

MINDSET MATTERS

*Nancy Roberts - Thank you for always
having a Gonna Get it Done mindset. – Bryan*

Written by
Bryan Smith

Illustrated by **Lisa Griffin**

BOYS TOWN
Press

Boys Town, Nebraska



Mindset Matters

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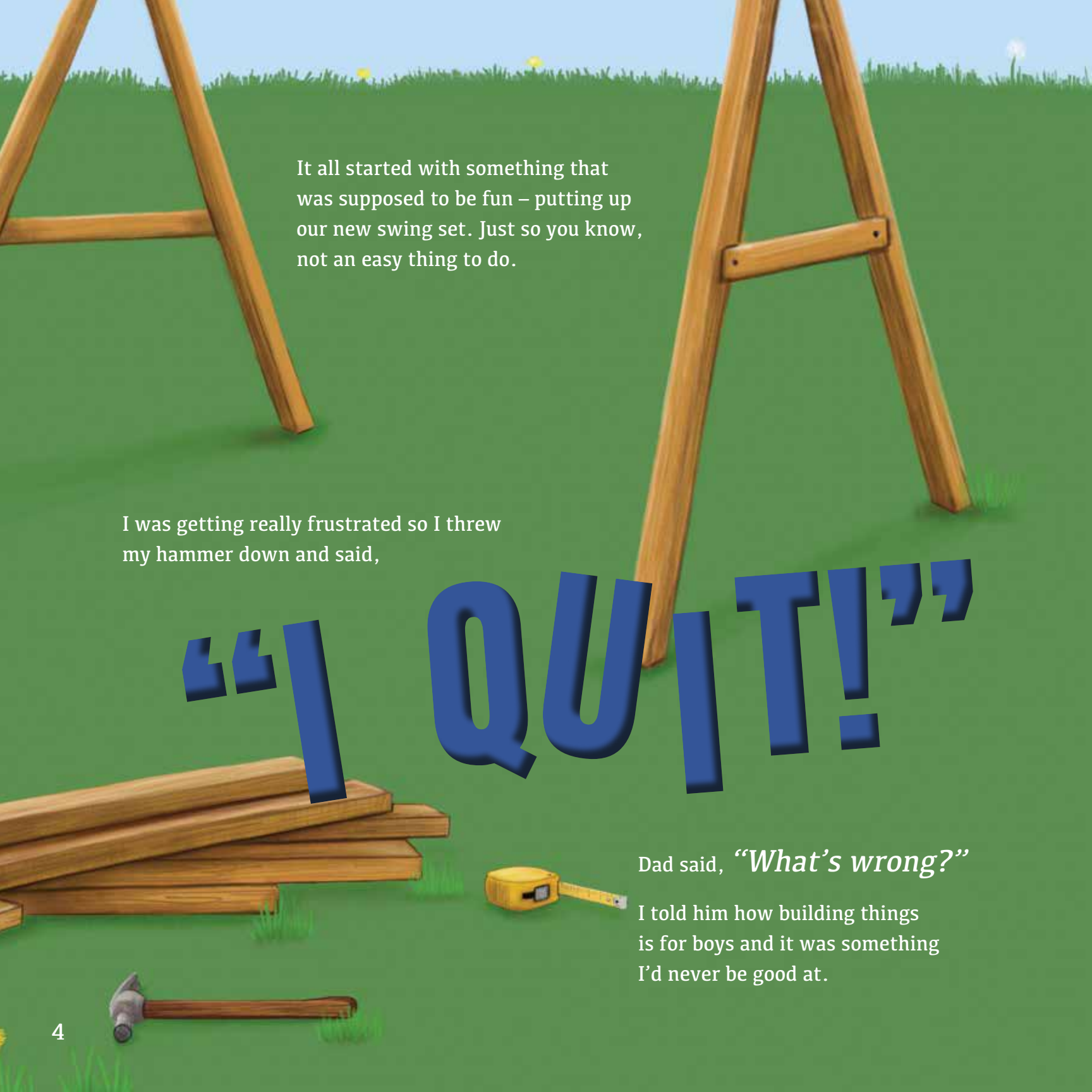


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Hey
everyone.
My name's Amelia and
I'm in 2nd grade.

My parents always help my
little brother, Kevin, but today
was going to be my turn.



It all started with something that was supposed to be fun – putting up our new swing set. Just so you know, not an easy thing to do.

I was getting really frustrated so I threw my hammer down and said,

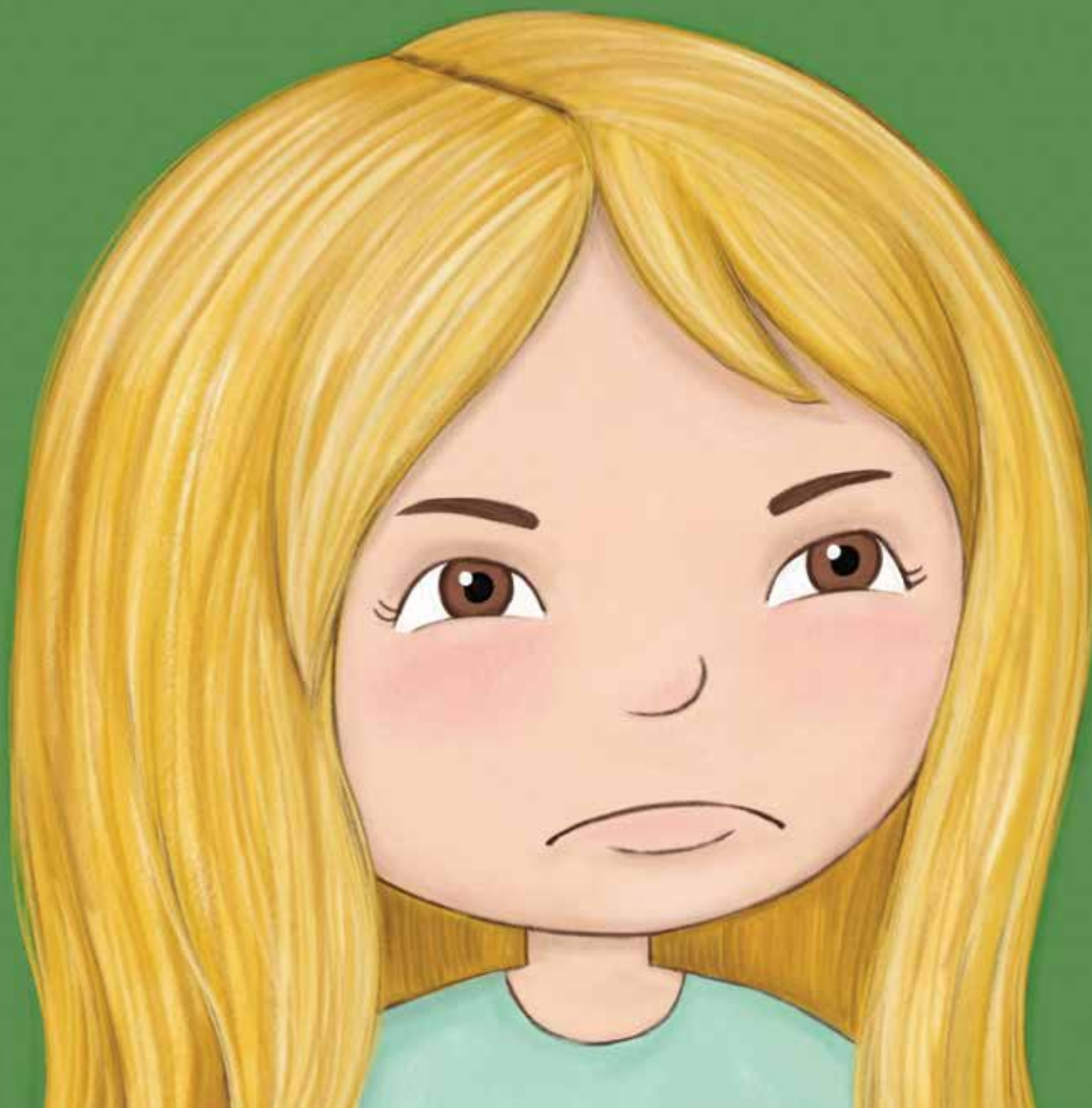
“I QUIT!”




Dad said, *“What’s wrong?”*

I told him how building things is for boys and it was something I’d never be good at.

Dad told me I needed to have a better mindset. “Very funny Dad. It’s called a swing set, not a mindset. There’s nothing wrong with the swing set. It’s me. I’m just not good at building things.”



A cartoon illustration of a man and a girl. The man, on the left, has brown hair, wears glasses, a grey t-shirt, and a brown tool belt with various tools. He is smiling. The girl, on the right, has long blonde hair and is wearing a light green t-shirt. She has a sad expression with a downturned mouth and heavy-lidded eyes.

“No honey, mindset has to do with what you believe you can achieve. Some people have negative mindsets and always come up with excuses. I call that a **DOWN-IN-THE-DUMPS** mindset.

Other people stay with difficult things and find a way to get them done. I call that a **GONNA-GET-IT-DONE** mindset.”



DOWN ^{-IN-} ^{THE-} DUMPS

- X "I'll never be good at that."
- X Negative attitude
- X Excuses



GONNA ^{-GET} ^{-IT-} DONE

- ✓ "I'm not good at that... **YET**."
- ✓ Positive attitude
- ✓ Determined



Dad continued, “The first time I tried to build something with your grandpa I smacked myself on the thumb with a hammer while trying to hit a nail. After that, it took me years before I really felt confident in building things. Throughout that whole time, I kept a **GONNA-GET-IT-DONE** mindset.”





GONNA-GET-IT-DONE

- ✓ “I’m not good at that...**YET.**”
- ✓ Positive attitude
- ✓ Determined



“It wasn’t **IF** I was ever going to be good but rather **WHEN** I was going to be good at building things,” Dad said. “Sometimes when you get frustrated, you just need to take a break to help your mind rest so it continues to have a **GONNA-GET-IT-DONE** mindset.”

Pages 10-31 are not included in this excerpt.

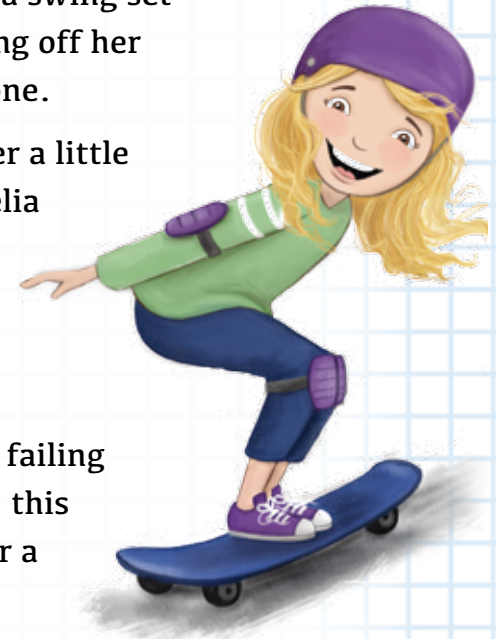


Amelia is her name and conquering new challenges is her game!

She takes up skateboarding with gusto and feverishly builds a swing set for her kid brother. But at the first sign of trouble – tumbling off her skateboard and whacking her thumb with a hammer – she’s done.

Her confidence shattered, Amelia frets she’s a failure. But after a little self-reflection and some loving advice from dear-old Dad, Amelia learns she needs a **GONNA-GET-IT-DONE** mindset. With her new outlook, she discovers success has many definitions...more than she ever imagined.

Mindset Matters teaches children how to see problems and dilemmas as opportunities to learn and grow, and reveals why failing doesn’t make them failures. Written for readers in grades 1-5, this storybook also includes tips to help parents and teachers foster a healthy **GONNA-GET-IT-DONE** mindset in every child.



BRYAN SMITH is an award-winning author who comes from a family of educators. He has worked in the education field for more than 15 years. Bryan began his career as an elementary school teacher before realizing he had a talent for helping children deal with difficult issues. He has since become a school counselor, where he flourishes teaching students life skills that will take them far and help them succeed. Bryan is married and has two children.

LISA M. GRIFFIN holds a BFA in Illustration and is an active member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. Lisa is married and has three children.

