

A Letter to Your Class from Author of the Month Megan McDonald

Dear Class,

Before I was a writer, I was a reader. I grew up in a house stuffed with books, and my whole family loved to read. I ate up *Ramona* and *Nancy Drew*, Grimm's fairy tales, *Charlotte's Web* and *Little Women*. My four older sisters taught me how to find the best books at our library's bookmobile. We'd flip to the last page, and if it made us cry, we knew it would be a really good book!

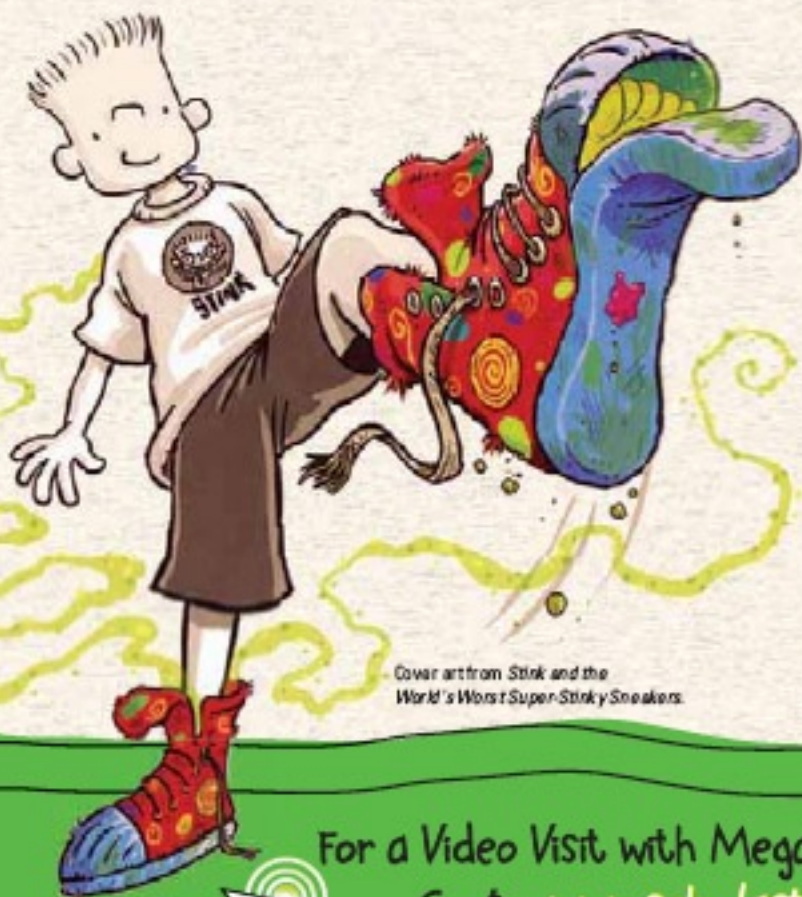
When I was nine or ten years old, I started to stutter. With four older sisters at home, it's true—I could never get a word in edgewise. My mother was concerned about my stuttering. At the dinner table, she'd tap on a glass with her spoon. That meant it was my turn to talk. Just me. Nobody else. But as soon as it was my turn, I got even more tongue-tied!

Then my mother had a great idea. She gave me a book to read. A book I read over and over and over when I was ten. *Harriet the Spy*.

And with the book, she gave me a tiny, spiral, lined notebook, where I first began writing everything down in true Harriet-the-Spy style. I don't think I'd be a writer today if it wasn't for *Harriet the Spy*. I wanted to be just like her—always writing everything down.

Keep Reading,

Megan McDonald



Cover art from *Stink and the World's Worst Super-Stinky Sneakers*.

For a Video Visit with Megan McDonald and More,
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