

Dear Reader,

When I was in elementary school, it seemed like every day was fun. Because there were so many kids who lived on my street, I always had someone to play with. Each day was an adventure—nothing really big—but there was always something that made my day a little extraordinary, a little awesome.

I remember totally loving these simple things (and maybe you'll agree that they are pretty great, too):

- not stepping on any sidewalk cracks
- the five second rule: think food!
- the smell of new crayons
- popping bubble wrap
- biting into a freshly baked chocolate chip cookie (I still like this one)

Somehow, as I grew up, I forgot how amazing the little things could be. I started to think awesomeness was connected to “stuff.” Stuff I bought. Stuff I owned. Just “stuff.” And I didn't like that train of thought! So, I made a choice to discover awesomeness in ordinary things every day. At first, it was challenging. But gradually I noticed more and more remarkable things that made my day a little brighter. Things like adding the last piece in a jigsaw puzzle or using a warm-from-the-dryer towel after a shower. Now, every day, I make it a priority to find awesomeness.

I thought it might make an interesting kid's book. That was the nugget of an idea for *How to Get Awesome*. Of course in the beginning, the main character, Owen, doesn't realize how many awesome things are already all around him. I wanted him to discover them bit by bit. Owen actually “gets awesome” in three different ways. Once you've read the book, see if you can figure out what they are!

Writing *How to Get Awesome* was a lot of fun. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

So, what's awesome in your life?  
Happy discovering!

*Nancy Wilcox Richards*

