Letter to the Reader from Nancy Wilcox Richards

Dear Readers,

When I was a little girl, my best friend lived across the street from me. Her name was Pamela and we spent all of our time together. We walked to school together. Every day we played outside together. We even took swimming lessons together.

One time on our way home from our swimming lessons, we spotted some wild blueberries growing in the field. I knew they were one of my mom's favourite berries. I really wanted to surprise her by picking some for her. The problem was I didn't have a container to put them in. So, Pamela suggested that I put them in my pocket. That was probably not the best decision I have ever made! The blue stains never did wash out of my shorts. They were ruined. And my mom was cross with me. I insisted it wasn't my fault and I blamed Pamela for getting me in trouble – sort of like Arthur insisting it's not his fault he bugs Sonny in *We're All Friends Here*.

I had a lot of fun writing the book. It made me think back to when I was a little kid. (That was before anyone had computers or cell phones and online games didn't exist.) My friends and I always played outdoors. There were over sixty kids on my street and for the most part, we all got along. But every now and then, we'd have an argument or not see eye-to-eye. Then we would take a little break from each other. But by the next day, we had forgotten about the argument and we were back to being friends again. This is very much like Sonny and Arthur. They love to blame each other for all their troubles, but deep down inside, they truly do enjoy each other's company.

I hope you enjoy reading *We're All Friends Here* as much as I enjoyed writing it. Maybe it will even make you think a bit about someone else's perspective the next time you have a disagreement with a friend.

Remember: Friends are the absolute best! So enjoy spending time together with them. Laugh. Giggle. Play. Have fun. Maybe even share a few good books with them!

Happy Reading,

Nancy Wilcox Richards