



Liberty Café is Open

written by Marcia Trimble • Illustrated by Jennifer Hayden

DIALOGUE WITH DOTSY AND DAVID

Dot§: Say David, have you ever felt like all the doors of your life are closing on you?

DAVID: I wonder what that would feel like.

Dot§: Well, you might feel bad if you didn't know that a new door could open.

DAVID: That's important to know.

Dot§: I know a character in a book, *Liberty Café Is Open*, who feels like all the doors of her life are closing. She feels like her life is squeezed at the bottom of the family memo board. Well, she notices that her birthday IS squeezed at the bottom of a family memo board.

The family moves. There's a new baby. And she has a holiday birthday.

DAVID: Caught in the middle of things. Squeezed at the bottom. I bet that sounds familiar to a lot of young readers.

Dot§: Even the 4th of July holiday gets priority over her 4th of July birthday.

DAVID: Definitely squeezed out by the holiday. The last straw.

Dot§: So she thinks that she couldn't possible get a birthday party.

DAVID: I bet that's when a new door opens.

Dot§: She receives a special invitation from her Uncle to come visit for her birthday.

DAVID: And her Uncle's invitation is her lucky star, right?

Dot§: It's the lucky star that guides her through a new door to her own delicious event.

DAVID: It's like Uncle Spurge waves a magic wand and all Alice Ann has to do is simply reach out for her lucky star.

Dot§: It really is as simple as accepting the invitation.

DAVID: Sometimes opening a new door is that simple. But it's not always obvious. For Alice Ann, accepting the invitation is a smart choice.

Voila! A new door of adventure opens.

Dot§: And Alice Ann thinks it's a surprise delicious enough for an encore. At least she asks if she can come for her birthday again next year.

DAVID: She has a chance to blow out her own blues.

DOTS: It's exciting when you help your new door open.

DAVID: It's important to know that a new door of adventure opens when old doors close.

DOTS: Old doors are comfortable.

DAVID: But we outgrow them just by growing up.

DOTS: And we make choices that open new doors.

DAVID: Are you curious about the creation of this story?

DOTS: Curious enough to ask the author. Say, Marcia Trimble, what went on behind-the-scenes of *Liberty Café*?

DAVID: And where did you get the tasty ingredients of this story?

TRIMBLE: A lot does go on behind the scenes. First, Jennifer Hayden gave Alice Ann her look, and she created a series of mini cartoons that give the reader a peek at what Alice Ann is doing while the characters wait for her to arrive at Liberty Café, a clever illustrator's approach to creating a story within the story. Sprague Designs wielded the magic of computer graphics to get the decorative text. And Peggy Metzgar

and her second graders offer the surprise of behind-the-scenes talent.

(The Trimble Tots Listening Center is a highlight in Peggy's Standards-Based classroom.)

I want to thank Peggy for classroom testing *Liberty Café*. This was a significant event for these children and their feedback evolved the text repeats, and the final repetition...ding dong, everyone is waiting for Alice Ann. And their curiosity about Alice Ann prompted the prologue of cartoons. Peggy says, "The children loved Alice Ann and related to her as a friend." Peggy made a recording so I could hear their childlike voices reading *Liberty Café*. Oh, David, the tasty ingredients of my life are a wonderful inspiration for stories and are the stuff that *Liberty Café* is made of.

DAVID: Like the high tech houseboat that Spurge built and a sister, Alice?

TRIMBLE: You've got it!

DOTS: And a batter of imagination is one of your lucky ingredients.

TRIMBLE: David, you bring the ingredients to life in the read 'n rap with a New Orleans feel and Joe's rhythm. And Tara has the perfect Alice Ann voice.

DOTS: It fits right in with our motto. I never get tired of wearing my P. Dots LaTour visor to deliver the message of the Trimble

Tots Collection. “Sing it or say it. Play your way to reading fluency.”

TRIMBLE: *Liberty Café* is following the pattern of the other titles in the Trimble Tots Collection with Stretch-a-Book activities, 5 stars to self esteem...read sing act dance draw...read along with the CD, or rap with Joe and dance to THE HOUSEBOAT THAT SPURGE BUILT, read and act with the Readers’ Theater script, and draw ’n color the *Liberty Café* cartoon coloring book.

(download on images-press. com)

As students participate, contribute, and connect with others in the arts every day, at least one of the arts is sure to spark their self esteem. That’s the goal. David, you’re the sing-it star.

DAVID: It’s fun to be part of the Trimble Tots Collection star power. I couldn’t let Uncle Spurge’s banjo stay still. All the voices in *Liberty Café* are just raring to be heard.

Dot§: I wonder what Alice Ann would say.

DAVID: That’s easy. “Yippee! Wishes can come true.”

Dot§: And Alice Ann adds, “You’re invited to a party.”

DAVID: I hope *Liberty Café* will inspire a lot of birthday parties. A new door opening includes everyone.

Dot§: There are lots of fun activities, too. You can cook red, white, & blue breakfasts, make a birthday cake, and create the game, BREAKFAST TABLE. There are party invitation cards and thank you cards that you can download. There are cards for all the major holidays of the year with Alice Ann wearing seasonal birthday costumes.

DAVID: Voila for now! Please read the book or listen and read along on the CD. And rap with Joe.

(See the lyrics on the next page.)



Liberty Café Song

(The Houseboat That Spurge Built, a rap)

v.1 This is the houseboat
that Spurge built.

v.2 This is the bell
that rings in the morn
that comes to the house
that Spurge built.

v.3 This is the flag
that waves o'er the bell
that rings in the morn
that comes to the house
that Spurge built.

v.4 This is the cat
that meows through the mist
that covers the flag
that waves o'er the bell
that rings in the morn
that comes to the house
that Spurge built.

v.5 These are the daisies
that smile at the sun
that shines on the cat
that meows through the mist
that covers the flag
that waves o'er the bell
that rings in the morn
that comes to the house
that Spurge built.

v. 6 This is the dog
that barks at the day
that greets the daisies
that smile at the sun
that shines on the cat
that meows through the mist
that covers the flag
that waves o'er the bell
that rings in the morn
that comes to the house
that Spurge built.

v.7 This is Miss Henny Penny
who stirs the batter
that cooks into pancakes
that tempt the dog
that barks at the day
that greets the daisies
that smile at the sun
that shines on the cat
that meows through the mist
that covers the flag
that waves o'er the bell
that rings in the morn
that comes to the house
that Spurge built.

v. 8 This is the sausage
that sizzles in the griddle
and sides with the pancakes
that tempt the dog
that barks at the day
that greets the daisies
that smile at the sun
that shines on the cat
that meows through the mist
that covers the flag
that waves o'er the bell
that rings in the morn
that comes to the house
that Spurge built.

v.9 These are the house-
boaters
who smell the sausage
that sizzles in the griddle
and sides with the pancakes
that tempt the dog
that barks at the day
that greets the daisies
that smile at the sun
that shines on the cat
that meows through the mist
that covers the flag
that waves o'er the bell
that rings in the morn
that comes to the house
that Spurge built.

v. 10 This is the gull
that calls through the smoke
that hovers o'er the house
boaters
who smell the sausage
that sizzles in the griddle
and sides with the pancakes
that tempt the dog
that barks at the day
that greets the daisies
that smile at the sun
that shines on the cat
that meows though the mist
that covers the flag
that waves o'er the bell
that rings in the morn
that comes to the house
that Spurge built.

v.11 This is Alice Ann
who comes to the door
that opens on the house
that Spurge built.

v. 12 Surprise!
This is Alice Ann
who hears the shout
on the houseboat
that Spurge built.
Happy Birthday, Alice Ann!
(sing!)

