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Back to school doesn't have to be cruel with middle school survival guide app

Minneapolis, MN—Free Spirit Publishing and Electric Eggplant are happy to announce that their app [Be Confident in Who You Are: A Graphic Novel](#) is now available for the Barnes and Noble NOOK Color™ Reader's Tablet™.

Released earlier this year on the iPad, *Be Confident in Who You Are* is a digital graphic novel based on Book 1 of the award-winning *Middle School Confidential*™ series written by nationally recognized teen expert and anti-bullying activist Annie Fox, M.Ed., and illustrated by Harvey Award winner Matt Kindt. The app has been well received by reviewers such as Rick Broida at CNET, who said "Kids ages 11 to 14 would benefit from this book's lessons. My 11-year-old daughter, who starts middle school in the fall . . . gave the app an enthusiastic 'pretty cool!'" Common Sense Media gave the app four stars, and said, "this app is sleek and well-designed."

Be Confident in Who You Are helps 8- to 14-year-olds prepare for the challenges of middle school through the social stories of six characters. Through true-to-life scenarios, the six friends interact at school and in their neighborhood helping one another as they confront self-esteem, friendship, bullying, and family issues and discuss truth and courage. Todd Bernhard, blogger at iPhone Life, said, "I like that the entire novel is focused on a group of kids. There aren't any adults lecturing the kids, nor is there some narrator to 'take you out of the moment.' It's basically kids being kids, with a set of positive messages so they can learn from each other." *School Library Journal* said, "This is good-quality targeted character education."

Be Confident in Who You Are has been optimized for NOOK Color's 7-inch color touchscreen and enables the reader to interact with the story by zooming in for frame-by-frame reading or zooming out again for a page-by-page view. The reading experience is enhanced with richly layered audio made up of movie-like sound effects and music. An auto-save feature remembers your place in the story and a menu page permits jumping to any of the eight chapters. Just in time for back-to-school, this app is appropriate for the hard-to-reach "tween" age group and reluctant readers, and for use in discussion with parents, teachers, and counselors.

Pricing and availability: *Be Confident in Who You Are* is \$3.99 and available through NOOK Apps at <http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Be-Confident-in-Who-You-Are/Electric-Eggplant/e/2940043856630>

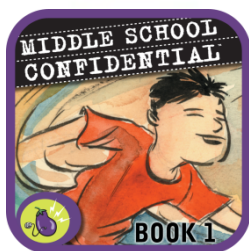
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Be Confident in Who You Are: A Graphic Novel

By Annie Fox, M.Ed.

Illustrated by
Matt Kindt

Developed by
Electric Eggplant



About the Author (www.AnnieFox.com)

Annie Fox, M.Ed., has been teaching, writing, and creating innovative content for kids for many decades. She's particularly proud of The InSite—a teen website she created to help young people with the challenges many face growing up. Since 1997, she's been answering online questions (as Hey Terra!) from tweens, teens, and parents around the world. In 2010, Annie founded Cruel's Not Cool!, a popular anti-bullying forum for students, parents, and teachers. Her Internet work has contributed to the publication of multiple books, including *Too Stressed to Think?* and the award-winning Middle School Confidential™ series. When not answering Hey Terra! email or speaking at schools and conferences, Annie enjoys yoga, meditation, making bagels, and hiking with her husband, David, their grown children, and Josie the dog.



About the Illustrator (MattKindt.com)

Matt Kindt was born in 1973 to a pair of artistically supportive parents. Living briefly in New York, Matt has spent most of his years in the Midwest, and the last 15 years in Webster Groves, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. In middle school, he would often create mini-comics featuring the teachers, to the delight of his fellow classmates. Matt is the Harvey Award-winning writer and artist of the graphic novels *Super Spy* and *2 Sisters* and co-creator of the Pistolwhip series. He has been nominated for four Eisner Awards and three Harvey Awards. In addition to graphic novels, Matt also works as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer. When he is not working, Matt enjoys long trips to the playground with his wife and daughter.



About the Developer (ElectricEggplant.com)

Founded by David and Annie Fox, Electric Eggplant has been on the forefront of multimedia design and production since its inception in 1992. Annie and David Fox have partnered on dozens of projects in their 36 years of marriage, including cofounding the Marin Computer Center—the world's first public-access microcomputer center. The Foxes have consistently garnered kudos for their work on games, educational software, Web design, emotional intelligence content, online communities, and emerging technologies, as well as books and apps for kids, tweens, and teens. David was one of the original members of Lucasfilm Games (now LucasArts) and was project leader/designer/programmer on several of their titles, including the classic *Zak McKracken and the Alien Mindbenders*.

About the Publisher (www.freespirit.com)

Based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Free Spirit Publishing is the leading publisher of learning tools that support young people's social-emotional health and educational needs. Founded by Judy Galbraith, a former classroom teacher and gifted-education specialist, Free Spirit has had the same mission for over 27 years: to help children and teens think for themselves, succeed in life, and make a difference in the world.