



## I Can Be Anything!

*Jerry Spinelli , Jimmy Liao (Illustrator)*

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**I Can Be Anything!** Jerry Spinelli , Jimmy Liao (Illustrator)

*When I grow up, what shall I be?*

This exuberant book offers up everything from a paper plane folder to a puppy dog holder, from a silly joke teller to a snowball smoother.

Newbery-Award winning author Jerry Spinelli's simple and charming rhymes are accompanied by internationally-renowned illustrator Jimmy Liao's vibrant and fantastical illustrations. This book is an imaginative joyride about hopes and dreams, and a reminder of all the possibilities life has to offer. So, what do you want to be? Remember--you can be anything!

## I Can Be Anything! Details

Date : Published March 17th 2010 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (first published March 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780316162265

Author : Jerry Spinelli , Jimmy Liao (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Storytime, Inspirational, Pre K, Humor, Poetry, Realistic Fiction, Funny

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## From Reader Review I Can Be Anything! for online ebook

### Jennifer says

I loved the bright illustrations and the rhyming text and the overall enthusiasm of this book. Such a fun twist on the "What do you want to do when you grow up?" theme. None of the jobs are real jobs (e.g. tin-can kicker, ice cream licker, etc.) but it's great for getting the kids involved and could be a good intro to a book that's a little more realistic or specific.

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### Erin Phillips says

Picture Book Soak #4

"One That Caught Your Attention"

This story caught my attention because it surprised me quite a bit. From the title, I was expecting to see many different "common" jobs that are introduced to young students: Teacher, firefighter, construction worker, artist etc. Instead, I was introduced to many other "titles/jobs."

Description: A young boy and his rabbit discover various fun jobs, including a "puppy-dog holder," a "mixing-bowl licker," a "baby-sis soother," etc. The pair decide that there are too many fun jobs in the world to just pick ONE! So they choose to be a part of every fun job there is when they grow up.

Classroom: In Kindergarten, there is an SOL about various job descriptions. I would use this book during this lesson, to show students that there are many "jobs" and talents that they can fulfill, and that the possibilities are endless! I would encourage my students to dream big, not necessarily sticking with the "typical" jobs they always hear about!

Visuals: Jimmy Liao, the illustrator, illustrates the story beautifully, carefully providing intricate images that portray each "job" in a magical way. The jobs come to life on each othe pages, and Liao is very talented with colors.

Overall Impression: I was impressed with the unusual yet extraordinary job descriptions that Spinelli "created" or rather pointed out that are often times over looked (due to their silliness) yet they are perfect for describing the different traits that human beings have and carry out, even including a love for lemonade. It is important to be reminded that your job title may not mean everything in your life, rather, the way you view life in general and how you appreciate it.. which is what I obtained from reading this story.

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### Courtney says

"I can be Anything" is a story that was given to my children at the completion of their summer reading lists with our local library. This story tells the typical 'what do you want to be when you grow up?' answers through the eyes of a typical toddler.

What do you want to be when you grow up? An astronaut, ice cream sells-man, plumber, teacher, or doctor? The answers are endless and everything is possible, especially through the eyes of a child so young.

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### **Laura says**

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I Can Be Anything! by Jerry Spinelli captures the pure jolt and joy of life! Color, energy, and inspiration spill off the pages!

I forget sometimes that we can be anything we want in life. How do we forget that? From moment to moment and day to day—we can do and be anything. We can be "bubble gum poppers, cheek to cheek grinners, or deep-hole diggers"! And we can be all of these things at once. Don't let the world put one label or job title on you. Be everything and anything you want all at once!

This beautiful, colorful, inspiration of a book will remind readers of all ages that life is filled with possibilities! Endless hope and possibilities!

I needed the reminder, so thank you very much Mr. Spinelli. I forget sometimes that I am an ambidextrous, leaf pile jumper with a book in one hand and a bubble wand in the other! :D

What are you?

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### **Jessica says**

A wonderfully whimsical rhyming story with colorful and fun illustrations! Great message and addition to the classroom.

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### **Gabby says**

This story follows a little boy who wants to be everything! From bubble gum popper, to gift un-wrapper, and deep-hole digger to puppy dog holder, they all sound like so much fun, he can't decide what he wants to do when he grows up! With rhymes and adorable pictures, this story is a charming and funny way to show children all the possibilities life has to offer, and that if they can dream it, they can do it!

I Can Be Anything would be a great story to read to a younger audience because of the entertaining rhymes, vibrant pictures, and simple language. The story also has a very inspiration message that young children should be told- that the possibilities of what they can become and achieve are endless! It would be a great activity to have the children come up with their dreams and aspirations of what they would like to become when they grow up, and to read this story so they can understand that they can do more than one thing in their lives because of the different opportunities that are presented. This book presents a very important concept for students to learn and be told at a young age, and could even be told in older grades as well.

Spinelli, J. (2010). *I can be anything!*. New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

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### **Kathryn says**

While the variety of jobs that the child considers doing when he grows up are fun and the illustrations are certainly "chipper" this book just didn't inspire me, for some reason. Still, I could see enjoying it when I was a kid.

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### **Eric Hinkle says**

Read this one in the Hong Kong library because I love the illustrator, Jimmy Liao. Both the occupation choices and the illustrations are great. Really enjoyable book!

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### **Seneca Fuller says**

This book has beautiful illustrations with pictures of the variety of jobs the main character, a boy, wanted to be. I can relate to him because there are times where I was not sure what I wanted to be when I grew up. Though, to be fair, if I can be a "puppy-dog holder", I would be pretty much set for life. I also liked the texts being involved with the illustrations as well. The book shows that there can be many things that children can do and that sometimes they do not have to choose between one or the other. I would read this book again.

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### **Brittney Tuttle says**

Creativity and imagination must be cultivated in the classroom, and this book addresses this concept thoroughly and effectively. Jerry Spinelli tackles phonemic rhyme using unique terminology that challenges the reader and goes deeper than 'cat' and 'hat'. A great book to introduce word families, phonemic rhyme, and phonic concepts to primary grades. In addition to the word choice, students are encouraged to imagine outside of the traditional realm and to consider multiple perspectives and possibilities. The imaginative component motivates learners and allows them to practice critical thinking skills that can be used to develop competence within other academic content areas. Lastly, this book challenges the basic presentation of text and uses flexible sizes and directions of fonts. The text plays an important role in the illustrations, in some cases becoming the illustration, demonstrating a strong marriage between text and illustration.

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### **Stephanie Chiaro says**

This is a rhyming picture book for small toddler/ preschool age children. The book begins with a little boy questioning what will become of him when he grows up. He comes up with all these fantastically creative ideas that true, aren't technical jobs but allow children to be creative with what they would like to do with their futures. In the end, he exclaims that he can be anything he wants to be, just like his readers.

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## **H?ng Tr?n says**

L?n l?n con s? mu?n l?m g? nh?? Con c? th? l?m m?i ?i?u con mu?n ??y b?c y?u ?, b?t ??u b?ng vi?c t? ch?n cu?n s?ch n?y ??a m? ??c l? 2 m? con m?nh ?ã b??c ch?n v?o th? gi?i di?u k? r?i. N?i dung v? minh ho? ??u tuy?t v?i, c? ng??i l?n v? ng??i nh? nh? t?i ??u m?e.

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## **Pam says**

All sorts of amazing jobs are considered when a young boy is lazing away a day in the sun.

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## **Lynn says**

I wanted to get right up out of my chair and act out the possibilities!

Bold, large font, done in a variety of colors, on white double spreads makes this great for read alouds and action role-playing. The concept of adding '-er' to verbs would make this a useful mentor text for language development: holder, unwrapper, waver. Some words need hyphens: 'cheek-to-cheek' and dizzy'dance.' Having each pair on the double page spread rhyme creates another level of language experience, and also take a look at the introduction! THese 'jobs' represent a 2-6 year old's world view. Putting the 'good-bye waver' on the last page seems appropriate, then a wonderful conclusion on double page spread makes the possibilities seems endless.

The little boy's bunny following him on every page as he explores reminds me of Richard Scarry's bunnies, but overall, these colorful images of children and animals have their own character that will appeal to young and old.

This book would pair wonderfully with Audrey Woods' "Quick as a Cricket."

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## **The Brothers says**

A little boys examines the many choices he can pick for what he wants to be when he grows up. All of them whimsical and cute.

Illustrations also cute.

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