

THE **15** Best Things
about Being the **New Kid**



Cynthia Copeland
illustrated by Sharon Vargo

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The

15

Best Things
About Being
the
New Kid

Cynthia L. Copeland
Illustrated by Sharon Vargo

Homework due
Friday

Art
at
1 PM

New
kid
today



M Millbrook Press / Minneapolis



For Anya, who knows what it's like to be the new kid

-CLC

For Abby, the new kid in our family

-SV

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Summary: The new boy at school lists fifteen good things about being new, many of which relate to his having a fresh start.

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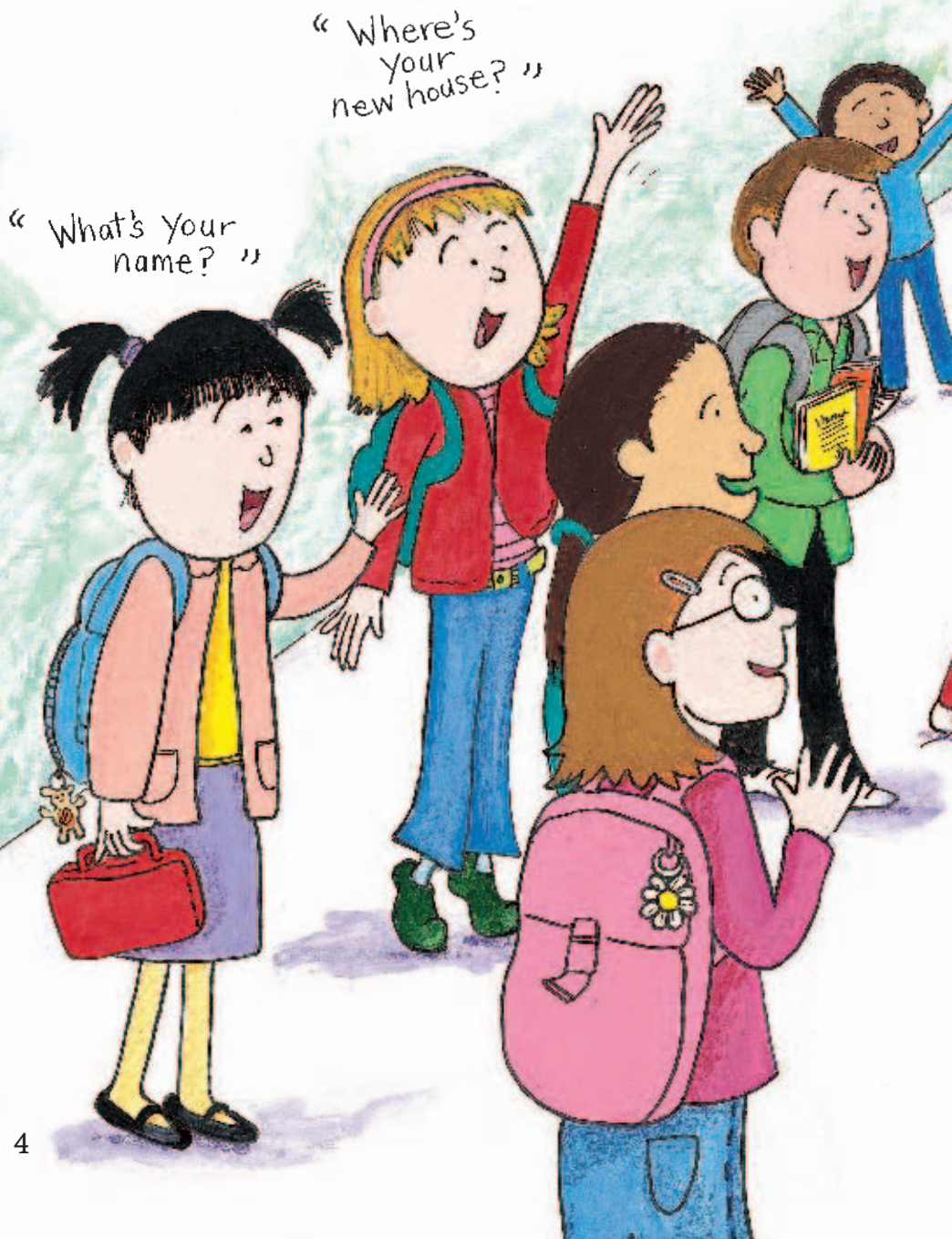
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Being the new kid
is kind of scary.



Everyone stares at you.
Everyone asks you lots
of questions.





"What video games do you have?"

"When did you move here?"

"Where are you from?"

"Do you play baseball?"

But being the new kid
is not ALL bad.
In fact, here are the







Everyone thinks
you are interesting.



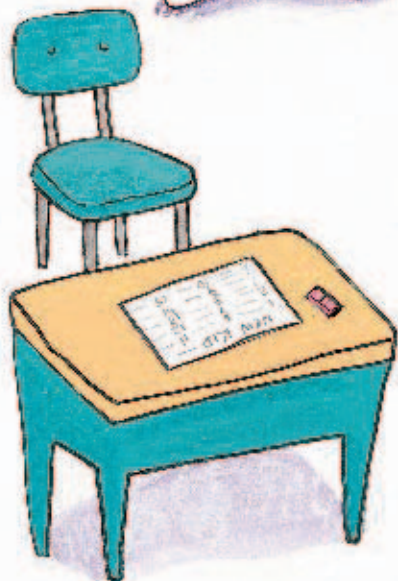
"... and Walter is from WISCONSIN!"

"Wisconsin had the first statewide bicycle trail."

"Wisconsin produces more milk than any other state."

"Wisconsin is nicknamed the Badger State."

"Wisconsin has 7,446 streams and rivers."





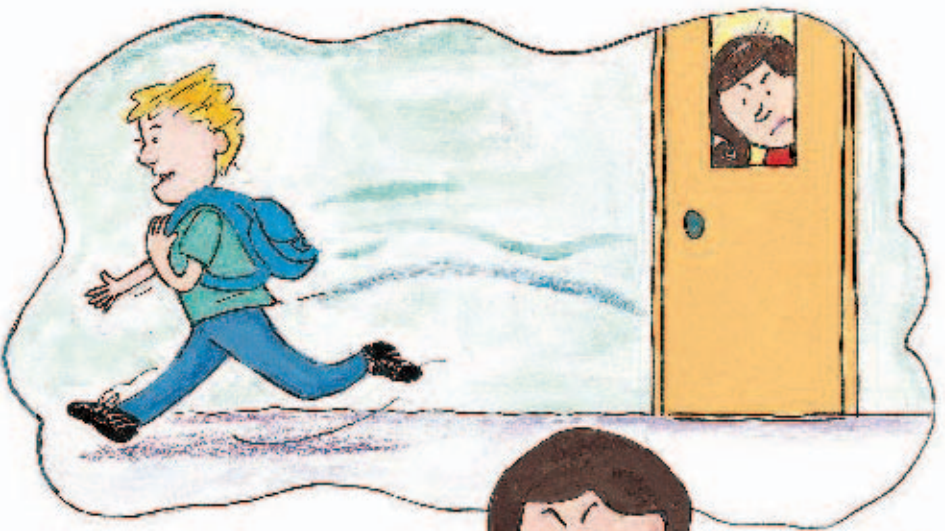
The teachers will not come up to you on the first day and say,





No one knows that on the second day of kindergarten you used the GIRLS' bathroom by mistake.





“Is there a rule about NO running? We did NOT have that rule in my old school!”

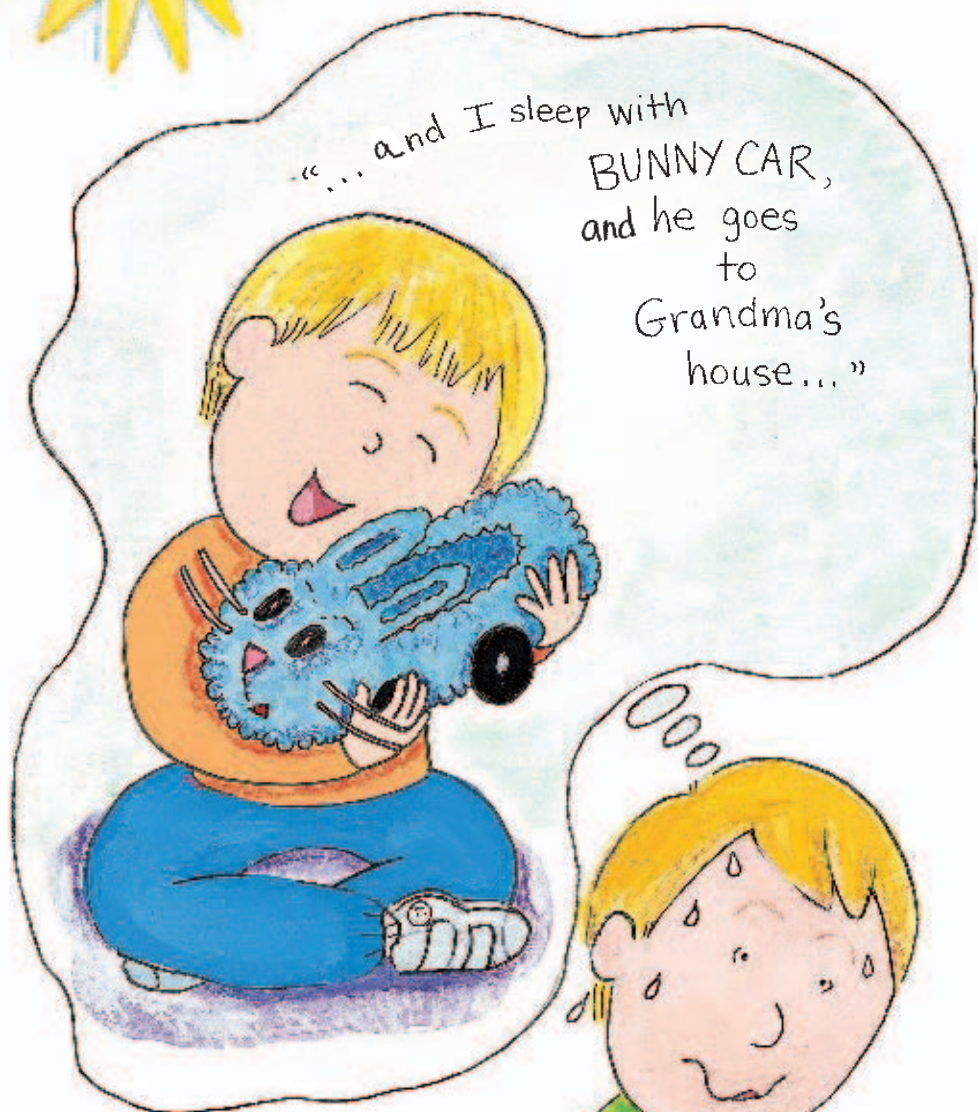
NO
RUNNING



You can run in the hall.



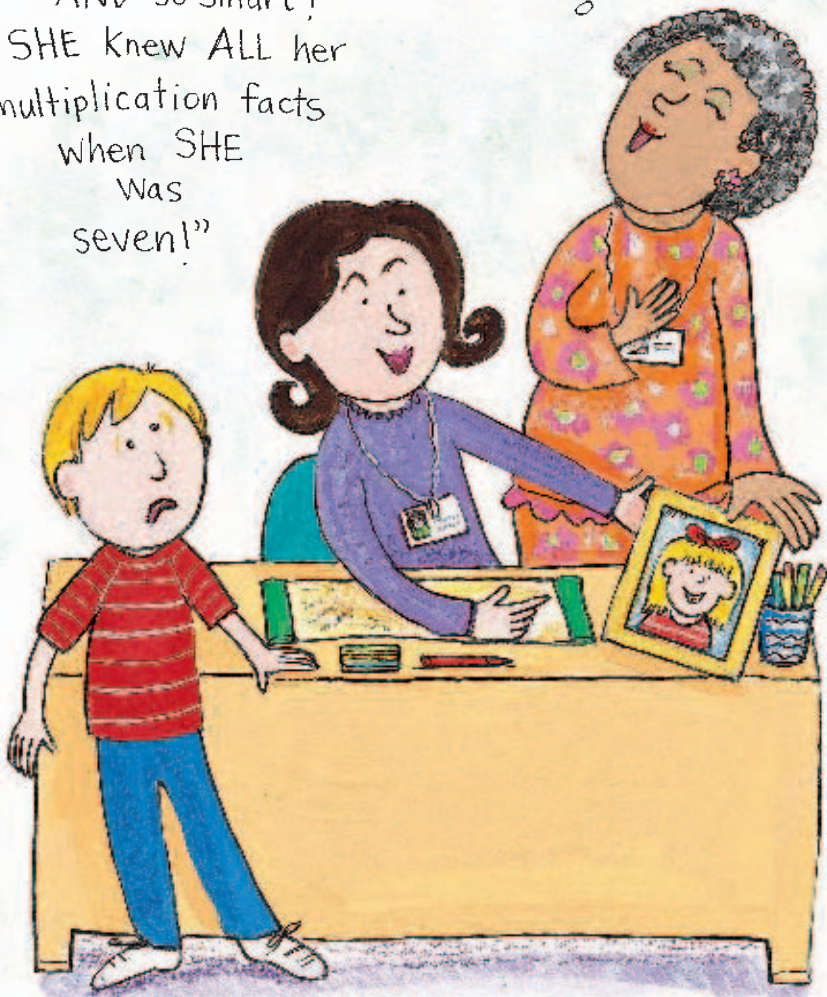
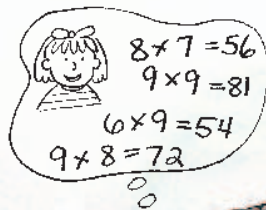
No one will tease you about bringing Bunny Car for sharing when you were six.



“... and I sleep with
BUNNY CAR,
and he goes
to
Grandma’s
house...”



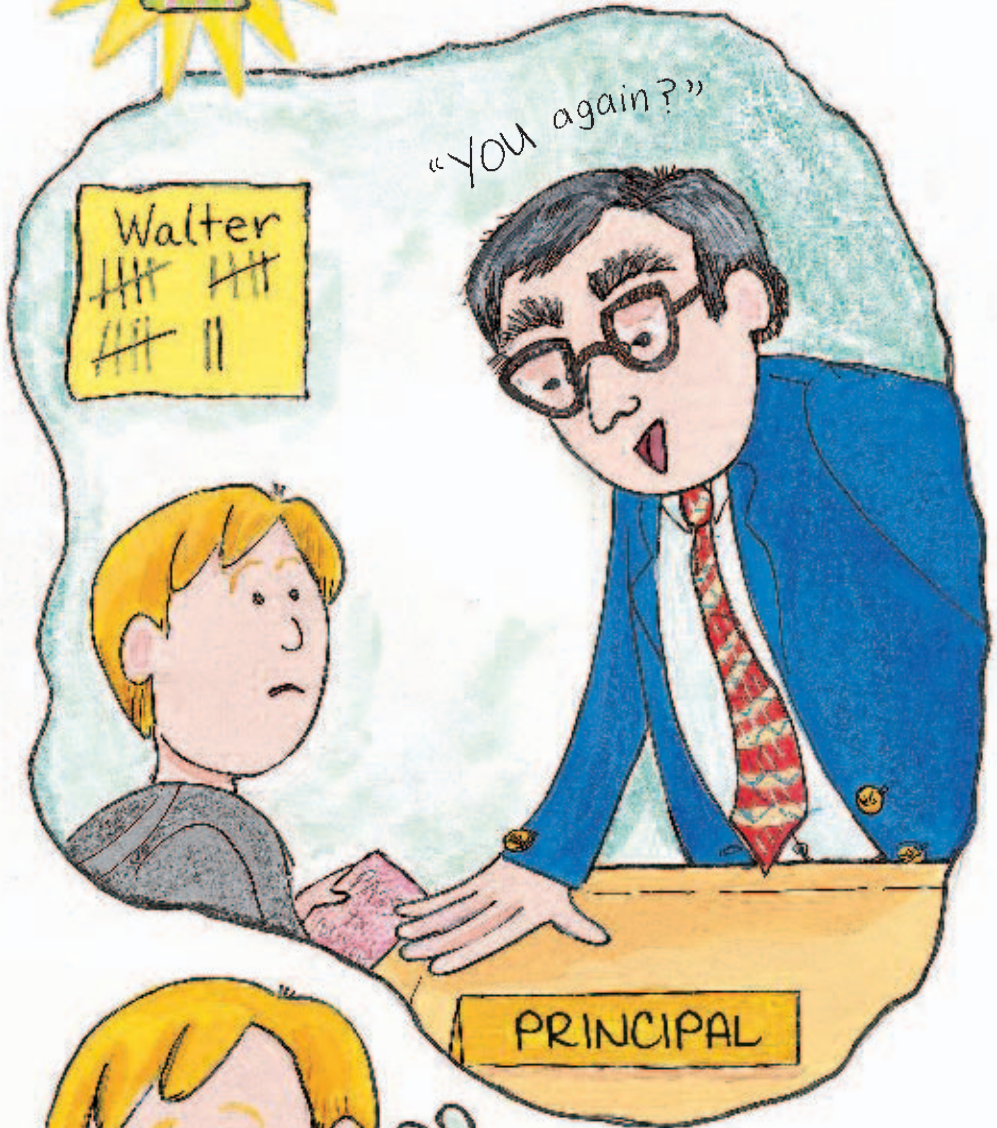
“SHE was such
a sweet girl
AND so smart!
SHE knew ALL her
multiplication facts
when SHE
was
seven!”



The teachers will not tell
you how much they liked
having your big sister
in class.



If you get sent to the principal's office, he will not say,





You can take a long time
in the bathroom.



"You poor thing.
You must
have
gotten
LOST
on the
way to
the
bathroom."





The nurse has not heard any of your excuses to get out of gym class when it is time for square dancing.







The lunch ladies do not know the tricks you use to get seconds on chicken nuggets.



"I'm Oscar.
Chicken nuggets
with ketchup
please."

"Haven't
I
seen you
somewhere
before?"





"It looks like a brontosaurus."

"Wow!"

"Where'd you get it?"

"Cool shirt!"

"Does it glow in the dark?"

11

No one has seen your cool dragon shirt yet.

12

You can teach the kids new words.

“... and ‘POP’ means
SODA!
... and a
‘hoagie’
is a
sub
sandwich.”



13

The playground is new
and exciting.

"Awesome!"







You can tell the jokes that everyone from your old school knows, but no one from your new school does.



"What happened to the plant in math class?"

"It grew square roots."

"What did one math book say to the other?"

"I have a lot of problems!"

"Why doesn't the math class need desks?"

"Because they have multiplication tables!"



"Ha-ha"

"Hee
hee
hee"

"YOU
are
too
funny!"



No one remembers when you brought in a rock for pet day.



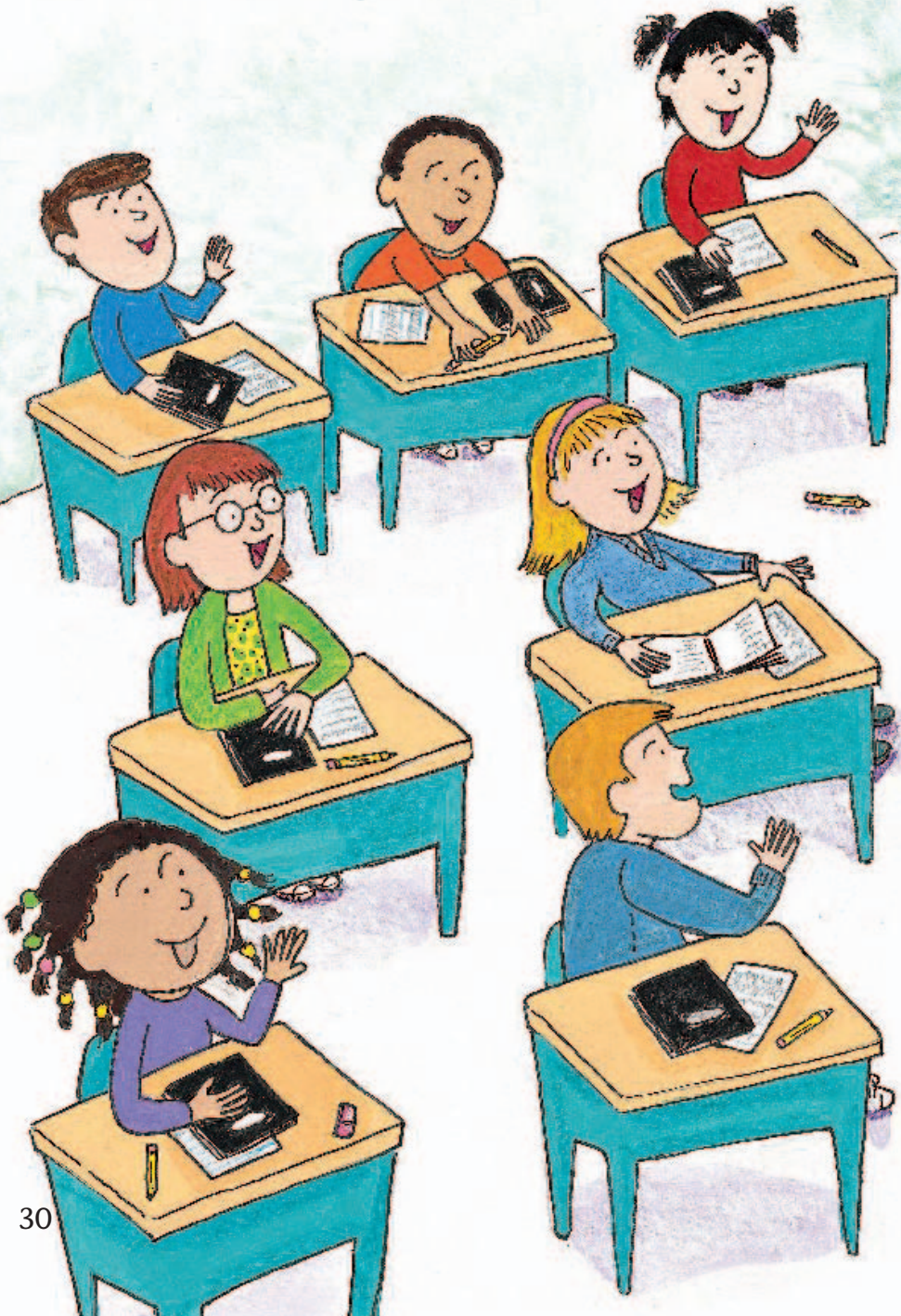
“It takes
50 hours
for my
snake to eat
a frog!”

“My dog’s
sense of smell
is 1,000 times
better than
mine!”

“My
Cat
has
100
different
voices!”



Enjoy being the new kid while you can.
As soon as another new kid moves into
town, you turn into an old kid.



"... and Julia moved here from
NEW YORK CITY."

"There are 4,000 animals in the Bronx Zoo."

"New York City has 14.3 miles of beach!"

"There are 344 steps to the top of the Statue of Liberty."



Tips for Discussion

- Are there things you did when you were younger that people still tease you about? What are they?
- If you were at a new school, what is the most important thing you would like the other kids to know about you?
- Do you have any new kids in your class this year? Do you think they like being new to your school?
- Do you have a brother or sister at your school? Do you like having the same teacher as your older brother or sister had?
- How do you think your younger brother or sister would like to have the same teacher as you had?
- What would you choose as your five best things about being the new kid?

About the Author

Cindy Copeland, who lives in New Hampshire, is the mother of three children and has written or illustrated more than 25 books. Her oldest child, Anya, was lucky enough to have been the new kid a few times and is now busy making new friends at college in Maine.

