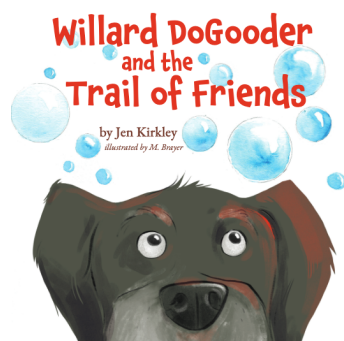


For Immediate Release



**New Children's Book About Friendship,
Acceptance, Curiosity, Uniqueness, And
Understanding Differences**

Willard DoGooder and the Trail of Friends

Jen Kirkley

ISBN: 9798822920149

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When Willard DoGooder is feeling different in his new class, his teacher gives him some advice that leads him down a trail filled with curiosity, fun, and friendship.

Welcome to *Willard DoGooder and the Trail of Friends*.

Parents, guardians, teachers, and more, will join their elementary-school reader on a journey of understanding and celebrating differences as Willard walks a magical path home from school. He meets four very special friends along the way putting his teacher's advice into action — "name the difference, find the good, and move on with kindness."

Author Jen Kirkley has written a story with an adorable cast of relatable characters, based on her children and some of the challenges they've encountered navigating differences. The message of accepting and including others is playfully and beautifully woven into every page.

"We've all been there when our kids ask about something that is different, usually loudly in a very public place. Most of us, myself included, tend to dismiss or downplay differences with our kids because we feel uncomfortable with how to navigate a curious question about something that is different to them. This gives the difference a negative feeling, both for the person asking the question, and for the one who the question is about. It divides instead of bringing together," explains Jen. "Willard DoGooder is on a journey to discover how to accept things that look or feel different, learn from them, and appreciate the gifts that differences can bring. This book came from our own struggle in how to navigate these situations."

With beautiful illustrations and a resonating approach that will help any child understand the value of being curious, inclusive, and kind, *Willard DoGooder and the Trail of Friends*, makes a wonderful bedtime read and back-to-school book.

So far, critics have loved the new children's book. It's been called a "whimsical tale [that] conveys a positive perspective of accepting others and their differences" as well as "a treasure that celebrates uniqueness and individuality in a playful, age-appropriate way."

Willard DoGooder and the Trail of Friends is available for purchase online at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com.

About the Author

Jen Kirkley is a wife and mother of four, who works as a physician assistant in cardiothoracic surgery. She lives in Louisiana, with her family, in a house they have enjoyed renovating over the past ten years. On a daily basis, someone in her home is usually dressed up as a superhero or ninja. Jen enjoys running, reading, tea lattes, and road trips.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jen Kirkley

Email: jen@do-good-books.com

Instagram: [@do.good.books](https://www.instagram.com/do.good.books)

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