

# Manners and Me

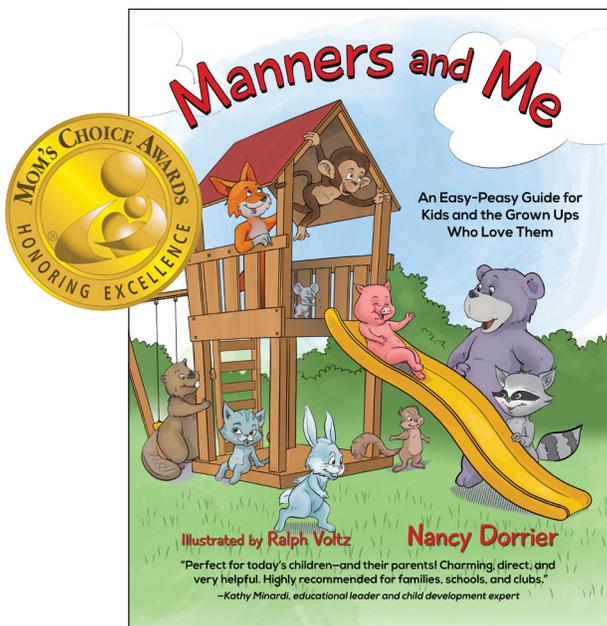


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finally, an easy-peasy guide to teaching and learning manners for children...and the grown ups who love them!

**“Most Highly recommended.” —Readers’ Favorite (5-Stars)**

Dallas, TX - Focused on more than just “please” and “thank you,” **MANNERS AND ME: An Easy-Peasy Guide for Kids and the Grown Ups Who Love Them** by Nancy Dorrier with illustrations by Ralph Voltz (Brown Books Kids; January 2019; \$14.99; Hardcover; ISBN-13 978-1-61254-280-5) aims to make manners fun! Dorrier shares advice that teaches children to be considerate of others’ wants and needs and to think more deeply about how to be helpful.



From “Listen” to “Give people compliments,” **MANNERS AND ME** provides important lessons in manners, expanding on each with specific examples. For “Be patient,” the author gives the example of not grabbing “three of those egg rolls before your brother eats them all” and explains that waiting has its rewards, especially when grown ups notice and appreciate it. From “Be prompt” to “Do helpful things without being asked,” the suggestions here encourage and teach important and polite behavior.

**MANNERS AND ME** is filled with fun, cute, and colorful cartoon-like characters that complement the text and entertain in scenes acted out by animals such as pigs, mice, and cats. There are even goofy squirrels who attempt to squeeze too many of themselves into an elevator at once, demonstrating the importance of

patience and consideration. The cute, fun, and engaging characters are certain to hold the attention of children while they learn to be model citizens with impeccable manners.

This sweet and quirky guide will show children just how to make others feel special while being polite, considerate, and socially responsible. Whether in the classroom, bedroom, or day care facility, **MANNERS AND ME** is a must-have resource to keep on every bookshelf.

###



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JUVENILE NON-FICTION / Social Topics / Manners & Etiquette  
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Meet the Author

**Nancy  
Dorrier**



**Nancy Dorrier** is a consultant at Dorrier Underwood and spends her days transforming organizations by transforming the leaders and teams within them. While there are a lot of aspects to this, an important piece of advice for anyone in business is simple: always use your manners to bring out the best in the people around you. She has found that this simple focus can yield exceptional results.

She had the idea to write this book by watching her grandchildren grow up in a world where manners are not always taught—or at least not always taught well. She has hosted “Camp Nana” at her home in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the past sixteen years as a place for her grandchildren to sing, dance, write silly stories, and practice using their manners to get along.

Her other book: *Stan Went Fishing: Stories and Images of Waking Up*, is available on Amazon and at [www.StanWentFishing.com](http://www.StanWentFishing.com).



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## Q & A with the Author

### **Why a book about manners for today's society?**

This book isn't focused on anything particularly wrong with "today's society" but instead highlights the fact that good manners make relationships stronger between all people, especially when we have differing beliefs, customs, traditions, and backgrounds. Life is better when we respect each other, and good manners smooth the way for good relationships at home and at work.

### **What is the importance and value of etiquette?**

I think of etiquette as rules, such as which fork to use and when and to whom to curtsy. My concern is bringing awareness to manners and social thoughtfulness, teaching children to notice and be considerate of others' feelings.

### **What do you believe is the cause of bad manners in our world today?**

Anytime we lack good manners, today, yesterday, or tomorrow, is because we are unconscious and tuned out and forget in the moment to care about other people. We often tend to be self-absorbed and absentminded.

### **You have a background in education; tell us about your involvement in the Montessori Method of education.**

When I was raising my two children, Thomas and Alice-Lyle, we lived in Davidson, NC, a college town. They were in a playgroup that met from nine to twelve every weekday morning. The other mothers and I took turns playing and "teaching" the children one day a week.

We watched our children grow, develop language skills, and move from playing independently side by side to interacting with each other. We watched them create relationships and learn problem solving with little adult intervention. It was fascinating.

This group of parents regularly discussed stages of child development, particularly theories of Piaget and Montessori. We were especially interested in how



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children learn from and teach each other. In 1972, we decided to start a parent cooperative school. We hired two teachers and found an abandoned school building that we rented for \$1 a year. The parents painted and repaired the space and built and fenced a playground. We bought school supplies, toys, and puzzles; laid carpet; and loaded the reading corner with books and pillows. Forty-six years later, the school is still going strong in Huntersville, NC [www.TheChildrensSchoolhouse.org](http://www.TheChildrensSchoolhouse.org).

## What is Camp Nana?

I have five grandchildren (Phillip, Alexander, Davis, Julia, and William), and every summer we spend a week together at “Camp Nana,” a camp I made up just for them. Previous years found us in the mountains of North Carolina; the beach in South Carolina; in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; in Chicago; in northern California; and most recently in Nova Scotia.

During each summer camp week, we have lessons on getting along with each other, resolving disagreements, cleaning up and doing chores, cooking, taking turns, and being respectful in using our smartphones. We practice listening to stories without interrupting, having long conversations and telling jokes, and playing music. We rotate on who picks the radio station and who rides “shotgun” in the front seat.



Now that the children are older, they actually handle most of this naturally with little input from me. I suppose this is the sign of successful camps!

## How does having good manners benefit people as they grow from childhood into adulthood?

Good manners are attractive (that goes for good grammar and good diction as well). There are so many ways people can benefit as they make connections and cultivate relationships that forward their vision and commitments in the world.



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## **How could this book be used as a tool for adults?**

Adults can read to children and have conversations about how using good manners applies to everyone and how they can utilize each particular lesson. Good manners can increase workplace satisfaction and productivity, so the book could be used in corporate workshop discussions led by a facilitator.

## **You have a unique writing style. What are some of your most important creative influences and inspirations?**

I studied writing with Irene Honeycutt, Zelda Lockhart, and Natalie Goldberg. All three of these instructors write for different genres and have different approaches, but they all teach trusting yourself and having the courage to develop your own voice.

My father was a creative influence in terms of love, spirituality, gratitude, and loving life. I also study Buddhism, read the Bible, and learn from my grandchildren, who are amazingly creative sources for me.

## **What is your creative writing process?**

I write for five to ten minutes every morning while I have my coffee after meditation. I almost always start with a random prompt, and throughout the day I will write in small bursts. For example, I write in the doctor's office waiting room or in the grocery store parking lot.

I keep a notepad in my purse to jot down ideas. I find out what I authentically have to say by writing in an environment of freedom.

## **What was the process for working with your illustrator?**

The first part of the process involved looking at the work of several different illustrators suggested by Brown Books. After choosing an illustrator based on the content of my book, the target age group, and illustration style, it was easy. I made a few suggestions, and the illustrator immediately incorporated them. I'm extremely happy with the end product.



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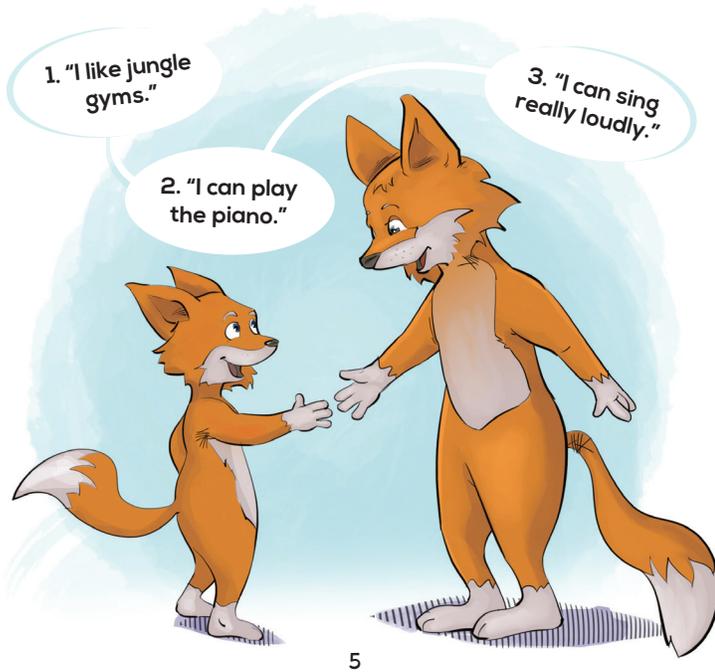


## Excerpts from the book

### 3. Get to know people

Greet a new person, an older person, someone hard of hearing, and anyone you meet—as long as they are a relative or a family friend and not a stranger.

It helps to be ready with three things to say about yourself. For example:



### 8. Be kind to everyone

Start a lemonade stand and then give away the money you make to someone who needs it. Hold your mommy's hand, talk to the homeless, and say:



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Praise for **MANNERS AND ME: An Easy-Peasy Guide**  
for Kids and the Grown Ups Who Love Them

**"Perfect for today's children—and their parents! Charming, direct, and very helpful. Highly recommended for families, schools, and clubs."**

**—KATHY MINARDI, EDUCATIONAL LEADER AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT EXPERT**

**"This book offers the down-to-earth, timeless basics of good manners that every child needs in order to grow into a socially responsible adult."**

**—ZELDA LOCKHART, PhD, AUTHOR AND SPEAKER**

**"Being a kid means encountering the new and different nearly every single day, and Nancy Dorrier's social issues picture book, *Manners and Me*, can help arm kids with the right thing to do or say in just about any social situation. I especially liked her concept of having three things to say about yourself when meeting someone new and then asking questions about them. What a great ice-breaker for a shy child who may feel tongue-tied and at a loss for words when meeting new people. Ralph Voltz's illustrations are charming and a lot of fun, and they make this enlightening book even more entertaining. I loved the cartoon feeling of his drawings and the bright and cheery colors he uses for each panel. Dorrier and Voltz make learning about manners fun, and that's a good thing. Most highly recommended."**

**—READERS' FAVORITE (5- STARS)**

**"Parents and children alike will have great fun reading this lively book together. It offers the lifelong pleasure of courteous, considerate ways of behaving."**

**—ANDY LEAF, EDUCATOR**



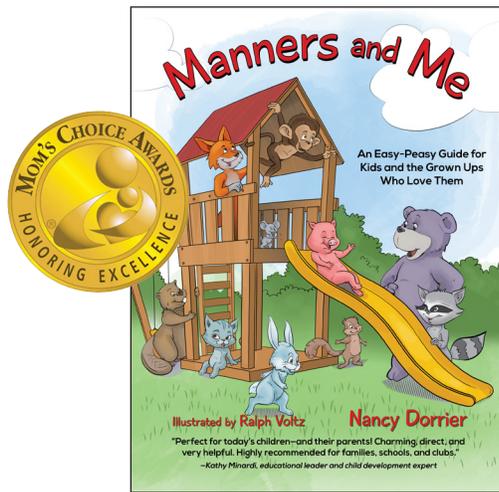
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## SYNOPSIS

In this short, sweet, and quirky guide to proper manners for kids, Nancy Dorrier provides easy rules for parents to teach and children to follow. She includes tips such as listening when spoken to, speaking clearly, being polite and welcoming when meeting new people, and being on time. This book helps kids understand that being polite and having proper manners is important for everyone, and that there is much more to it than please and thank you! With fun illustrations and relatable examples, Dorrier makes it easy-peasy for all children to follow along and learn on the way.