

The Secret Wish

Written by Shelley Davidow

Illustrated by Carol Liknaitzky



Jalmar Press

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**For my nephew and my nieces: Max, Ella,
Waratah and Maya with love**

About the Author

Shelley Davidow was born in South Africa where she grew up. She is the author of numerous works of fiction and non-fiction for both children and adults including the acclaimed adult non-fiction book, *Raising Stress-Proof Kids*, (Exisle books 2014). Previously, her young adult novel *In the Shadow of Inyangani* was a nominee in the Macmillan/Picador BBC World's Writer's Prize for Africa in 2002. One of her passions lies in creating engaging texts for beginning readers so that the wonderful world of books and stories is immediately accessible...she aims to foster confidence and a love of reading from the start.

About the Illustrator

Carol Liknaitzky has parented five children and is the grandmother of four. She is an educator, development consultant, creative artist and illustrator. She has wide experience in child development and child rights, and has taught in Waldorf/Steiner early childhood settings and in high schools. She co-founded the first Waldorf/Steiner teacher training college in South Africa in 1985 and was the founder of several non-profit children's centers and community arts projects in Johannesburg. She now lives in Australia. She teaches at Victoria University's School of Education in Music, Play & Development and Inclusive Practice and leads the Nourishing Early Childhood Course at the Steiner Seminar in Melbourne.

About the Dolch Word List

Both the early readers and the chapter books in this series make use of the **Dolch Word List**. Originally put out by Edward William Dolch in 1936, and then published in his book *Problems in Reading* in 1948, the list of 220 words is comprised of high frequency ‘sight-words’ (such as the word ‘because’) which are not always phonetic and which need to be easily recognizable to children so that they develop reading fluency. The words were originally graded in terms of difficulty and are used accordingly in this series.

About the Phonetic Readers and Chapter Books

The first set of six readers, published in 2006, contain simple phonetic words that the early reader can easily decode. These words were selected by a reading specialist, Mary Spotts, a special needs teacher for over a decade in the USA, and help young readers advance from the short vowels to the silent “e”, to the vowel combinations. Following on from the six early readers are three carefully graded chapter books: *The Secret Pet*, *The Secret Door* and *The Secret Wish* each tackle particular phonetic principles.

The Secret Pet is the story of a young boy who finds a talking snake and takes it home as his secret pet. The book focuses on vowel teams such as ea, ie, oe, ue, digraphs, open and closed syllables and more.

The Secret Door is a magical mystery adventure that can only be entered when the full moon shines on a cellar trapdoor. It focuses on long vowels, diphthongs and the combinations ar, or, er, ir, oo, ou, ow, oi, oy, au, aw and ea.

The Secret Wish is the final book in the series; the story of a young boy who discovers that his favorite characters (a tiny boy and girl) have escaped the confines of a book and are causing mischief everywhere. The book focuses on the consonant blends qu, sh, th, wh, gl, pl, sl, bl, pr, gr, tr and more.

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Chapter I: The Secret Wish

Before bed, Josh took out his best book. He read the story of Katy and Dan. Katy and Dan were two very, very small kids. They were only two inches big. In the story they liked to play tricks.

“I wish Katy and Dan were here to play with me,” Josh said. Josh put the book on the shelf by his bed. Then he went to sleep.



The moon lit up the book as Josh slept. Josh did not see the moon shine on Katy and Dan. They crept out of the book. When the sun came up, Josh had forgotten his wish. He shut the book again and put it back. He was in a rush to get food. He got up.

“Wash your face and brush your teeth,” said his mom. “Quick! Don’t be late!”

Then there was a small sound next to the bed. Josh took a look. “What’s that?” he said.

“Shush,” said Katy and put her finger to her lips. “No one must see us.”

“Yes, no one must see us,” said Dan. “We are very shy.”

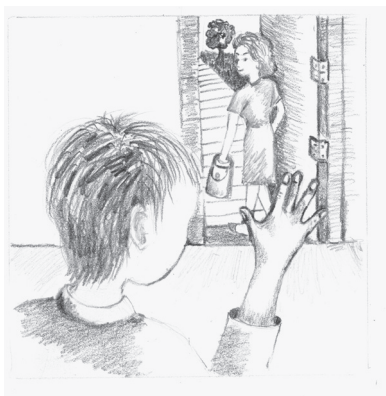


“Yikes!” said Josh. “Am I still asleep?”

“No. You made a wish.

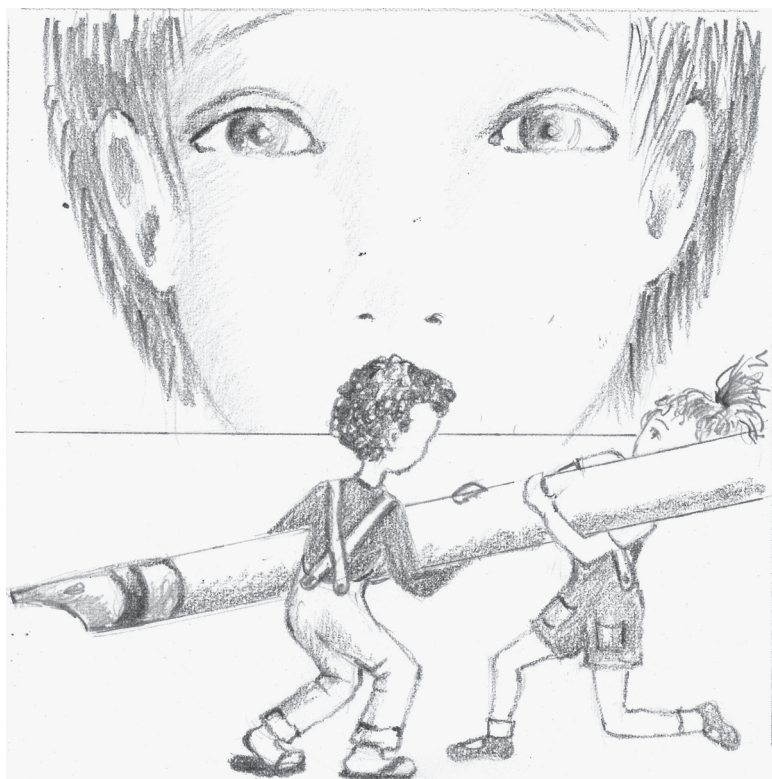
The moon lit the book. We came out of the book,” said Dan. “We are here for the day.”

“I have to go,” said Josh. “I am in a rush, but I will come back soon.” He had to wash his face and brush his teeth. Then he went to his mom. “I cannot go with you to the shops. I have to study for a quiz.”



“Okay,” said his mom. “Study for your quiz. Stay home with Dad.”

Josh ran back to see if Katy and Dan were still in his room.



They were still there by his bed.

“Look,” said Katy. “Is this your pen?”

“That is my pen,” said Josh. “And that is my quiz stuff.”

Katy went to one side of the pen.
Dan went to one side of the pen.

“We will do quiz stuff,” said Katy.

“Okay,” said Dan. He had to try hard to lift the pen.

“Is your name Josh?” said Katy.

“Yes,” said Josh.

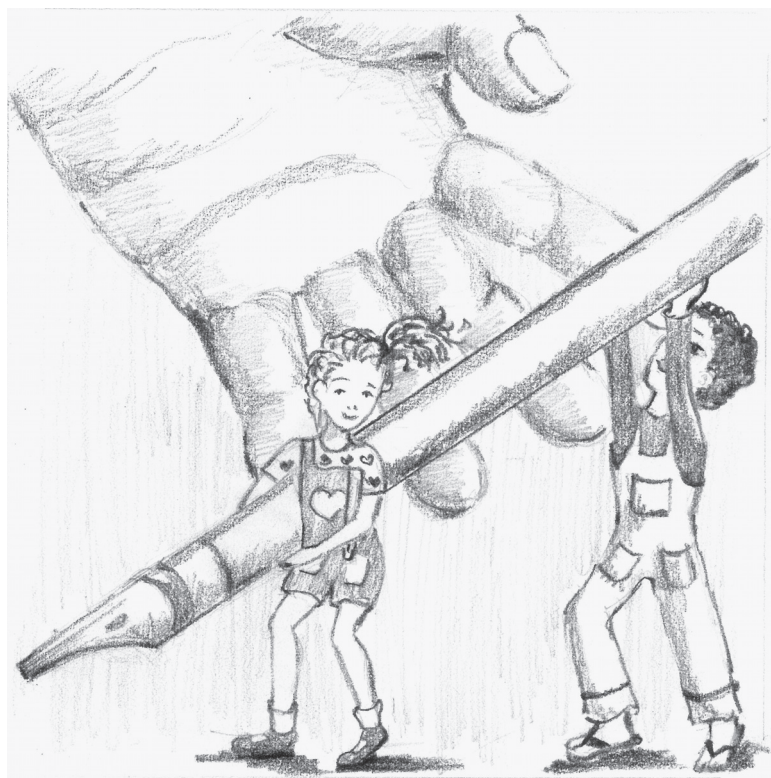
“I saw your name in our book,” said Katy.

“Dan, I wish you would lift the pen a bit.”

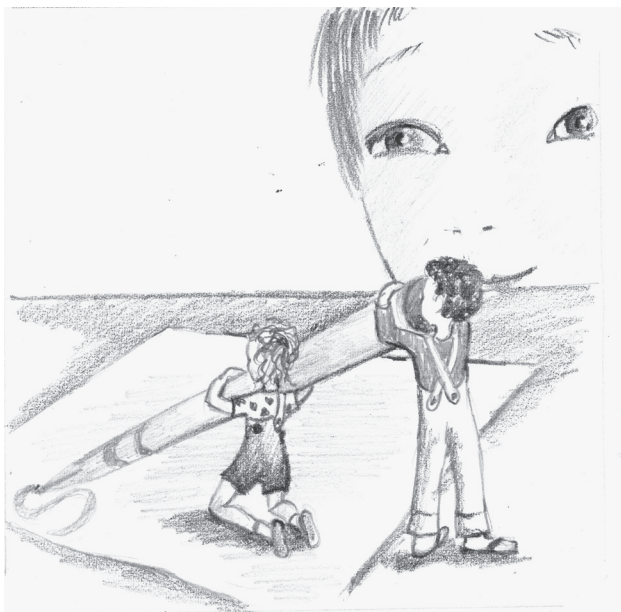
“I will help,” said Josh.

“No!” said Katy. “We want to do the quiz alone.”

We may be small, but we are smart and strong,” she said.



Josh had to smile. Katy took the pen. She was not shy! Dan had the pen too! He was very strong. “Tell us what to put on the quiz,” Dan said.



“Okay,” said Josh. “I have to spell lots of words.”

“Go,” said Katy. “Tell us the words.”

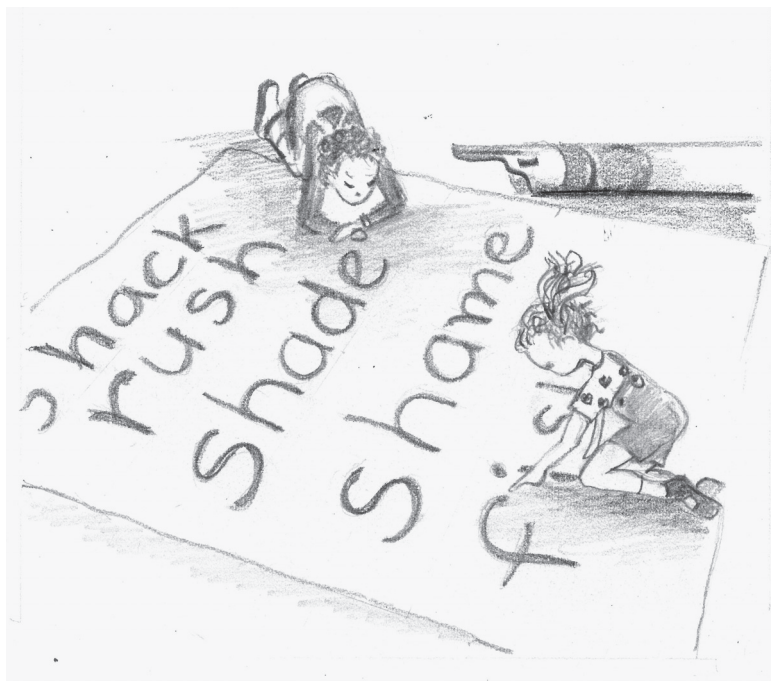
Josh spoke. Katy and Dan held the pen.

“Quick, quack, quill, ship, shot, shun, shy, ash, blush...”

“Okay stop,” said Dan. “No more for me!”

“Me too,” said Katy. They had to drop the pen. “I am done with this quiz.”





“I will do the rest,” said Josh.
He took his pen. Katy and Dan had
to step to the side. Josh made more
words and Katy ran after them:

“Shack, rush, shade, shame, fish.”

“Fish?” said Katy, and sat on the
word. “Can you show us a live fish?”

“Okay,” said Josh. “We will have
to go to the pond.”



Josh had to put Katy and Dan in his shirt pocket. “Hold on,” he said and he got up.

“This is the best,” said Katy.

“Can you run fast?”

“Yes, run fast,” said Dan. “Very fast. Rush us to the fish.”

“I will rush you to the fish,” said Josh.

“We will get there quick. Hold on Katy! Hold on Dan!”