. Why is it important to apologize? What was the hardest apology you ever had to make? Did saying you were sorry help things get better? How do you feel when someone apologizes to you?
- In *It's Snow Joke!*, Suzanne accuses Katie of being a chicken, and in *Camp Rules!*, Alicia calls Katie a goody-goody. Why do people call each other names? Why did George tease Katie and call her Katie Kazoo in *Anyone But Me*? How does it feel when someone calls you a name? How do you react when someone else is calling people names? Have you ever called someone else a name? Why? How did that make you feel?

Classroom Lesson Plans & Activities Across the Curriculum

Geography:

When Cherrydale Elementary School holds its Family Olympics in *My Pops Is Tops!*, each class represents one of the nations of the world by decorating a flag and hanging the flags in the school cafeteria. Each student should choose one nation and create its flag using poster board or fabric and fabric paint. Ask each student to research his or her country's flag to find the significance of the colors or images as well as other interesting information. Students should present their countries and flags to the rest of the class, just like a meeting of the United Nations!

Health & Nutrition:

Kick off a unit on health and nutrition by asking your school nurse or health specialist to read *Out to Lunch* with your students. In *Out to Lunch*, Lucille the lunch lady (and Katie after a switcheroo!) fights for the students to have more nutritious meals and fresher lunch ingredients. Since Katie is a vegetarian, she has to be especially conscious of what she eats to be sure she is getting all the vitamins she needs. Encourage students to keep a food diary for one week, tracking everything they eat and drink during that time. At the end of the week, ask your nurse or health specialist to return to your class and hold short conferences with each student about his or her food choices. Bring in some healthy goodies on conference day as smart snacks to share!



Writing & Journalism:

Jeremy loves his job as editor of the *3A Times*. Create your own edition of the paper, naming it after your classroom. After discussing what it means to be a reporter, ask each student to write an article about their favorite Katie Kazoo adventure with one catch—they can't give away Katie's secret! For example, try writing "Katie Carew: Lost at Pine Hill Science Camp" or "Louie's Pizza to Go Out of Business." Then ask students to report on an actual current event in your school or community. If everyone writes one article, you'll have an entire issue of your newspaper ready to print and distribute.

Read-a-thon for Charity:

Katie loves reading, so why not read for a good cause? First, as a classroom crew, decide which charity to support. Then, ask each student to fill out the pledge form in this booklet with all the necessary information. Students should take the form around to parents, grandparents, and other adults who will pledge a specific amount of money for each page read. Decide when to host independent reading time in class—whether it is one period per week or a whole day of reading—so that you can help students keep track of how many pages they've read. Once your Read-a-thon is over, calculate the amount each donor owes and send the collected proceeds to your chosen charity. Round up as many classes as you can for this—maybe your local library or bookstore wants to participate as well!

Science:

Katie is a big advocate for the environment. She loves animals and even goes to science camp to learn more about nature. Take some time to review the importance of recycling with students, and then host a school-wide recycling challenge to see which class can recycle the most items in a month. (April's Earth Day is a great time to do this.) If possible, have all the classrooms in your entire school get involved! A really cool AND environmentally-friendly prize for the winning class would be a spot on school grounds to plant a class garden or a tree of the winning class's choice.

History:

Conduct biography reports Katie Kazoo-style! After students do research reports on historical figures, ask them to present their findings dressed up as that person. They could even talk in first person as if they really were their subject, living his or her life.

Creative Writing:

Ask students to close their eyes and imagine: You're home alone when—suddenly—you feel a cool breeze on the back of your neck. You look around and see that nothing around you is blowing, and you realize: This is the magic wind! And there is nothing you can do to stop it. Have students write and illustrate what happens next. Who did they turn into? Where did they go? Whom did they meet? When did the wind turn things back to "normal"? What did they learn?

The Switcheroo Game:

When the magic wind comes, Katie wonders who she'll turn into next. With this game, students will be guessing what's changed about one another! To play, have students bring in additional clothing layers, accessories, or other props that they can wear. Then divide your class into two even teams. Team #1 gets five minutes to switch various items and accessories among themselves, while the members of Team #2 shut their eyes. Then Team #2 has five minutes to guess all of the switcheroos made. After Team #2 is finished guessing, the teams switch roles. Keep track of the number

of correct answers so you'll know who won!

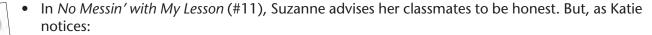
Illustrations © John & Wend

Character Counts!

Though Katie Carew has some abnormal powers, deep down she is just a normal kid. Between school, family, and friends, she deals with many of the issues that your own students face in their everyday lives, and demonstrates exceptional morality and character in doing so. Here are some exercises you can do with your kids to show them how to differentiate right from wrong and how to behave like Katie does.



Honesty means telling the truth.



"The kids were taking Suzanne's advice too seriously. Sometimes the truth hurt...There's a difference between being honest, and being mean."

—from No Messin' with My Lesson

What is the difference between being honest and being mean? When is it okay to hold back the truth a little? Does anyone have an example of a time they thought they were being honest but ended up being mean?

• In *Oh, Baby!* (#3), the third graders all think Suzanne is lying because they don't believe baby Heather can talk (they're right about that!). Why is Suzanne so hurt when the students call her a liar? Why does Katie always say she cannot tell anyone about her switcheroos, even though she feels bad lying to her friends? Do you think it is right of her to keep her ability a secret?



When we act jealous, we're resenting someone else's good fortune and hoping to have that success ourselves.

• Actress Rosie Moran's visit to Cherrydale in *Quiet on the Set!* (#10) has everyone excited, and even a little jealous.

"I love the outfit you're wearing... I think that's probably the most fashionable thing anyone has ever worn at Cherrydale Elementary School," Mrs. Derkman gushed.

Suzanne let out a tiny gasp.

—from Quiet on the Set!

Most of us feel jealous every now and then. Think about the times you've been jealous, either of someone famous or of someone you know. Why were you jealous? How did you get over your feelings of jealousy? Do you think anyone is ever jealous of you and your accomplishments?

• A well-known saying tells us not to judge another person until we've "walked a mile in their shoes." What does this mean? Over the course of the series, Katie gets to walk in many people's shoes. She even gets to walk in a couple of animals' paws! How does Katie feel about this ability? How would you feel if you were Katie? Have you ever wanted to be somebody else? Who, and why? Have you ever been jealous of another person, only to learn that they weren't as lucky as you thought?



Kindness

Kindness is the act of being nice to someone, because you care about that person.

- In *Friends for Never* (#14), Katie hates the fact that she is in a different class from Suzanne and Jeremy. They seem preoccupied with their new classmates, and Suzanne especially is not being kind to Katie. Talk about friendships. How important is kindness in a friendship? How can people stay friends when they are in separate classes? What are some kind things you do for the people you care about?
- Mrs. Derkman tells Katie that she owes Katie and Pepper an apology for believing Pepper
 was ruining her garden in *Doggone It!* (#8). Examine the importance of apologizing.
 Why is it important to apologize? What was the hardest apology you ever had to make?
 Did saying you were sorry help things get better? How do you feel when someone
 apologizes to you?



Responsibility

Responsibility is knowing when you are in charge of doing something.

- In I Hate Rules! (#5), Katie learns the hard way what it means to be responsible. When she declares, as Mr. Kane, that there will be no more rules, the school turns into a zoo! Even worse, her classmates start playing soccer with their hands! Discuss the consequences of Katie's actions. Why do we have rules in school? In our families? In our communities? Which rules do you think are fair? Which do you think are unfair? What might happen if we didn't have as many rules in our lives?
- After Katie has switcherooed into another person and messed up what that person was trying to do, she always feels horrible and tries to help them fix what has gone wrong. This is called taking responsibility for her actions, and it's very important. Name three examples from the Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo series of when Katie was able to fix her mistakes. How did the person feel after everything was fixed? Can you name a time when you took responsibility for your actions? How did you feel?



Treating somebody with respect is about treating them the best way you can, using all of your manners.

- It's important to treat others with respect, so that they will treat you the same way. When Mr. G. sends in a substitute in *Flower Power* (#27) and the students in 4A act up, he gets very upset with them. What did the students do that was disrespectful? How should they have acted? How might the story have been different if the students treated Mr. Goodstein with respect?
- "We're going to clean up the field behind the school," Mr G. finished..."We're
 helping to protect the squirrels, chipmunks, birds, and mice who live in
 the field."
 - —from Be Nice to Mice!

We don't only have to be respectful of other people, but of things as well, like our environment. It's important to show respect for our planet and all the species that live on it with us so as not to disrupt the natural balance of life. In *Be Nice to Mice!* (#20), the fourth-graders do just that by cleaning up the school fields. As a class, grade, or even school, clean up a local field, park, or roadway to show respect for your community.









Katie Kazoo's Secret Message

It's not like Katie to keep secrets—especially from her best friends Suzanne and Jeremy. But there is one (very big!) thing Katie has to keep secret from everyone.

When people have secrets, they sometimes write them down in special codes. Decipher the code given below to read Katie's secret message. As you uncover the words, write them on the dotted lines beneath the original coded words.

SECRET CODE

A=z B=y C=x D=w E=v F=u G=t H=s I=r J=q K=p L=o M=n N=m O=l P=k Q=j R=i S=h T=g U=f V=e W=d X=c Y=b Z=a

Nb hvxivg rh gszg R tvg rmgl OLGH lu gilfyov.

Yfg rg zoo szkkvmh dsvm gsv nztrx drmw gfimh nv

rmgl hlnvlmv. R xzm'g gvoo nb uirvmwh gszg, gslfts.

Gsvb'w mvevi yvorvev nv!



Do you have any secrets to keep? Write one down in code like Katie does and store it in a safe place. Then, for fun, write another message that isn't a secret in the special code. Switch with a partner and decipher each other's messages!

Katie Kazoo Bookmarks

When Katie Kazoo has a switcheroo, she's never quite sure where she is at first. And Katie doesn't want that to happen to you—especially when you're reading. Katie's given you four bookmarks so you'll *always* know where you are!

Photocopy this sheet onto sturdy cardstock, and then cut along the dotted lines to make a bookmark featuring your favorite character: Katie Carew, George Brennan, Suzanne Lock, or Jeremy Fox. You can write your name in the space provided, color it in, and thread wool, ribbon, or string with beads through the hole you punch out at the top of each bookmark.

Now you'll never lose your place, so ... keep on reading!



Illustrations © John & Wendy

Read-a-thon for Charity Pledge Form

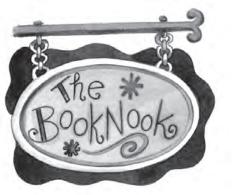
	My name is:	
	The members of my class are reading bool	ks for charity.
ļ	My goal is to read(# of pages)	pages.
nle	dge any amount that you wish to donate	for each pag

Please pledge any amount that you wish to donate for each page I read. For example, if I read 200 pages and you pledge one penny, your donation will be \$2.00. If you pledge five cents a page and I read 200 pages, your donation will be \$10.00. The more you pledge and the more I read, the more money will be donated to a worthy cause.

The entire proceeds from the Read-a-thon will be donated to:

Name of Charity:	
Signed:	Total pages I read:

Donor's Name	Donor's Signature	Pledge per Page	Total Donation



Katie Kazoo Book Nook Materials

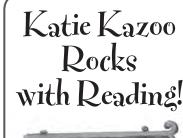
Mrs. Carew, Katie's mom, works at the Book Nook—a bookstore in the Cherrydale Mall. Katie spends a lot of time at the store, and she knows it is filled with great books.

Set up a Book Nook in your own classroom! Bring in any used books from home that you want to donate to your class library, but be sure to ask your parents for permission first. Then photocopy and cut out multiple copies of the items below and leave them in your Book Nook for easy access. Everyone should receive a Book Nook card that works like a library card—just show your card to your teacher when you want to swap the book you've finished reading for a brand-new one. To give students an opportunity to read all the books they would like, it would be best if each student checks out only one book at a time. When you finish a book, fill out a recommendation card to let others know what you thought. Keep all the recommendation cards alphabetically in your Book Nook corner, so everyone can easily look up recommendations. If you donate a book, fill out and paste or tape the label below inside the front cover.



This Book Was Donated By:

Paste or tape this label to the inside front cover of each donated book.





This card entitles the holder to swap for one book from the Katie Kazoo Book Nook Swap Shop!

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Katie Kazoo Book Nook Recommendation Card

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I recommend t	his book to anyone who likes:
I rate this book	☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

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Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo

by Nancy Krulik, illustrated by John & Wendy

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- **#3 Oh, Baby!** 978-0-448-42704-1
- **#4 Girls Don't Have Cooties** 978-0-448-42705-8
- **#5 I Hate Rules!** 978-0-448-43100-0
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- #34 Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow 978-0-448-45231-9 Available May 2010

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Super Special: A Whirlwind Vacation 978-0-448-43748-4 • \$4.99

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