

Jane & Jake's
Adventures to Awesome™

The Journey Begins

THE PREQUEL STORY



A PRODUCTION OF
The World of Jane Not Plain



Finding your inner awesome is positively empowering!

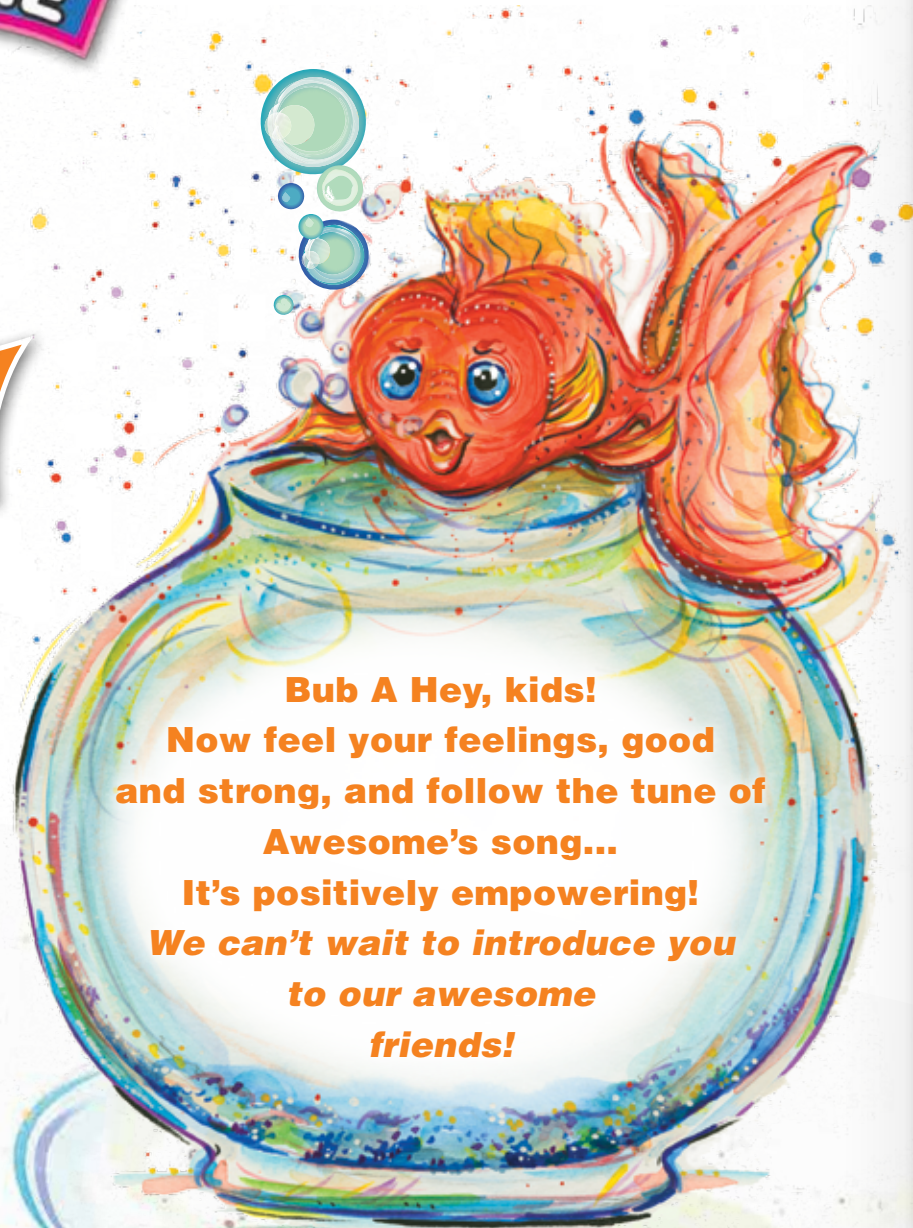
Come with us on our journey to Awesome...

Come with Us!

Join me and Jake, along with Oracle and all of our friends, on our undersea adventures, exploring and learning about confidence and self-esteem.

Come with us as we learn about our excellent strengths and unique inner awesomeness... and discover what wonderful, empowering character traits YOU have too—just like we do!

Come on...



**Bub A Hey, kids!
Now feel your feelings, good and strong, and follow the tune of Awesome's song...
It's positively empowering!
We can't wait to introduce you to our awesome friends!**

I Am. I Can. I Will. Empowered.™

*The***World of Jane Not Plain™**

**Jane & Jake's
Adventures to Awesome™**

The Journey Begins

*The***JNPPROJECT™**
A SELF-ESTEEM DISCOVERY MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN

Discover Your Inner Awesome. It Is Positively Empowering!™

www.theJNPproject.com

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A self-esteem discovery series for every girl and boy!

Jane & Jake each earn *My Circle of Power™* by unlocking their own character traits. YOU can too!

Let's learn about the POWER we have inside... our INNER AWESOME! Kids, you can do it too—discover it!—you'll be positively empowered!



Hey Kids, with each story you read you'll collect clues to the "Big Secret," and Oracle, Jane and Jake will help you to earn your Pearls of Power! Each adventure to Awesome reveals a different color pearl. When you collect all ten, **YOU EARN YOUR EMPOWERMENT BADGE!**



I Am. I Can. I Will. Empowered.™

For Kids



**Jane & Jake's
Adventures to Awesome™**

Hi, there! Are you ready to find your inner awesome?

I used to feel unimportant and invisible. NOT anymore! Now, I feel good about myself—awesome you might say! Are you ready to feel awesome too?

Welcome to our world, **The World of Jane NOT Plain.™**

Here are some of the fun things we'll get to do together:

- **Talk to Jane & Jake Forum**—go to the JNPproject.com and write to us!
- **Join the CIA**—have fun in your Club Inner Awesome downloading coloring and activity pages...and more!
- **Play Games**—solve puzzles and find solutions with Jake and me!
- **Sing songs and play music!**
- **Receive Prizes**—enter contests and win!
- **Hunt for and find The Big Secret**—hidden in Awesome!!
- **Pick your Favorite Ending**—in Jane & Jake's adventure stories!
- **Collect your Pearls of Power™**—earn your own **Circle of Power™ Empowerment Badge!**
- **Create my Outer Awesome**—I'm a "blank canvas"—create how I look on the outside, while Jake and I teach you about the bright colors of your inner awesome!

And most importantly, remember: **I Am. I Can. I Will. So, get empowered, and see just how much the world needs you! Own it.**

Love, your friends,
Jane (NOT Plain) & Jake

Ready to have fun? Let's get started. Go to:
www.theJNPproject.com and have fun today!

STORY OVERVIEW

THE PREQUEL STORY

Jane & Jake's Adventures to Awesome: The Journey Begins

Jane can't understand why she has no friends (other than her talking goldfish, Oracle), and she feels invisible to the kids in her class. Jake can't understand why no one seems to get his sense of humor; some kids call him "weird." Oracle is determined to help Jane and her new, true friend, Jake, see how gifted and glowing they both are. Oracle leaps out of his fish bowl and whisks Jane and Jake on a fantastic undersea adventure to discover their "inner awesome."

~ ~ ~

I AM. I CAN. I WILL. EMPOWERED.™

The JNP Project™ is a Self-Esteem Discovery Movement for Children of all Ages.
We help children (and parents) discover their inner awesome!

* The Creative Writing Teams of The World of Jane NOT Plain,™ USA

** Children's Literature Published Authors



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- **Kathy Szaj**,** M.Ed, Lead Writer – United States
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FROM THE FOUNDER

"The really wonderful thing about this adventure and discovery, interactive, storybook series is that we have a host of characters (fabulous kids and delightful sea creatures) with which children will identify. These characters reflect the 'art' of empowerment—they are a blank canvas ready for a child to imagine and explore their ideas of how a person radiates all the colors that make up their inner awesome—their core values from the inside out (their self-esteem and self-confidence). *This is a fantastic series that will enlighten, enrich, engage, and empower your child, forever.*"

Dona
Rudderow
Sturn

Jane & Jake's
Adventures to Awesome™

For Adults

Welcome! Parents, Grandparents, Caregivers, Educators, Teachers, Counselors and Homeschoolers.

Welcome to The JNP Project™—a self-esteem discovery movement for children—
delivered through the entertaining adventure series,
The World of Jane NOT Plain:™ Jane & Jake's Adventures to Awesome.

You've just turned a new page towards empowering children to find their "inner awesome."
Congratulations!

You know how important it is for the children we love and care for to feel the very best they can feel: confident, self-assured, safe, and self-reliant. Our responsibility is to teach them how to feel good about themselves in a world where so much is required of them at such a young age. This is a huge task...and we're committed to helping you do that. Through *Jane & Jake's Adventures to Awesome* and our accompanying *Resource Kits and Lesson Plans for Educators and Parents*, JNP is helping kids to grow their inner awesome (self-esteem) through adventures in character, courage, and confidence.

Ready? Come with us now...to that long-forgotten place, that place that never vanishes no matter how old you are; the place where innocence, wonder, and the strength and spirit of childhood remain true. Meet Jane and her true-blue friend Jake. Say hello to Oracle, Jane's not-so-common talking pet goldfish, who is waiting to whoosh you and your children to the magical Undersea World of Awesome. You and your children will eagerly follow Jane and Jake in each new Adventure to Awesome!

The World of Jane NOT Plain™ is a series of thirty enchanting stories (plus a Prequel lead story) that features lovable characters, inspiring imagery, and opportunities for readers to choose from three story endings. Each tale, supported by an interactive website www.theJNPproject.com, carefully reveals themes that help children build strength of character while developing feelings of self-worth. Through humorous yet insightful text and rich illustrations—in which Jane appears as a "plain blank canvas," enabling your children to imagine Jane's outward appearance—Jane and true-blue friend Jake teach young readers about the bright colors of their inner selves.

Written by a team of children's book authors, The World of Jane NOT Plain stories are guided and vetted by a professional advisory committee that includes counselors, psychologists, educators, reading specialists, parents, and young adults.

Thank you for being part of the JNP Community and growing the Empowerment Movement!

Sincerely,
The JNP Team



CHAPTER 1

Not Just a Plain Goldfish



“Young lady, what are you wearing on your arm?” a low voice said.

I whirled around, almost dropping my gorgeous, plenty-of-purple bracelet.
“Oracle, is that you?”

Oracle was sitting on the edge of his bowl. **“Bub A Lo Ha Ha Ha,”** he chuckled.

Not only is Oracle a plain old *talking* goldfish, but he likes to imitate people’s voices. He also thinks he’s funny.

“It’s an out-of-uniform day at school,” I told Oracle. “And I’m going to wear the bracelet I made last summer with my mom. Everyone will notice how cool it looks next to my white shirt.”



I waved the purple bracelet in front of my mom’s “Mozart mirror,” pretending to conduct an orchestra like my mom does. Purple sparkles danced as my arm dipped and climbed.

“I love it—and so will everyone else,” I said.

“Well...” Oracle didn’t sound too sure.

“Can’t you see the girls in my class, standing around me and my bracelet, wanting to touch it, to try it on?”

I imagined three, four, five girls around me admiring it. Looking into the mirror, I suddenly had a strange feeling that I could walk right into it. *Whoa! What’s happening here, Jane?* Talking out loud to my reflected image, I wiggled my bracelet arm again. *Silly—it’s just your imagination.*

“Well...” Oracle said, a little louder.

“Just think, Oracle, they’re going to notice *me*, Jane, and they’ll become my friends...*real* friends.”

“**Bub A Lo, hey!**” said Oracle softly.

“*Human* friends, Oracle—at school,” I said. I hadn’t meant to hurt his feelings. My goldfish is my best friend, and I tell him almost everything. “This is going to be awesome, Oracle!”



“Well...” said Oracle loudly, using his fin like a megaphone.

“Why do you keep saying that, Oracle?”
I do love him, but he can be annoying sometimes, especially when he knows something that I don’t.

“Jane, what if they *don’t* like your bracelet? Or they don’t even notice it. *You* love your bracelet. But they might not. Then how will you feel?”

“Stop, Oracle. Don’t say anything else. They *will* love it...I know they will.”

“O-kay. **Bub A Lo**, you’d better go so you won’t be late.”

Oracle had a point. I wanted to get to school early so I could start showing my bracelet to the girls in my class as they arrived.

“Have a good day, Jane,” Oracle said, slipping back into his bowl with a little splash.

“Don’t worry about me—this is going to be my best day *ever!*” I grabbed my cinch-pack and waved goodbye, purple sparkles flashing in the mirror.

Oracle watched through his watery window as Jane left their apartment building two floors below.

The goldfish sighed. “**Bub A Lo**, *no*, I do *not* have a very good feeling about this.” •





CHAPTER 2

Is Jane Invisible?



A giant bell gonged three times, signaling the end of the third and fourth grade lunch period.

How could this be? Jane thought. A whole morning at school already, and absolutely no one had even *peeked* at her plenty-of-purple bracelet, much less asked to try it on.

Not when she rubbed her itchy nose while shaking her purple bracelet. Not when she raised her bracelet arm to volunteer to erase the whiteboard in her math class. Not even when the music teacher asked her to show the class how to keep time to the rhythm of a fast song.

Walking from the noisy lunchroom to the yard outside, Jane saw a classmate waving to her from the other side of the schoolyard. It was Nerissa, a girl who spoke Spanish and French, besides English. The girl who never acted like a math wizard, even though she was. The one girl who could make up stories even faster than



Jane. The girl who just *might* become her first human friend at school.

Jane's purple bracelet sparkled in the sunlight as she waved back at Nerissa and began walking toward her. She held her head high, as if she were a queen. "Hi, Nerissa," she practiced saying in a friendly-yet-royal voice. Suddenly, six, seven, eight girls rushed past her across the yard in Nerissa's direction.

A popular girl in the fifth grade was holding her arm straight up in the air, as if she had just won a gold medal at the Olympics. Jane stared at the older girl across the yard. Her face got hot while the rest of her felt as if she were swimming in a cold lake. On the popular girl's raised arm, something red and orange—a bracelet!—glittered in the sunlight. The crowd of girls was trying to touch her wrist, begging her to let them try on her "so-awesome" bracelet.

"Wait, what about Jane's bracelet?" Nerissa said, trying to be heard above the noise.

One girl turned to her. "You don't mean *Plain Jane's* bracelet, do you?" A few of the other girls laughed.

Jane turned, marched to the nearby fence, and kicked it. What was *wrong* with them? Couldn't they see that her bracelet was just as good—no, better!—than that popular girl's? But how could they? They didn't even see *her*.

She might as well be invisible. Maybe she *was* just a "Plain Jane," like that girl said. Jane took off her bracelet and threw it over the fence. *There*. No point wearing a bracelet if no one could see her.

The big school bell gonged three times—it was time to go back to the classroom. Jane dragged her feet as she walked back toward the school building. Social studies in the afternoon, and they would be making maps. Jane's chin lifted. She *loved* maps. She could find places in the world where her mom's orchestra was



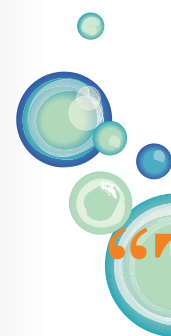
playing concerts. Jane skipped across the schoolyard, through the open door and into the building.

In the furthest corner of the schoolyard, Jake, a boy in Jane's class, had quietly watched all that happened. He talked with a teacher, pointing to the fence. •



CHAPTER 3

**Jane,
Who is NOT Plain**



“**T**hen we looked at a 3-D map of Japan from the top down, and I felt like I was flying over the island where Mom and her orchestra are playing,” I explained to Oracle.

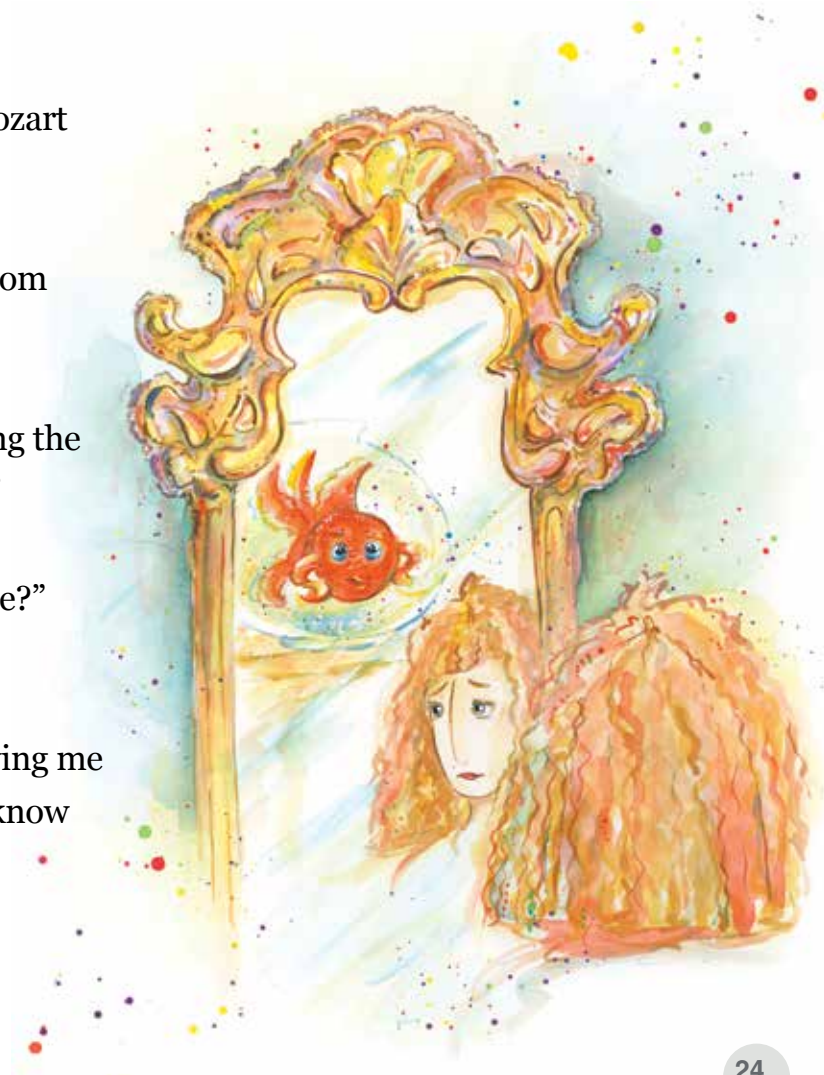
I stretched out my arms in my big Mozart mirror as if I were a jet plane.

“Jane...” Oracle said, watching me zoom around in front of the mirror.

“It was so cool, Oracle. Just by clicking the mouse, I could get closer and closer.”

“And what *else* did you do today, Jane?” Oracle persisted.

Oh-oh. In my mirror I saw Oracle giving me one of his looks that said, “I already know something happened.”



“Okay, you were right,” I told my goldfish. “It didn’t work. Not even *one* girl wanted to look at my purple bracelet.” I looked at Oracle in his fish bowl and dropped my pretend-airplane arms. “What’s wrong with me, Oracle? Why doesn’t anyone at school want to be my friend?”

Oracle looked quietly at me. I turned back to the Mozart mirror, trying to see how girls in my class saw me.

“You’re looking in the wrong place, Jane,” Oracle began.

“I don’t get it, Oracle. They call me ‘Plain Jane’—is it because I always wear plain white shirts? They think I’m boring.”

“Nothing about you is boring or plain, Miss Jane,” Oracle said. “Look again.”

“What am I supposed to see?”

“Bub A Lo, look carefully! What makes you Jane, you now will see,” Oracle rhymed, diving into his bowl, splashing me with his fin.

“Hey! My shirt is wet. Wait a minute!” I said. “My white shirt...”





“...isn’t plain white anymore,” Oracle broke in. “Say hello to some of your colors.”

“What do you mean, *my colors*? How many do I have? Where did they come from?” I asked.

“From you. Not from the outside Jane seen by others, but from the Jane you really are. Your *Inside Self*—which is *full* of colors—is giving you a little wink.”

“Oh! Oracle, my colors are disappearing,” I said, watching the splotches fade.

“If you say something out loud about who you are, from your *Inside Self*, its matching color will blink at you. Quickly! What makes you *Jane*?” Oracle crossed his fins on his chest and waited.

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. “Well, I can’t conduct an orchestra like Mom or play a musical instrument well enough to perform on stage like Dad or my little brother, Mitch. But, I think I’m smart. Mom and Dad and most of my teachers say I’m smart.”

Three big yellow-orange dots appeared on my shirt and began blinking. “Oracle, *look!*”

“When it comes to smart, you’re state-of-the-art!” Oracle sang, waving his fins like a cheerleader.





“What if I look *too* smart? I heard one girl in another class say that smart kids look weird. Oracle, what does ‘smart’ *look* like?”

Looking in the Mozart mirror, I tried looking *very* smart, then not-so-smart, which looked weird and made the yellow-orange dots on my shirt disappear. I thought about the smartest *boy* in my class. Jake’s eyes seemed to change colors, and he loved telling jokes. Only Oracle knew that Jake was a boy I’d like to be friends with—even if I didn’t always understand his jokes.

“What about making friends with Jake?” Oracle asked.

I stared at my goldfish. How *did* he always seem to know what I was thinking? “But, Oracle, I can’t just march up to Jake and say, ‘Ja-a-ke, do you want to be friends with me?’ like I could when I was in pre-school. I can just hear what those girls—and probably the boys, too—would say! Maybe there’s some secret to making friends that I don’t know. Do you think so, Oracle?”

In the mirror, I saw my goldfish boost himself up to sit on the rim of his fishbowl. Oracle was looking straight at me. No, he was looking at my *arm*—my empty arm where my bracelet used to be. I couldn’t look at him because I knew what he was thinking. I looked down at my not-so-white sneakers instead.

Oracle’s voice, so soft I could hardly hear it, was sad. “**Bub A Lo...Oh, no!** Jane, where is your plenty-of-purples bracelet?” •



CHAPTER 4

You Can't Keep
a Secret from
Oracle



“I didn’t mean to do it, Oracle. But I was just so...”

“Angry?” Oracle asked helpfully.

“Yes. And now I feel horrible,” I said. “Before I knew what I was doing, I had yanked it off my arm and...”

“...thrown it away.” Oracle finished my sentence quietly.

I nodded. “Oracle, I *have* to go back to school and see if I can find my bracelet.”

I opened my bedroom door to go ask Blanca if she would let me go. She was in charge until Dad came home, and since she’s not an *old* grown-up—she’s in college—she seemed my best chance.

Oracle shook his head. “**Bub A Lo, no!** Don’t even *think* about going alone. And **Bub A Lo...Oh, no-no!** How did that *cat* get in here?”

“Me-e-e-oww,” the cat replied with her biggest cat grin, swishing and swaying as she walked towards Oracle’s fishbowl. “Me-e-e-oww,” she repeated.

“She’s just lonesome because Mom’s gone,” I said. Tikko, our cat, has the most amazing green eyes. Sometimes, like now, I wish I could magically trade my plain dark gray ones for Tikko’s. *Everybody* notices Tikko’s eyes.

“Lonesome or not, you shush, cat. It’s not your turn to talk about your busy morning chasing a mouse. *Jane* is talking now. And *we* are listening,” Oracle said sternly.

“Oracle, don’t tell me you know what Tikko is thinking too! Can you read her mind?”

“Yes, and **Bub A Lo, whoa!** This is one *very* chatty cat!” Oracle rolled his eyes in Tikko’s direction.

No wonder Oracle always seemed to know what was happening inside me! He could probably read *anybody*—people or animals. How did he learn to do this?

“But, Jane, you can ‘read people’ too,” Oracle said.

“No, I can’t. Otherwise, I would know whether Jake...”

“...wants to be your friend?” Oracle said.

“You can, Jane.”

“But, how?” Sometimes I just can’t understand what Oracle is talking about.



“First, practice letting go of your dark thoughts about not being good enough to be anyone’s friend,” Oracle said patiently.

“I don’t know how to do that.”

“Of course you do. Like today, when you thought about making maps to chase away feeling bad about your bracelet,” Oracle said. “You felt better, right?”

“For a little while. But then I felt bad again.” I knew Oracle was trying to help, but I still didn’t get it.

“Feeling better takes practice.” Oracle’s eyes seemed extra big as he looked at me. “You have so much more than *dark* thoughts inside you, Jane.”

I imagined my mom’s orchestra. “You mean like beautiful music has more than just sad notes? And playing too many sad notes could get boring...?”





“Exactly!” Oracle happily clapped his fins. “And *you* are the *conductor* of all your thoughts and feelings.”

“That’s awesome!”

“Now you can start noticing the orange, green, and pink-striped thoughts and delicious purple grape feelings in yourself and in others. **Bub A Lo!** Speaking of feelings, I better dive.”

Oracle took a quick plunge back into his bowl and looked through the glass at Tikko, who had sneaked so close to his fishbowl that she was only one paw-swipe away.

Jane’s goldfish gave Tikko a very serious, dark red look. He knew what the cat’s “I-just-want-to-be-your-friend” meow *really* meant—and what it meant, Oracle did *not* like! •





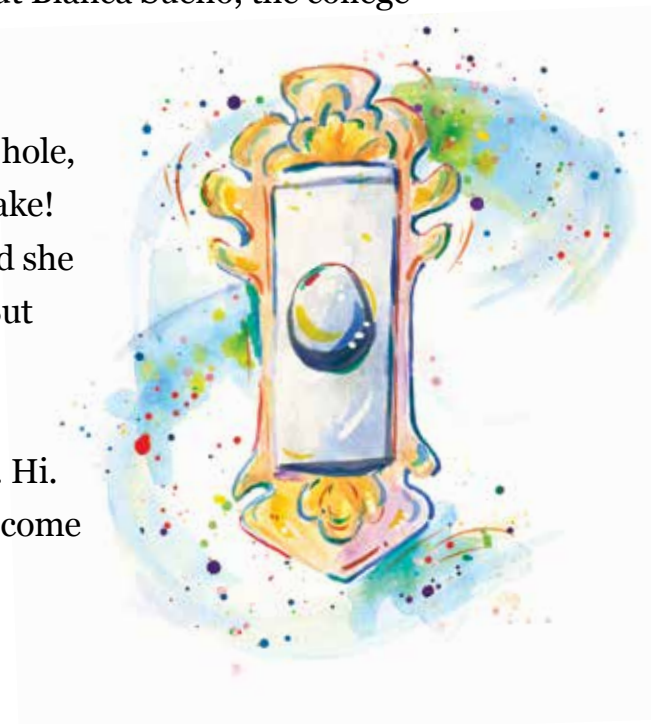
CHAPTER 5
Jake!



The apartment doorbell buzzed loudly. “Jane, please get the door. I’m busy getting Mitch to practice his violin,” called out Blanca Sueño, the college girl who stayed with Jane after school.

Jane ran to the door, peeked through the security hole, and gasped. Standing in front of her door was... Jake! She had never talked with him before. What would she say? Maybe she could pretend she wasn’t home. But that would be a lie.

Jane unlocked and slowly opened the door. “Jake. Hi. What are you doing here? I mean, do you want to come in...or something?” she stammered.





“Well, okay,” said Jake. “Maybe just for a minute. But we can’t stay.” He held up one hand, which was holding a leash. Hiding behind Jake was the tiniest dog Jane had ever seen. “I was walking my dog, Titan, and I...” Jake held up his other hand, which contained something sparkly—her plenty-of-purple bracelet!

“My bracelet! How did you find it? Oh, thank you...”

As Jane reached for her bracelet, Tikko gave a loud meow behind her. The bracelet dropped to the floor. The little dog darted out, grabbed it in his mouth, and ran past Jake into the hall. A flash of cat fur bolted through the open doorway, and Tikko gleefully chased Titan down the hallway towards the open elevator.

“Tikko!” shouted Jane.

“Titan, come back!” yelled Jake.

Jane and Jake ran after the animals. Too late! The elevator doors closed, taking the animals and the purple bracelet down to the lobby. “Come on, Jake, we’ll take the stairs,” Jane said, pointing to the closest stairwell.





Half jumping, half running, Jane and Jake descended the stairs as fast as their feet would carry them. Panting as they entered the lobby, they spotted Jane's abandoned bracelet on the floor, and found Tikko and Titan running madly in circles around surprised people trying to enter and exit the apartment building.

"Oh, no you don't!" the uniformed apartment doorman said. "That's enough shenanigans from you," Mr. Pescadero scolded, grabbing hold of the cat's collar with one hand and the dog's leash with the other. "Do these critters belong to you two by any chance?" the doorman asked.

"Um, yes, sir," Jane mumbled. "To me and Jake."

"And what about the building's rule that says *all* animals that come into this lobby are to be either on a leash or in a cage...hmm?" The doorman frowned. "You *do* know the rules, don't you?"

"Jake doesn't, but I do, yes. Sorry, Mr. Pescadero. We won't let them escape again. Promise." Jane's face flushed as she tried *not* to look at Jake. She looked instead at her plenty-of-purples bracelet, now back on her wrist.

The doorman put Titan's leash in Jake's outstretched hand and the meowing and squirming Tikko in Jane's arms. "Well, you make sure they don't, Ginger."

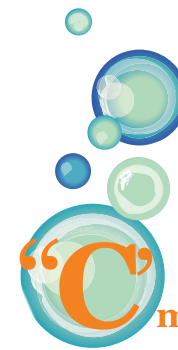
Jane didn't even bother to tell him that her name was "Jane," not "Ginger." Just good ol' Plain Jane. •





CHAPTER 6

**Meowing and
Barking...
and Whoosh!**



“Comon, Titan, good boy,” Jake said. “Jane’s invited us to go back to her apartment.” He had checked in with his mom and held his little dog securely, away from Tikko the cat, who was eager to resume her game of “Chase the Dog.”

“Your dog’s name is *Titan*? Doesn’t that mean...?” asked Jane.

“...giant sized, with great strength. Yeah, it does. The Titans were also a family of humongous people in Greek mythology,” said Jake.

“But...Titan *isn’t* big.”

“I know,” Jake grinned. “That’s why I named him that.”

Jane’s face scrunched in confusion.

Jake shrugged. “It’s supposed to be a joke. But I guess most people don’t understand my sense of humor.”

“Oh-h! Now I *get* it!” Jane said.



“Get what?” Blanca asked, opening the apartment door to let them in. “Where did you two kids suddenly disappear to? I went to tell you I am in Mitch’s room, listening while he rehearses his solo piece for the concert, but you were gone.”

“Oh, we were just...” Jane paused, looking at Jake for help.

“Taking the animals for a little walk. See, Titan had a good walk, didn’t you, boy?” Jake held up his little dog, who was still panting from his unexpected exercise.

“O-kay,” Blanca said slowly, “but cats do not need walking.” She looked carefully, first at Jane, then Jake. The apartment phone rang. “Next time, you tell me before you leave the apartment, understand?” She turned and ran toward the ringing phone.

Jane called out to Blanca. “That’s probably Jake’s mom, calling to tell you it’s okay for him to stay a while to do homework with me.”

From the corner of her eye, Jane saw Tikko move and caught her midair as the cat tried to leap at Titan. “Oh no, you don’t! No more adventures for you!” she scolded the loudly meowing cat. She deposited Tikko on the floor in her parents’ bedroom and closed the door. “There, Titan, now you’re safe.”

Jake put Titan on the floor. Jane glanced shyly at Jake, and then she began to giggle. “Our big, fat cat...” Jane said, putting her hand over her mouth.

“Who’s twice the size of my *humongous* dog...” Jake said, standing up and grinning.

“Can’t you see it?” Jane said, leading Jake to her room. “Someone waits for the elevator...the elevator arrives...”



“The door opens...and out run a dog and a cat,” Jake laughed.

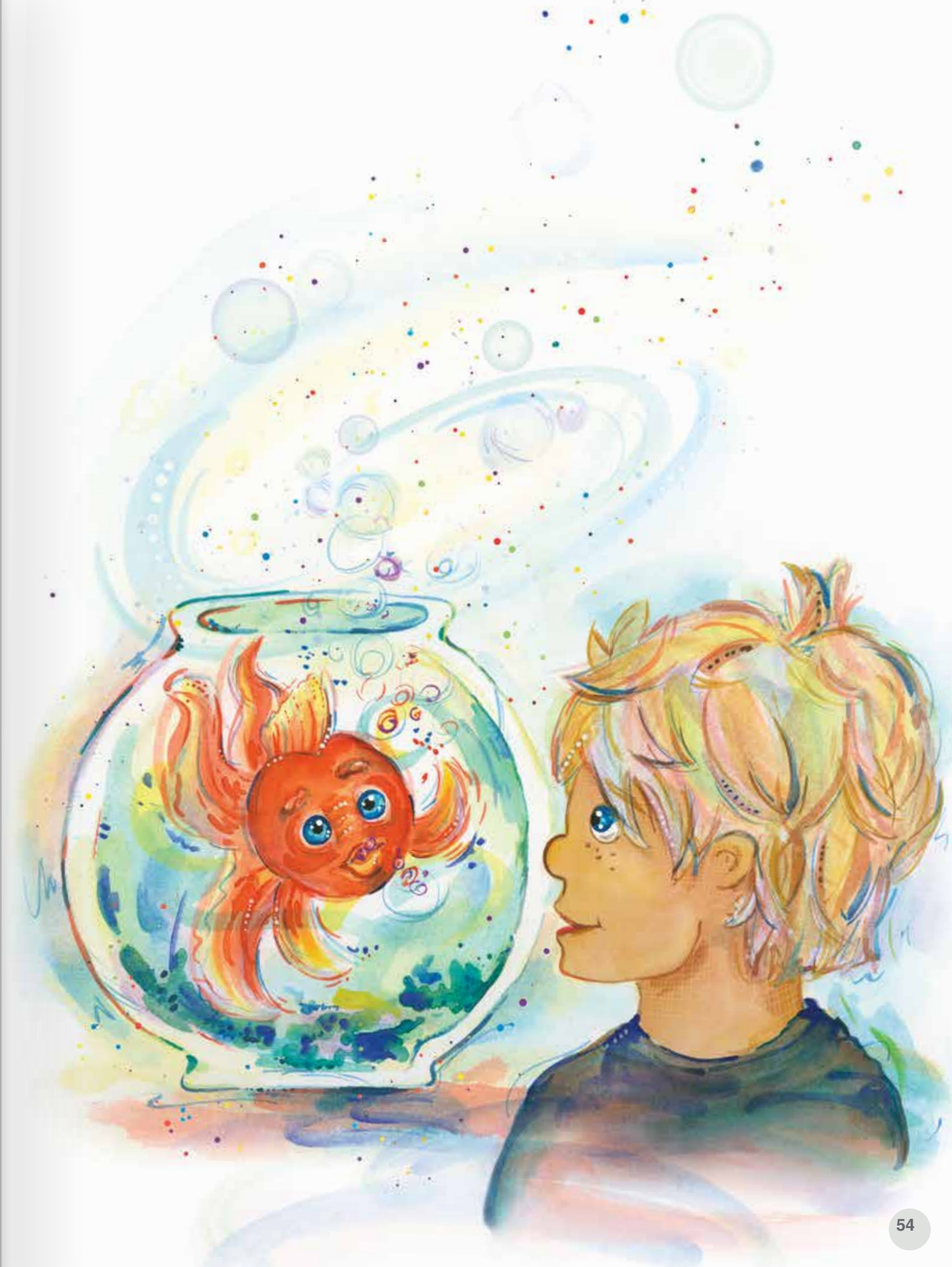
“Barking and meowing...” Jane said, demonstrating both.

“Meowing and barking,” Jake said, echoing Jane’s animal sounds. “Hey,” Jake said, spotting Oracle in his bowl, “nice goldfish.”

“That’s Oracle.” Jane swallowed the last of her giggles and immediately began hiccupping.

“Oracle? Like the one that predicted the future in some old Greek myths?” Jake looked closer at the goldfish.

“Not exactly,” Jane said, taking a drink from the water bottle she kept in her cinch pack. “But Oracle is not like an ordinary goldfish. He kind of... talks to me.” *Oh, great, thought Jane, now Jake’s going to think I’m weird.*





“Really? That’s cool,” said Jake. “I wish I had an Oracle who could tell me a few things.”

“Like what?” asked Jane.

“Like why no one gets my humor. Like why I got tongue-tied when I was trying to tell one of my best jokes to...um...someone in our class. I even practiced out loud in front of the mirror in the school bathroom. I thought I was alone, but suddenly this kid I hadn’t seen told me to forget the jokes because I wasn’t funny. ‘A weird nerd, yes. A comedian, no.’” Jake mimicked.

“That’s not fair,” Jane protested. “I’ll bet your joke is really funny. I have an idea! Let’s pretend you’re alone again. Now, stand here in front of my Mozart mirror—where my mom used to practice conducting music—and try your joke again. I won’t listen if you don’t want me to. I’ll even shut my ears. When you’re ready, you can tell me your joke. What do you think?”

“I think...hey Jane, what are these sparkles of color in your mirror? And look at the glass...it has waves in it.”

Jane walked to her mirror and stood next to Jake. They both leaned closer to inspect the mirror, and before Oracle finished counting to five, Jane and Jake began hearing distant music and felt suddenly sleepy.

Oracle sat on the rim of his bowl and hummed to Jane and Jake:

**“Now feel your feelings
Good and strong
And follow the tune
Of Awesome’s song.
Bub A Lo, Home!”**

With a *Whoosh!* Jane, Jake, and Oracle disappeared from Jane’s room. •



CHAPTER 7

Welcome to Awesome



“Jane?” Jake called, rubbing his eyes. He took a step forward, half floating, half walking—in a water world.

“I’m here, Jake. Where is this underwater place? How can we breathe down here just like we do in the air? What happened?”

“I don’t know, but it sure is awesome. Look at this,” Jake said, pointing to the dazzling light that swirled around them.

“Bub A Lo-o, here we go-o,” sang Oracle’s voice.

“Oracle? You’re here? Thank goodness! What is this light surrounding us? Do you know where we are?” Jane asked.

“How did we get here? And why are we here?” Jake chimed in.



“One question at a time, please,” Oracle replied, in his best teacher voice. “To answer your first question, look closer at the light. It looks like one shimmering white light, right? Look again. It’s actually a ga-zillion tiny lights of different colors blinking on and off.”

“Like summer fireflies!” said Jane.

“Only in colors,” Jake added. He scooped a handful of the light. “Look! Here is some lime green. And over there,” he said, pointing, “is pumpkin orange.”

“I’m touching blue-jay blue and bubble-gum pink,” said Jane, holding up her pointer fingers of each hand.

“There goes taxi-cab yellow...” Jake said, turning around.

“Fire-engine red...” Jane called out.

“And bracelet purple!” said Jane and Jake together.

“**Bub A Wheee!**” Oracle sang.

“**The more you look,
The more you’ll see
The colors that twirl
Around you now
Are sparkles of *you*
Taking a bow!**”

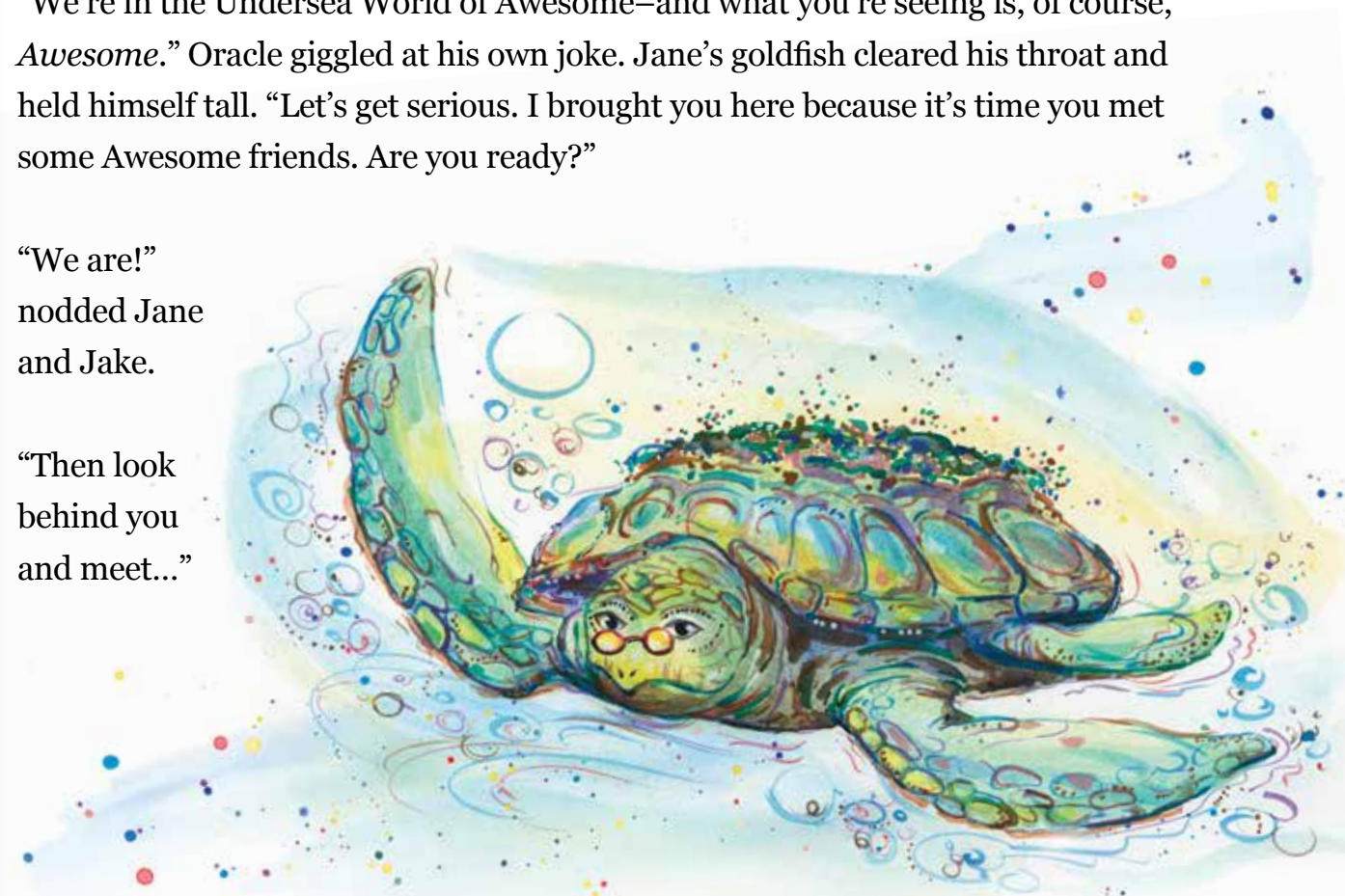
“But that’s enough of *that*,” Oracle said with a clap of his fins. The swirling individual colors joined to form one glowing white light and disappeared. “So who wants to know where we are?”

“We do!” shouted Jane and Jake.

“We’re in the Undersea World of Awesome—and what you’re seeing is, of course, *Awesome*.” Oracle giggled at his own joke. Jane’s goldfish cleared his throat and held himself tall. “Let’s get serious. I brought you here because it’s time you met some Awesome friends. Are you ready?”

“We are!”
nodded Jane
and Jake.

“Then look
behind you
and meet...”



“Jaunty Mr. Sea Turtle, at your service,” said a deep voice belonging to the biggest turtle Jane and Jake had ever seen.

“Jaunty Mr. Sea Turtle has been Awesome’s Chief Guide and Teacher of The Big Secret for a few hundred years,” said Oracle.

“Three-hundred years, eight months and fifty-seven days, to be exact,” said Jaunty. “I’m rather good with numbers.” He bowed his head modestly.

Jane and Jake bowed their heads in return. “We’re glad to meet you, sir,” said Jane.

“Mr. Sea Turtle, what’s The Big Secret that you teach?” asked Jake.

“Excuse me,” interrupted a lively female voice. “We’re sorry to be late.”

“We meant to be here when Jane and Jake first arrived,” said a friendly male voice, “but the Castle drawbridge was stuck *again*, and Allegro had to get out her tools to fix it. How do you do; I’m Prince Andante.” The Prince extended one hand to Jane and the other to Jake. “And this is my twin sister, Princess Allegro. We’re the Mer-Twins. See the castle over there? That’s Adventure Castle, our home.”

“But I thought...” Jane said.

“That mermaids and mermen were only in made-up stories, right?” Allegro sighed. “We hear that a lot. But as you can see, here we are!”

“And so are we!” sang a group of voices, some low and soft, others high and loud.





“We couldn’t resist crawling in to say hello,” said Monte The Magnificent, wearing a magician’s cape and hat.

“Make that *wiggling* in,” said a moray eel.

“How about those of us who just plain slide-‘n’-glide?” said two voices, belonging to a jellyfish and a manta ray.

“Bub A Lo, whoa! Let’s not overwhelm Jane and Jake on their first trip to Awesome. They’ll be back for their First-Full-Amazing-Adventure soon,” declared Oracle.

“Adventure?” asked Jake. “*What* amazing adventure?”

“Amazing adventures in Awesome, my boy,” said Jaunty Mr. Sea Turtle.

“You know—challenges to win, puzzles to solve, secrets to unlock, and problems to shrink and change into something else,” said Monte The Magnificent with a grand flourish of his cape.

“Don’t forget the Awesome prizes, and especially, *The Pearls of Power*. We keep them in a shimmering white *Shell of Wisdom* safely behind a glass door—until *you* earn them,” said Andante and Allegro.



“Can’t we stay and start the First-Full-Amazing-Adventure now? Please?” pleaded Jane. Jake nodded eagerly.

“Not this time,” said Allegro. “Your after-school helper, Ms. Blanca Sueño, is about to knock on Jane’s bedroom door to bring you a snack.

“But you never leave Awesome empty handed,” said Andante. “Monte, the shells, please.”

“Yes, Your Royal Highness,” Monte The Magnificent saluted with two of his claws. Taking off his magician’s hat, he pulled out two gleaming shells that looked like big, sparkling ears.



Princess Allegro took one and gave it to Jane. “For you, Jane NOT Plain. When you return to your room, listen to the message inside. It’s especially for *you*.”

Prince Andante took the other shell, giving it to Jake. “For you, Jake-of-Many-Jokes. When you return to Jane’s room, listen to the message inside that’s meant especially for *you*.”

“It’s time for you to leave and return to the world above,” said Jaunty Mr. Sea Turtle. “But I know you’ll be back soon in Awesome. Oracle, are you ready?”

Oracle nodded and began to hum:

**“Now feel your Awesome
Good and strong
With gifts in hand
To take along.
Bub A Lo Yeah!”**

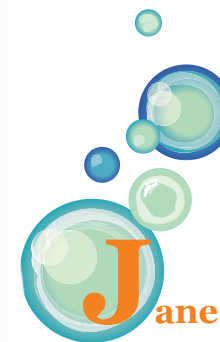
The Teacher of The Big Secret smiled his ancient (three-hundred years, eight months, and fifty-seven days, to be exact) turtle smile.

And with that, Jane, Jake, and Oracle disappeared in a single *Whoosh!* •



CHAPTER 8

Messages from the Shells



Jane and Jake landed lightly on their feet, swaying slightly as they stood once again in front of the Mozart mirror in Jane's room. Startled, Titan barked once.

"Bub A Lo, whoa!" said Oracle, splashing happily into his fishbowl. "Wasn't that *fun*?"

"You mean Awesome really happened?" whispered Jane.

"Awesome really exists?" Jake's eyes, first blue, turned green and then gold.





“Of course Awesome exists,” Oracle said reasonably, climbing up to the rim of his bowl. “We just returned from there, didn’t we?” The goldfish lowered his voice. “Look in your hands; then, look closely in the mirror.”

Jane and Jake looked down at their hands, which now held two shells that looked like ears, with tiny flecks of flashing colors. Jane brought her shell to one ear and instantly heard a clear, soft voice: “*You sparkle more than any bracelet in the entire world, Jane.*” She smiled.

Seeing her happy face, Jake held his shell to his ear: “*You are one funny dude, Jake.*” He laughed.

“Hey, Jake...look at your eyes. They’ve turned purple!”

Jake turned to look in the mirror. Sure enough—purple. His eyes were never *that* color before. “Jane, check out your hair.”

Jane used her fingers to lift a few strands of her hair. They were now a soft purple.

“Psst, the door,” warned Oracle, plopping back into his bowl, making red, green, and blue waves that immediately disappeared.

“Anyone ready for a snack?” called out Blanca. She came into the room balancing a loaded tray of graham crackers, fruit, and milk.

“We are,” said Jane. “I’m so hungry I could eat a castle of crackers!”

“And I’m so thirsty, I could drink an ocean of milk!” said Jake.

Oracle suddenly leapt high in his fishbowl, splashing water on Blanca who set down the snack tray with a thud. “*iAy, caramba! ¡Estoy mojada!* I am wet!”

“Oracle didn’t mean it, Blanca. Sorry,” Jane said, knowing Blanca only spoke Spanish to her when she was very surprised or upset. Jane glanced at Oracle, holding back a giggle. Jane and Jake thanked Blanca and dived into their snacks.





“Titan, come sit on my lap,” Jake said, reaching for a grape. “Jane, do you want to hear my joke now?”

Jane nodded and listened as Jake told his joke, complete with a few silly sound effects. Jane began laughing, holding one hand on her stomach and the other on her mouth.

“**Bub A Yikes!** Cat alert!!” yelled Oracle from his fishbowl, spying Tikko, who was now stalking Titan.

“Tikko, how did you get out of Mom and Dad’s room?” Jane reached over to capture the cat,

who leapt at Titan,
who jumped off Jake’s lap,
which knocked Jake’s leg into the table,
which sloshed the milk out of the glasses and
slid the graham crackers off the plate and
rolled the grapes onto the floor,

as Tikko the cat chased Titan the dog,

while Oracle the goldfish used his megaphone fins to warn Titan *not* to get involved with a cat who *never* stopped talking.



Who would ever believe in a talking goldfish, a wise old sea turtle who teaches The Big Secret, and Pearls of Power kept in a Royal Adventure Castle?

How could anyone travel far away, undersea, yet return only minutes later with glistening colors and good feelings?

Jane and Jake believe. They've been to Awesome.

And these two friends can hardly wait for the many adventures they *know* are to come. •



The End!

Join Jane & Jake on their next adventure...



Bub A Lo.
Let's go & have more FUN!

I Am. I Can. I Will. Empowered.™

ACHIEVE YOUR CIRCLE OF POWER
EMPOWERMENT BADGE

Jane & Jake's
Adventures to Awesome™



Collect All Your Individual *Inner Awesome*
Empowerment Badges as the Adventures Continue...



Oracle's Ditties

Download the ditties song so you can sing along!
(www.theJNPproject.com)

*"Now feel your feelings
Good and strong,
And follow the tune
of Awesome's song.
Bub A Lo, Home!"*

"Bub A Wheee!"
*"The more you look,
The more you'll see
The colors that twirl
Around you now
Are sparkles of you
Taking a bow!"*

*"Now feel your Awesome
Good and strong
With gifts in hand
To take along.
Bub A Lo, yeah!"*

Jane & Jake's Adventures to Awesome Theme Song

Bub A Lo, ha!
I'm glad that you stopped by,
on such an awesome, secret, and amazing day!
Take a journey to the bottom of the big, blue sea,
with all my school friends & me.

Join me in discovering the things that make us shine,
and dance along to this empowering tune.
I sing this special message that lives
deep within my heart.
The World Needs You!

Bub A Lo, Home!
It's wonderful you're here,
as Oracle is taking us away,
to adventures at the bottom of the big, blue sea,
with all my school friends & me.

We are so very special, and we will not feel plain.
When we need to be strong in all we do.
Find the Circle of Power that is in your heart.
The World Needs You!

Bub A Lo, hey!
It's time to learn and play,
and find your inner awesome just like me!!
The Circle of Power lives within our hearts.
The World Needs You!

And you, and you, and you:
Own it!



Download the theme song so you can sing along!
(www.theJNPproject.com)

Fun Facts



TRANSLATION: SPANISH to ENGLISH

¡Ay, caramba! — Oh, my gosh!

Blanca Sueño — white dream

¡Estoy mojada! — I'm wet!

1: In some chapters, such as #1, #3, #4, etc., Jane talks directly to us by using the word "I." * But in other chapters, such as #2, #5, #6, etc., Jane is being talked about (by the narrator).** Can you figure out the mystery behind this?

* This is called 1st person point of view.

** This is 3rd person point of view.

2: The Mer-Twins, Princess Allegro and Prince Andante, have music hidden within their names. If you want to talk about a song that is happy, with a quick tempo or speed, you could call it "allegro." A fairly slow piece of music (that you could walk to without running out of breath) could be called "andante."

3: There's something fishy about the doorman of Jane's apartment building; his name! In Spanish, a "pescadero" is someone who sells fish.

4: The Mer-Twins are older than Jane and Jake but not yet adults. In fact, they're t _ _ n _ _ rs!

5: "Blanca Sueño," Jane's after-school sitter, is a dream...a white dream, to be exact. Do you know why? (See the Spanish-English word translations.)

I Am. I Can. I Will. Empowered.™

PREQUEL STORY: Jane & Jake's Adventure to Awesome Empowerment Begins!			
SERIES ONE		SERIES TWO	SERIES THREE
#	Color	CHARACTER Traits Pearls of Power™ Bestow Good Character	I AM Coins of Power™ Add Up To "You"
1	Blue	Truth	I CAN; I WILL Stones of Power™ Rock Solid Self-Empowerment
2	Pink	Kindness	21 I will tell the truth; to be truthful
3	Green	Harmony	22 I will be friendly; to be a friend
4	White	Forgiveness	23 I will calmly approach difficult situations
5	Gold	Giving	24 I will not hold a grudge
6	Red	Love	25 I will give and I will share
7	Silver	Determination	26 I will spread love and joy
8	Purple	Compassion	27 I will see it through
9	Orange	Strength	28 I will show concern for others
10	Black	Character: ALL Inner Awesome: Self-Worth & EMPOWERMENT	29 I will stand tall
		20 I am: I will be I AM all of this: I AM ME	30 I will be the essence of all (colors) I HAVE A STRONG CHARACTER: I CAN and I WILL Be Empowered.

When I discover all my inner awesome, I will complete MY Circle of Power™-- it will live within my heart!

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Jane and Jake have more Adventures to share—31 stories in all! So, come along with them and their friends to Awesome. Learn the power in truth, the impact of kindness, the lessons in determination, the joy of love, and so much more. Find your "inner awesome" just like Jane and Jake, and you'll know that great things are ahead. Indeed, the world needs you... so own it! **YOU CAN. YOU WILL!**

We Hope You Enjoyed your Journey to Awesome with Jane & Jake and all their friends !!

There are lots more undersea adventures to come where Jane and Jake meet interesting, fun new characters; solve puzzles; discover character traits; and hunt for and find The Big Secret—all while having fun and growing in confidence as they learn more about themselves—and you will too!!



Be sure to download your next adventure storybook in the series at: www.theJNPproject.com



PARENTS. EDUCATORS. CAREGIVERS.

Check out the full list of stories on our website. Here kids can enjoy speaking directly to Jane and Jake through their forum and engage with interactive materials and competitions. You can find resource materials, engage in a Members Only private Q&A Forum (speaking directly to our experts on education and family issues), and more! Please explore the site and learn about The JNP Project's Movement and our Mission. You will find information specific to kids' self-esteem and how parents, caregivers and educators can help a child feel more empowered.

my adventure is dedicated to **JM**

The JNP PROJECT
A SELF-ESTEEM DISCOVERY MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN

Discover Your Inner Awesome. It Is Positively Empowering!

www.theJNPproject.com

**A Self-esteem Discovery Movement Nurturing
Character, Courage, and Confidence in Children.**

The JNP Project Vision

I am. I can. I will. Empowered.™

The JNP Project Brand Spirit

Discovering your inner awesome is positively empowering!

The JNP Project Mission Statement

The JNP Project™ is a positive self-esteem movement that promotes the growth of self-confidence in boys and girls by helping them discover and make choices from their inner awesome!

The JNP Project Mission Action

Fun and interactive media—such as an educational, interactive adventure chapter-book series; parent activity guides/resources and educator curriculum/lesson plans/resources; interactive apps; short, animated stories with accompanying toys and accessories—make The JNP Project™ positively empowering for you!

The JNP Project Mission Philosophy

The World Needs You! Own It.™

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Join the movement — do it today!

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Parents, Children, and Professionals Support JNP

"I found it very helpful and inspiring. I found that the books were powerful role models for me. I learned about the under-water world of Awesome. I feel like the characters can relate to a lot of people. I highly recommend JNP!" (This is his actual comments about the Prequel Book—he was not prompted—he read the printed version and asked his Aunt to send this in to us.)

Fabian, Age 8, Brooklyn, NY

"My children (twins) received a copy of Jane & Jake's Adventures to Awesome, The Journey Begins, prequel book as a holiday gift. My six year old daughter was delighted! She can read chapter books, but asked me to read this to her right away. She was excited to hold a copy of a book she'd seen on the computer screen! When I read the book to both of my children, we were able to talk about the different character strengths and it was just wonderful! My daughter was captivated by the colorful pearls and how each one represents a positive trait. She was also able to sympathize with Jane and her feelings in the story. She likes the book so much, that she keeps it by her bedside and asks me to read it to her each evening as her bedtime story. My son, a non-reader, was drawn in initially by the artwork and then listened attentively. The book, and Jane's journey, appeals to a broad range of kids and abilities. THANKS!!"

Karen McLaughlin, Parent, Annapolis, MD

"By reading *Jane & Jake's Adventures to Awesome* stories, the child develops a relationship with the characters and they become powerful role-models in that child's mind and life. These thought-provoking stories will give a new generation of children the inner resources they need to feel good about themselves and compassionate toward others. You could say that JNP is transforming lives one story at a time. As someone whose life mission is to empower parents to bring out the best in their children, I can't recommend these books highly enough!"

Biteena Frazier, Parenting Specialist, Annapolis, MD

"After reading the Prequel Story, I wanted to read more. After reading Book 1: Truth, and Book 2: Kindness, I could just imagine parents reading to children (younger children as well as older children). They would definitely understand the vocabulary as well as the enjoyment and thrill of Jane & Jake's adventures—well done; you [The JNP Team] are all saints for creating such a wonderful brand!"

Marianne Sachs, Child Psychotherapist, Annapolis, MD

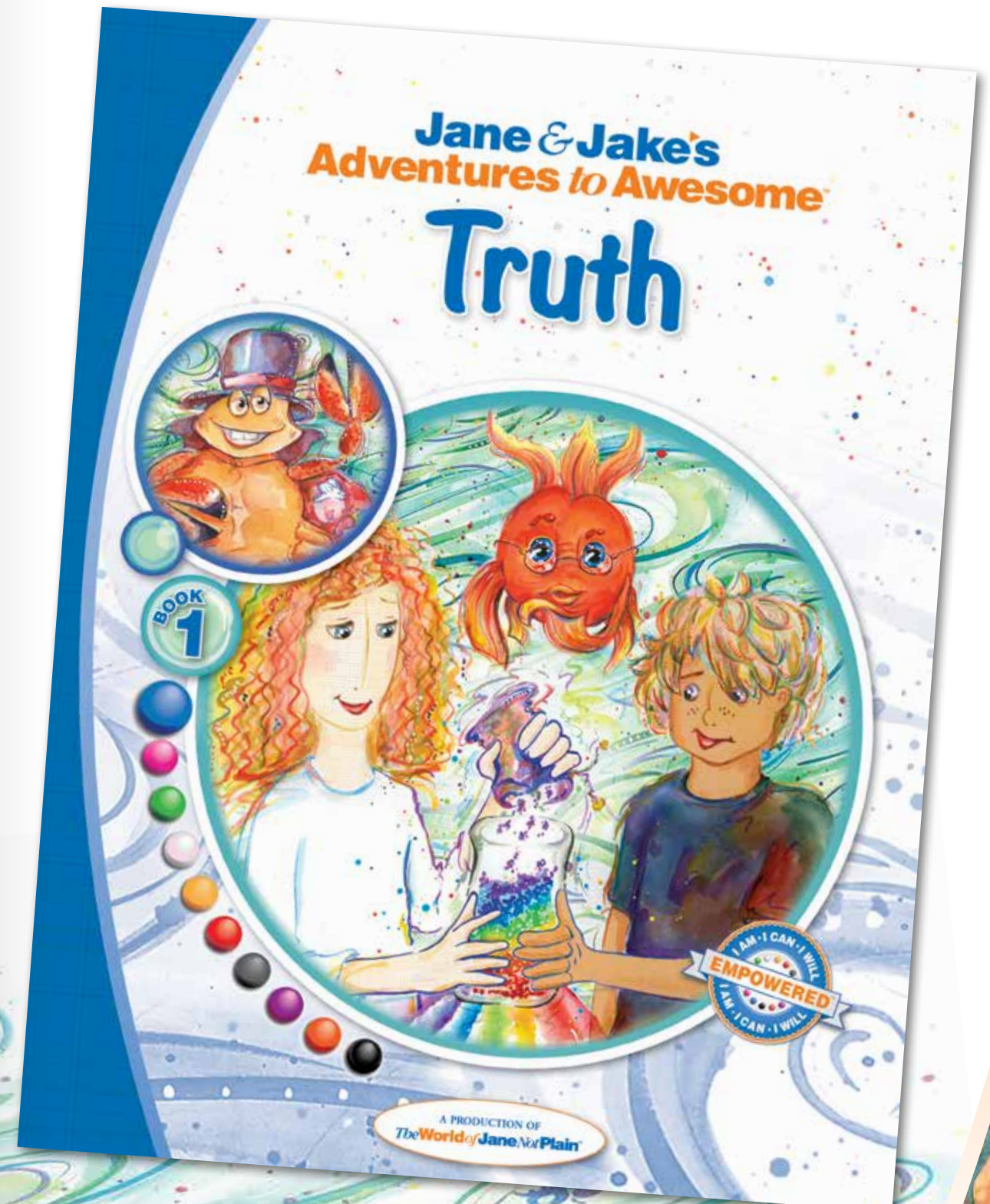
"How could you not love JNP? At last, a movement with a most meaningful mission and positive experience...for our kids. Not a video game or grand theft nonsense and no zoning out. Pure attention to what makes our kids very strong, proud and happy. Awesome."

Tom McManimon, Father and Brand Expert, Princeton, NJ

"Impressive endeavor."

Dr. Vera D. Torrence, PhD, New Leaders, New York, NY

Follow Jane and Jake on Another Adventure...



Jane & Jake's Adventures to Awesome™

I AM. I CAN. I WILL. EMPOWERED.™

Nurturing Character, Courage, and Confidence in Children

Mission

The JNP Project
is a positive self-esteem
movement that promotes the
growth of self-confidence in
boys and girls by helping
them discover and make
choices from their
inner awesome!

**For Boys
And Girls
5-12+**

The Journey Begins

THE PREQUEL STORY

Jane can't understand why she has no friends (other than her talking goldfish, Oracle), and she feels invisible to the kids in her class. Jake can't understand why no one seems to get his sense of humor; some kids call him "weird." Oracle is determined to help Jane and her new, true friend Jake see how gifted and glowing they both are. Oracle leaps out of his fish bowl and whisks Jane and Jake on a fantastic undersea adventure to discover their "inner awesome."

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