

EDITOR'S LETTER

Book-ish

Our house is full of books and magazines, which is no big surprise since I read constantly. I read on Sunday mornings and lazy Saturday afternoons. I read on the train to work and on the ride home. I read while I wait—for doctors, school buses, customer-service representatives, the end of the basketball game. And, of course, I read thousands of essays and articles for *Parents* magazine.

I inherited my love of books from my mother, and I'm passing along the gift to my daughters, Grace and Pearl. I've read to them since they were babies, and now that they're independent readers I spoil them with books. I never refuse a trip to the library or bookstore, and I don't edit their choices. If Grace wants to try the original version of *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley, who am I to say no? If Pearl wants to read cookbooks, then I encourage it.



PEARL RECOMMENDS



Kiki's Hats, by Warren Hanson. It's a story about kindness and giving.

Our rooms are messy with books, and that's just the way I like it. But I know families who don't read much at all, who don't own bookshelves, and who rarely visit the library unless it's to borrow a DVD. I bought one young mother a book for her baby and she said, "Well, we won't need this for a while... he can't read yet." She didn't understand that reading to a baby is incredibly valuable (see our article "Raise a Reader," on page 118).

A book—black words printed on a white page—can seem so irrelevant and old-

fashioned, especially when kids can escape into virtual-reality games or get their favorite TV shows served up on demand. But books play a huge role in every child's life. They not only help kids learn to read and write and express themselves, but they can exercise a child's imagination in a way no movie or video game can. And research shows that creative kids are smart kids. So tonight turn off the TV, tuck your little one in bed, and savor an extra bedtime story.

SALLY LEE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GRACE RECOMMENDS



The Spiderwick Chronicles, by Holly Black and Tony DiTerlizzi. The books are even better (and less scary) than the movie.

Parents

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF SALLY LEE

CREATIVE DIRECTOR JEFFREY SAKS
EXECUTIVE EDITOR KATE LAWLER
MANAGING EDITOR KATHLEEN KREMS

ARTICLES EDITOR MARY C. HICKEY
HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGY EDITOR
DIANE DEBROWNER

SENIOR EDITORS JESSICA BROWN,
BARRIE GILLIES, JUDY GOLDBERG,
DAVID SPARROW

HOME EDITOR SUSAN LEADERMAN
LIFESTYLE EDITOR AMANDA KINGLOFF
SENIOR FOOD AND NUTRITION EDITOR
JACKIE PLANT

BEAUTY EDITOR TRACY PEREZ
CONTRIBUTING SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR
KAREN CICERO

NEWS EDITOR KOURTNEY EIDAM
MEDIA EDITOR AMANDA WOLFE
ASSOCIATE EDITORS ILISA COHEN,
REBECCA FELSETHAL

ASSISTANT EDITOR JANNA OBERDORF
EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS TARYN JEDLICKA,
RACHEL MORRIS

SENIOR RESEARCH EDITOR
BARBARA BRANDON-CROFT
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR JOSH HELMIN

COPY CHIEF LISA K. MARUM
COPY EDITOR ALEXA RIPLEY BARRE

PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR CLARE LISSAMAN
SENIOR ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR
EMMA CREIGHTON

ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR AMY STEIN
SETTINGS EDITOR SHARON ELCOCK
PHOTO AND ART ASSISTANT KRISTIN GIAMETTA

ART DIRECTOR JESSICA POWER
DEPUTY ART DIRECTOR CLAUDIA MARULANDA
ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR AMANDA KIRK

DESIGNER TARA MCCARTHY
SENIOR DESIGNER ANDREA AMADIO

ART PRODUCTION MANAGER GEORGE ATTY
ART PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE JOHN J. O'SULLIVAN

ASSISTANT TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RUTH HANNON
EDITORIAL ADMINISTRATOR RENA BARTON
EDITORIAL BUSINESS COORDINATOR CATHY SIMPSON

ASSISTANT TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RUTH HANNON
EDITORIAL ADMINISTRATOR RENA BARTON
EDITORIAL BUSINESS COORDINATOR CATHY SIMPSON

PARENTS.COM

EXECUTIVE EDITOR LIZ ZACK
MANAGING EDITOR ALLISON LEIGH MICARELLI
SENIOR HEALTH EDITOR LAUREN GELMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITORS HEATHER ENG, ALISA STOUT
PRODUCER MARY FINER

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
SALLY KUZEMCHAK, R.D.; SARAH MAHONEY;
MARY MOHLER, PEGGY POST, KAREN TACK,
RESHMA MEMON YAQUB

JOIN OUR TEAM: PARENTS MAGAZINE IS PROUD TO INVITE FAMILIES TO SHARE IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES, HELP US SAMPLE PLACES, AND APPEAR IN THE PAGES OF PARENTS. TO VOLUNTEER, VISIT PARENTS.COM/JOINOURTEAM. OUR SUBSCRIBERS LIST IS OCCASIONALLY MARKED AVAILABLE TO CAREFULLY SELECTED FIRMS WHOSE PRODUCTS MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU. IF YOU PREFER NOT TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THESE COMPANIES BY MAIL OR BY PHONE, PLEASE LET US KNOW. SEND YOUR REQUEST ALONG WITH YOUR MAILING LABEL TO PARENTS, PO BOX 37265, BOONE, IA 50037-0265.