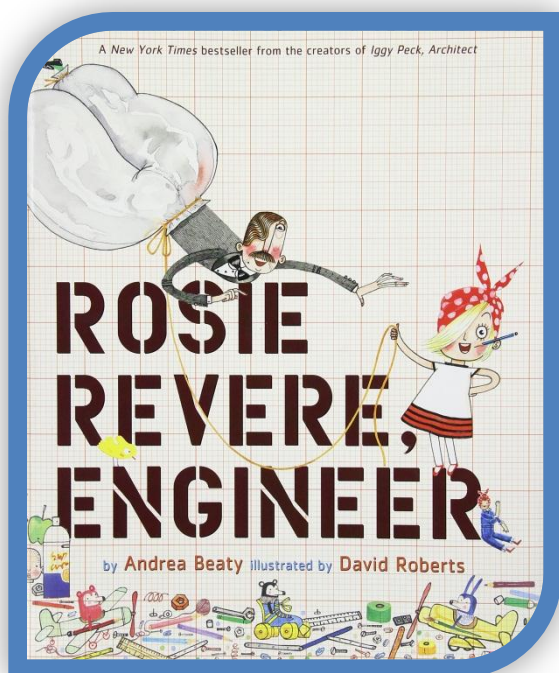




Book of the Month

Presented by ADL's Education Division

About the Book of the Month Parent/Family Discussion Guide: This collection of featured books is from Books Matter: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in education programs of [A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute](#), ADL's international anti-bias education and diversity training provider. For parents, guardians and family members, reading the books listed on this site with your children and integrating the concepts into your interactions with them is an excellent way to help children grapple with and learn about these important principles.



Rosie Revere, Engineer

Andrea Beaty (Author), David Roberts (Illustrator)

ISBN: 978-1419708459

Publisher: Abrams Books for Young Readers

Year Published: 2013

Age Range: 5–8

Book Themes

Persistence, Gender Roles, Ingenuity, Women's History

About the Book

Where some people see rubbish, Rosie Revere sees inspiration. Alone in her room at night, shy Rosie constructs great inventions from odds and ends. Hot dog dispensers, helium pants, python-repelling cheese hat: Rosie's gizmos would astound—if she ever let anyone see them. Afraid of failure, she hides them away under her bed, until a fateful visit from her great-great-aunt Rose, who shows her that a first flop isn't something to fear—it's something to celebrate.

Conversation Starters

Whether you read the book aloud or children read it on their own and you discuss it later, use these open-ended questions to deepen the conversation. Remember not to judge their responses and to listen

thoughtfully and engage in a give-and-take that helps them expand upon their understanding of the book and its themes.

- What is the story about?
- How would you describe Rosie's personality? Have you ever known anyone like her?
- Why did Rosie stop creating inventions? Have you ever felt like giving up?
- Have you ever had an idea for an invention; if so, what is it?
- How did Rosie's great-great-Aunt Rose help her?
- What is persistence and how was it important in the story?
- At the end of the story, why were Rosie and her classmates cheering about their failures?
- Do you think the story challenges gender roles and stereotypes? How so?
- How do you think Rosie felt in the end?
- In your opinion, what was the main message of the story?

Talking Points

Below are some important considerations to highlight in order to make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

1. Persistence and Learning from Our Mistakes

An important theme in the book is persistence and learning from our mistakes. Rosie was curious and liked to invent things but she got discouraged because her Uncle laughed at her about a hat she made for him. After that, she kept her dreams to herself because she felt confused and embarrassed. When she attempts to make an airplane for her great-great-Aunt Rose—who has always wanted to fly—the plane falls to the ground and she is discouraged again, thinking she will never be an engineer. Rose reassures Rosie that her “first try” was great and is all part of the process. In the end, Rosie and her classmates take joy in failing and making mistakes. Talk with your child about this important message: that it is important that they pursue and take pride in the things that they love and any pursuit takes time to get better. Share with them your own experiences of making mistakes and “first tries” and how those often lead to doing something better the next time around. Emphasize that we have to follow our passions and dreams no matter what and that failures along the way usually lead to better results the next time and are part of life.

2. Gender Roles

As you read the book, highlight the way in which Rosie is portrayed throughout the story. She is curious, interested in making things and dreams of being an engineer (you may need to explain what an engineer does: a person who designs and builds complicated machines, products or systems). Talk with your child about how Rosie is depicted in the book, asking if they notice anything different about how she, as a girl, is being portrayed. You can explain that often in books, movies and toys/games, boys tend to be portrayed as inventors, scientists and engineers and girls are not. This is one of the many positive aspects of the book and should be emphasized. Talk with your child about gender roles and how girls and boys sometimes get messages about what they are “supposed” to like and be interested in and this can limit their ability to explore many different interests. Ask them about whether they have seen this in other parts of their lives and remind them

that it is important to follow their own dreams and interests regardless of societal expectations and stereotypes.

3. Women's History: Rosie the Riveter

Together read the "Historical Note" on the back page of the book. If your child doesn't know anything about that time period, explain that during World War II (more than 75 years ago), because many men were called to serve in the army, women entered the workforce in large numbers to make airplanes and ships for the war effort. [Rosie the Riveter](#) was a symbol that was created to represent American women who worked in that industry as well as factories and shipyards during World War II and she is also the inspiration for the character in *Rosie Revere, Engineer*. You can talk about the significance of this time period, as many women previous to the war were not working outside the home and not in those professions. For more background information, see [History's](#) page on the topic. You can talk about what it might have been like to be a woman during that time period and having the opportunity to contribute in that way when they weren't able to before.

Other Books You May Like

Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream by Crystal Hubbard,

www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/catching-the-moon-the-story-of-a-young-girls-baseball-dream.html

Fly High!: The Story of Bessie Coleman by Louise Borden and Mary Kay Kroeger, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/fly-high-the-story-of-bessie-coleman.html

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/grace-for-president.html

Interstellar Cinderella by Deborah Underwood, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/interstellar-cinderella.html

ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and resources on gender roles, sexism and women in history.

Curriculum Resources

"Mo'Ne Davis and Gender Stereotypes," *Current Events Classroom*, www.adl.org/education-outreach/lesson-plans/c/mone-davis-and-gender-stereotypes.html.

Websites

Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources

www.adl.org/education-outreach/anti-bias-education/c/parent-family-and-caregivers.html

Strategies, tips, guiding principles and resources to help parents, family members and caregivers impart values and principles to the children in their lives.

How Can I Prevent Gender Bias in Young Children?

www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/How-Can-I-Prevent-Gender-Bias.pdf

Offers tips and strategies on how adults can create fair and gender-equitable environments for young children.

Definitions Related to Bias, Injustice and Bullying

www.adl.org/education-outreach/curriculum-resources/c/definitions-related-to-bias-injustice-bullying.html

A listing of terms and definitions relating to bias, diversity, bullying and social justice concepts written for elementary-age children.

Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events

www.adl.org/education-outreach/anti-bias-education/c/table-talk-family-conversations.html

Table Talk provides parents and family members with the tools they need to engage their families in conversations about important news stories and other timely discussions about societal and world events. Each guide includes a topic summary, questions to start the conversation and dig deeper, ideas for taking action and additional resources.

Toward Communication Free of Gender Bias

www.adl.org/education-outreach/curriculum-resources/c/toward-communication-free-of.html

Site provides guidelines to help in the transition toward a more inclusive and less gender-biased language.

Women's History Month Resources

www.adl.org/education-outreach/curriculum-resources/c/womens-history-month.html

A list of PreK-12 curriculum and other educational resources to bring Women's History Month to classrooms and schools.

Children's Books

Below are links to lists of recommended anti-bias and multicultural books for the indicated category.

Gender and Sexism, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/gender-sexism.html

Women's Rights Activists, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/social-justice-books.html?subsocial=womens-rights