

“Julia Cook understands the hearts and minds of children, and their struggles to develop appropriate social responses. Her books tell a story with fun and imagination. Julia makes addressing bad habits an exciting adventure for growing and changing, for becoming emotionally and socially healthy young people!”

– Diana Waggoner, Executive Director, The Kim Foundation



# I Just Don't Like the Sound of NO!



Written by Julia Cook  
Illustrated by Kelsey De Weerd

*To Austin and Mikala  
~ Julia*

**BOYS TOWN**  
Press

Boys Town, Nebraska

## I Just Don't Like the Sound of NO!

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Audience: grades K-6.

Summary: Shows readers the steps to the fundamental social skills of accepting  
"no" and disagreeing appropriately. When RJ learns to use these skills the right way,  
he finds that rewards come his way, instead of arguments.

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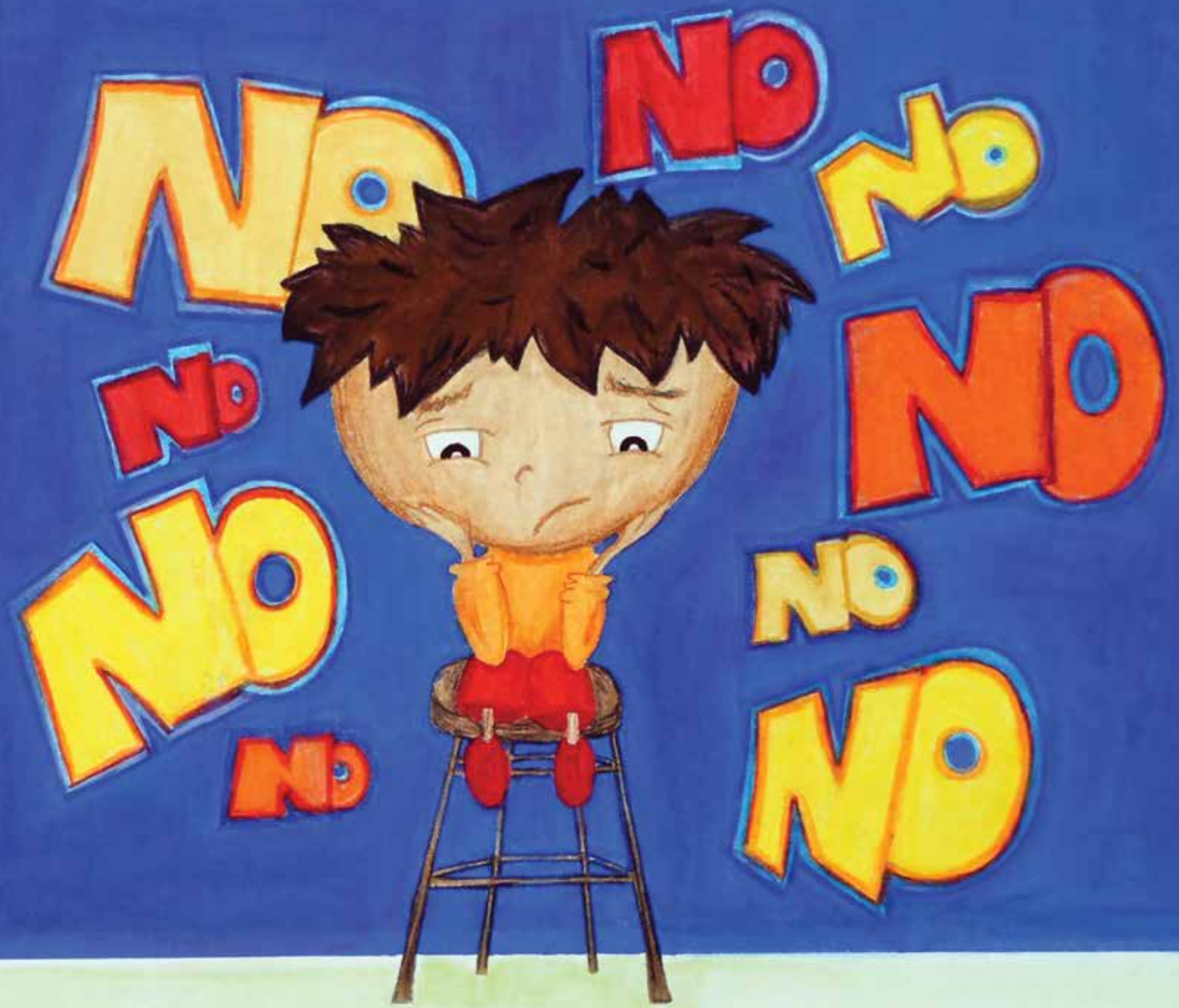
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My name is RJ,  
and I just  
don't like the  
Sound of the word

**NO!**





It seems like everybody always tells me **NO**.

**NO** RJ this, **NO** RJ that...

Sometimes I think my real name is **NO RJ!**

A few days ago, I was at the store with my dad. I saw a box of smelly markers that I really, really wanted.



"Dad," I asked. "Can you buy these for me?"

"No," he said.



"But I just don't like the sound of NO, how about **maybe?**"

"No, RJ, not today."

"But I just don't like the sound of NO, how about **we'll see?**"

"No, remember RJ, I told you before we left home,  
this trip to the store is a looking trip for you not a buying trip."



"But, Dad, they have one that smells like bubble gum!  
There's cherry and banana and..."

"RJ... No means NO!"



Later, my best friend Sam asked me if I wanted to sleep over at his house.

"Mom, can Sam and I have a sleepover tonight?"

"No," my mom said, "not tonight."

"But I just don't like the sound of NO, how about **I'll think about it?**"

"No, you can't have a sleepover on a school night.

You won't get enough rest and then you'll be tired tomorrow at school."



"But how about **maybe?**"

"No, RJ, not tonight."

"But I just don't like the sound of NO and besides Sam's mom says..."

"RJ... No means NO!"

Pages 10-31 are not included in this excerpt.



## 'No' is RJ's least favorite word...

and he tries his best to convince his dad, his mom, and his teacher to turn “No” into “Maybe” or “We’ll see” or “Later” or “I’ll think about it.” As RJ learns, he continues to argue – until his teacher suggests that he try to join her classroom’s *Say YES to NO* Club. If RJ can learn how to accept “No” for an answer and to disagree appropriately with his teacher and parents, he can add his name to the club’s Star Board. RJ finds that lots of praise and some rewards come his way when he uses these skills the right way!

Author Julia Cook helps K-6 readers laugh and learn along with RJ as he understands the benefits of demonstrating these social skills both at home and in school. Tips for parents and educators on how to teach and encourage kids to use the skills of accepting “No” for an answer and disagreeing appropriately are included in the book.

*I Just Don't Like the Sound of NO!* is another title in the *BEST ME I Can Be!* series of books from the Boys Town Press to teach children social skills that can make home life happier and school more successful.



“Julia Cook does it again! She uses her creative ideas to teach kids the skills they need to grow socially. This book teaches all people how to accept “No” for an answer in a non-threatening way. I’m excited to add this to my counseling library. Finally, the Boys Town Social Skill model is being brought to life and all of us will benefit from it.”

– Laurel Klaassen, M.S., School Counselor



JULIA COOK, a former educator and school counselor, has written many books for children and teachers, including the popular page-turners *I Just Don't Like the Sound of No!*, *Making Friends Is an Art!* and *The Worst Day of My Life EVER!* Her activity guides for teachers offer classroom-ready fun to reinforce the life lessons shared in her storybooks. Among her many awards, Julia has received the *Association for Educational Publishers Distinguished Achievement Award*, and her books have been honored by The National Parenting Center and Mom’s Choice Awards.

KELSEY DE WEERD is a graphic artist and illustrator in Los Angeles.



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JULIA COOK

