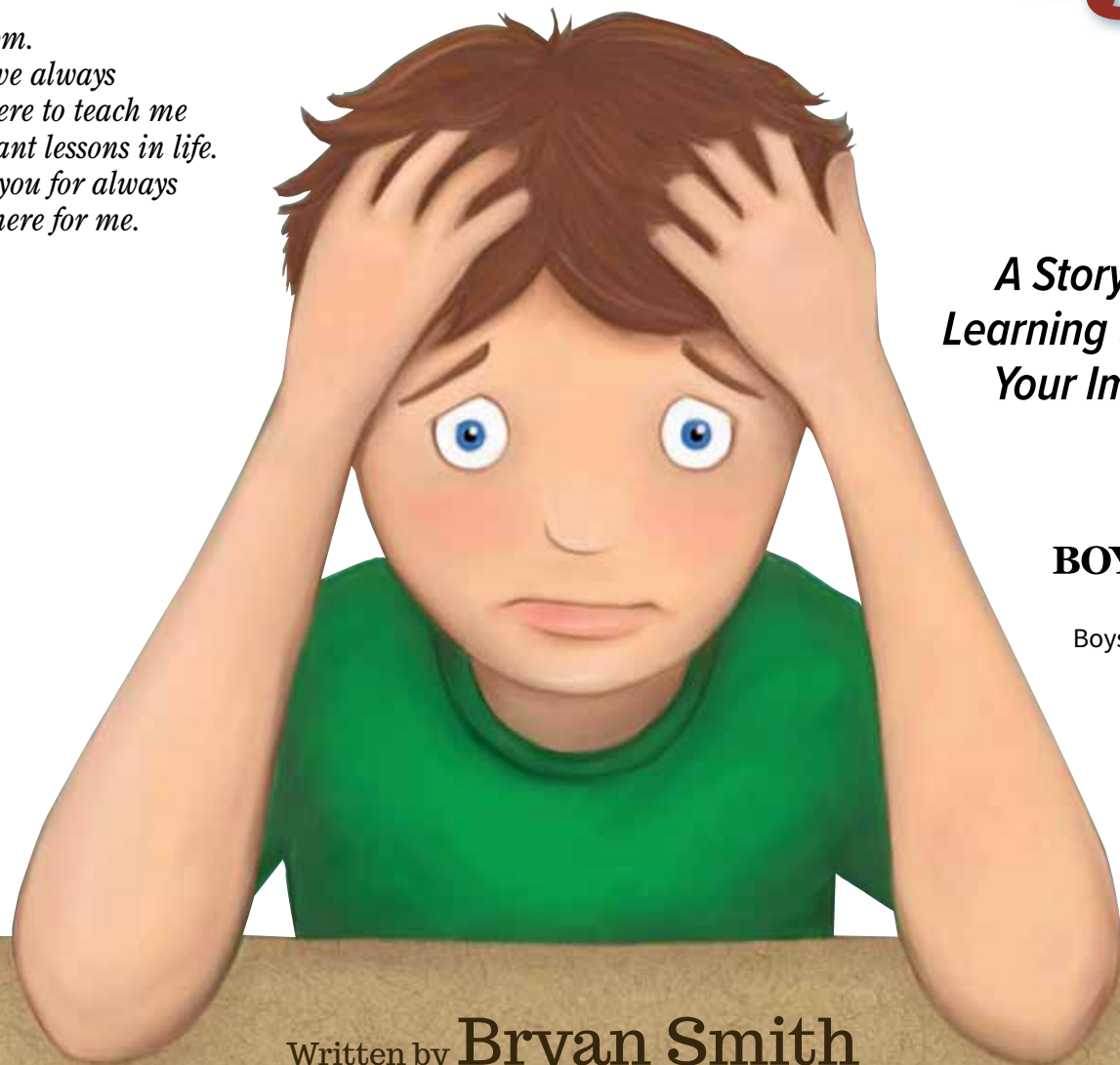


# What Were You Thinking?

*For Mom.  
You have always  
been there to teach me  
important lessons in life.  
Thank you for always  
being there for me.*



*A Story about  
Learning to Control  
Your Impulses*

**BOYS TOWN<sup>®</sup>**  
Press

Boys Town, Nebraska

Written by **Bryan Smith**

Illustrated by **Lisa M. Griffin**

## What Were You Thinking?

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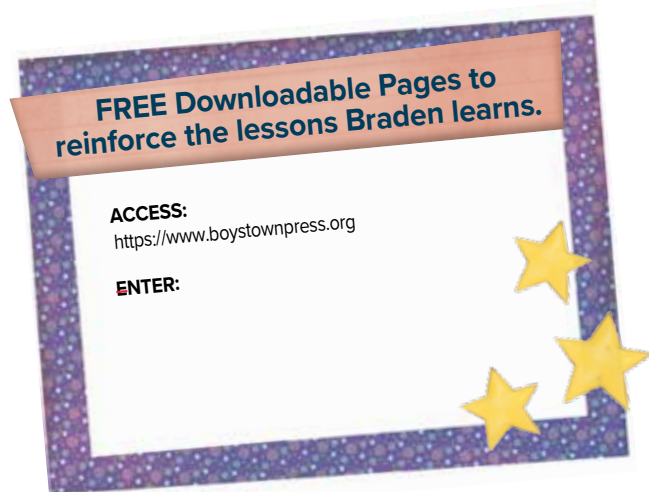
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Hi, my name's Braden and  
I'm in the third grade.

Just so you know, I'm probably the  
funniest kid in my school.

**SERIOUSLY!**

I have made some kids cry  
and almost wet their pants  
because they were laughing so hard.



510

WELCOME



Anyway, this school year started the same way it does every year.

The teacher explains the **rules**.

We practice the **rules**.

And then we practice them some more.

Don't teachers realize third graders know how to follow the **rules**?

Well, on Friday, I realized why we practice the rules.



My teacher began class by saying,

*“Good morning,  
boys and girls.  
Today **WE** are going to...”*


That’s when it happened.

I shouted out,

**“Talk about  
how AWESOME  
I am!”**

The class giggled. My teacher, Mrs. Vickerman, said, “Whoa, Braden, we have rules to follow in class. Is interrupting me when I’m talking to the class following the rules?”

**“No, I guess it isn’t being respectful,”** I answered.



This will make  
**EVERYONE**  
laugh!

Pages 8-31 are not included in this excerpt.



**Third-grader Braden is a real character. He loves to be the center of attention. Everyone just LOVES his jokes, witty comments, and immediate reactions. Or at least that's what he thinks. His comic genius, as he sees it, causes his friends to look at him in awe.**

But when he is corrected in class for ill-timed jokes, and an impulsive reaction during a game of dodge ball ends up with a classmate in tears, Braden's teachers and parents start working with him on how to control his impulses.

Will the tips provided by the adults in Braden's life help him see a better way to manage his impulses? Find out in this hilarious story from the award-winning *Executive FUNction* series by author and educator Bryan Smith.



*“Controlling your impulses is a hard topic to teach to children. Finally a book that gets the point across in a humorous manner. I can't wait to use this with the children at my school.”*

– Marjorie Edge, Elementary School Counselor



BRYAN SMITH is an award-winning author who comes from a family of educators. 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. In addition to *Executive FUNction*, Bryan's other series include *Without Limits*, *Stepping Up Social Skills*, *Social Strategies*, and *Kids Can Do It Too*.

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.