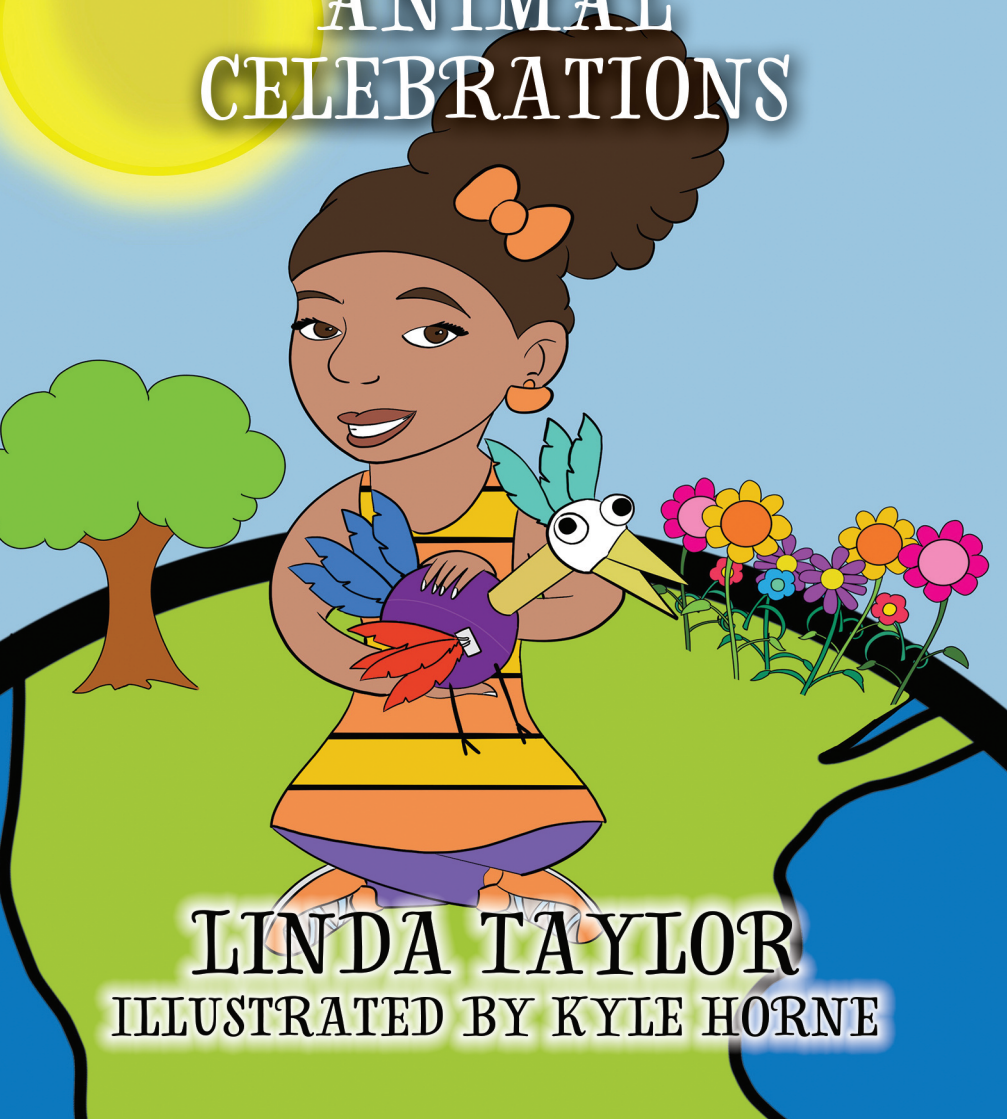


# Amazing Annabelle

## EARTH MONTH AND ANIMAL CELEBRATIONS



LINDA TAYLOR

ILLUSTRATED BY KYLE HORNE

“Amazing Annabelle is a spunky African American child who is far beyond her years and understands self-discipline, random acts of kindness, and the importance of friendships.

“In this book, as Annabelle gets an assignment for Earth Month and her science unit, she embraces them both with an open and creative mindset by putting her best foot forward.

“This wonderful book also shows adults creative ways to teach students to learn as they view the awesome activities Mrs. Mitchell gives to her class. This book should be on every student’s reading list!”

—*Delfina Hennep, Speech Therapist*

“*Amazing Annabelle Earth Month and Animal Celebrations* is one of my favorite books yet! I love her spirit and how she’s not afraid to speak her mind when she has a good idea to share, even if everyone doesn’t like it.

“Annabelle shows silent strength through adversity. She doesn’t let anyone or anything

stop her creativity. Annabelle shows us that we should always believe in ourselves no matter what other people say or think.”

—*Bernice Brazier, Paraprofessional*

# *Amazing Annabelle*

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*To my countless  
students—  
Oh, how you've  
inspired me!*



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## April Celebrations

Earth Month projects are happening.  
No one can just celebrate  
the earth in one day.  
It should really be a yearly effort.  
Cool Earth Day posters are made  
for display.

The class is busy with an animal unit.  
Creative rhymes are on the rise.  
The class created really cool animals.  
There's a lot of working together  
and surprise.

# 1

## GYMNASTICS

Spring soon arrived, right along with rain showers, warmer weather, and sunny days. Trees started budding, and flowers started blossoming. The birds were back in town along with the bees and other insects. Just about every day was an outdoors day except when it rained, but everyone knew that the sun wasn't far behind the showers.

Annabelle was ready to start gymnastics with Kaitlyn and some other girls on the block. Her mom had just brought her a leotard and some cool outfits to wear to her lessons every Saturday morning.

Annabelle's mom carpooled with some of the other mothers in the neighborhood. This made things easy when someone had to work on a Saturday or do some errands with their other kids. Sometimes Jason had T-ball at the same time as Annabelle's gymnastics class.

At the girls' first gymnastics class, they saw a lot of their friends from school plus some new girls they didn't know. Their teacher, Mrs. Nevins, began her class with a little introduction time. The girls formed a circle and one by one went around stating their names and one thing they like to do in gymnastics. Almost everyone said tumbling, so it became the first skill Mrs. Nevins decided to teach them.

First, they were going to do a warm-up exercise. Mrs. Nevins asked all the students to space themselves out on the floor and spread their legs so they'd have

room to stretch. She put on some cool music while they were stretching. The girls were very much into it and following her directions carefully.

After warming up this way for a while, Mrs. Nevins called the students over to show them how to do a proper tumble. Annabelle had been tumbling almost all her life and never even knew there was a proper way to do it.

Mrs. Nevins presented the tumble to the students as a forward roll. She told everyone to squat down and put their hands on the floor in front of their toes. Then she told students to tuck their head in, keeping their chin on their chest before rolling forward.

Annabelle had not known that it took so many steps to do a simple tumble. She didn't think all of them were necessary, so she kept on doing it the way she had been

doing it all her life. Mrs. Nevins came over to Annabelle.

“Sweetie,” Mrs. Nevins said, “you have to put your hands in front of your toes and do it the right way.”

Annabelle still kept on doing it the wrong way. She felt rotten as she struggled with this simple task.

“I just can’t do it that way, Mrs. Nevins. Can’t I just keep on doing it my way? This way is easy for me,” Annabelle said.

“We have to always try to do things the proper way so we don’t hurt ourselves or our bodies. It would be a lot better if you tried to do it the other way. I know you can do it. You just have to try and try again,” Mrs. Nevins said to encourage her.

Kaitlyn saw that Annabelle was having a hard time and came over to help.

“Hey, Annabelle, just put this hand

## Gymnastics

over here, tuck in your head to your chin, and roll over,” Kaitlyn said.

For some reason, when Kaitlyn did the forward roll and then explained it to her, it seemed so much simpler than before. Annabelle carefully copied Kaitlyn and finally did the forward roll the correct way. She was so happy with herself that she put on a big smile.



“That’s it, Annabelle!” Kaitlyn exclaimed. “You did it! Great job!”

Mrs. Nevins thought she did a great job too.

“See, I knew you could do it all the time. Good job!” said Mrs. Nevins. “Now do some more so you don’t forget how.”

Annabelle did tumble after tumble after tumble. She was having the time of her life.

After the tumbling lesson, Mrs. Nevins let the class jump on the indoor trampolines. All the girls had a great time and also a great workout. After they finished, they took a long water break before it was time to go.

Annabelle turned to Kaitlyn while they were waiting to leave.

“Thanks for showing me that tumble,” said Annabelle. “You made it look so easy.

## Gymnastics

I mean, I knew I could do a tumble, but you were doing it so well. So I just followed the leader.”

“No problem,” said Kaitlyn. “It was easy. I wonder what she’s going to teach us next week.”

“I don’t know, but I’m sure it’s going to be fun,” Annabelle replied with a smile.

So they all left gymnastics on a happy note.