



The Things I Can Do

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Want to see what Jeff drew? It's a book about him and all the things he can do! He can make his own lunch! He can get his own drink. He can take his own bath—pretty cool, don't you think? Get ready for a riotous time as Jeff explains, in words and self-drawn pictures, all the things he can do—in a book he made all by himself!

The Things I Can Do Details

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Author : Jeff Mack

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From Reader Review The Things I Can Do for online ebook

Carol says

Creative collage style illustrations have a child-like quality that make them appealing to young children. Pay attention to the details as they are quite humorous at times. This picture book captures the independent flair that kiddos can have whether their intentions are good or a little misguided.

Kathy says

great drawings. relevant to my grandchildren

Storywraps says

Just picking up this book, flipping through the pages and ogling the illustrations will encourage you to get a copy and share it with your kids. The pictures are so much fun, so packed full of action and expression that it is amazing. This little guy is overjoyed to show his independence so he crafts his very own book to document his monumental feats and proudly displays it so all the world can see. He is able to make his own lunch, get his own drink of milk (although there are milk spills down the page), bath himself (albeit in the kitchen sink with the faucet spray) and mend his toys with copious gobs and blobs of glue. He is the man!!!! Mr. Self- reliant! Mr. Cellophane, Masking and Duct Tape Warrior! Fantastic, humorous self-portraits with a huge round head, sticky-out ears and a smile a mile wide shows his bliss as he continues on his journey of look what I can do. He uses everyday "stuff" around the house to create his incredible, tactile collages and photos are embedded here and there to make things very interesting indeed.

My favourite? "I can brush my teeth, /I can pick out my clothes. // This sweater was perfect!! // For wiping my nose." A huge big splotch of snot is highlighted which will make your kids giggle and laugh.....and the underwear guy pictured above will have them laughing right out loud. This spirited little man will win your heart and have you cheering him on as he discovers yes I can!!! I am a big boy now!!!!

Barbara says

Using an artistic style reminiscent of a child's through mixed media illustrations, the author/illustrator details all the things he can do, including making his own lunch, fixing his own toys, and even reaching the top step. I liked the fact that some of the pages looked as though they had been torn from a child's coloring book and that the book itself represents various steps in the growing process. Most of all, though, I liked the fact that the boy has written and illustrated his own book. Favorite pages include the tangled shoe laces on the page in which he claims that he can tie his own shoe and the puddle of glue on the page in which he fixes his toys. I can only imagine the mess he leaves behind after all the things he can do. A sense of pride pervades the entire book.

Paula says

Jeff is eager to share just how grown up he is in this tactile, rhyming tale. He creates a book titled *The Things I Can Do* and in it he rhymes about all his accomplishments. However, all his endeavors are tempered by his own renditions of his feats. When he says, "I can make my own lunch; I can get my own drink", his crayoned construction paper collage shows pizza, fries, hot dogs and ice cream for lunch and milk spilled on the floor. Sharp young readers will soon discern that Jeff isn't as proficient in bathing, storytelling, flying and fixing toys as he says. The rhyming text, hand-printed in black crayon is paired with outstanding illustrations done in all manner of art supplies: colored papers, stickers, tape of all kinds, popsicle sticks, etc. Jeff is a creative, high-energy kid and this story and the almost 3-D illustrations capture his personality well. Reminiscent of David Shannon's *David*, Jeff is a high-spirited and happy example of young boyhood at its best. The title is a must for elementary libraries and pre-K classes everywhere.

Peggy says

This book just won the CLEL Bell Award for 2014 under the "Write" category. It is cleverly designed to look as if it was created by a child, with pages of dirty crumpled looseleaf, masking tape, and glue splotches adding to the atmosphere. On first pass, it reminded of "No, David, No" by Shannon, with the lettering seemingly done by a child's hand in black crayon. The story is told in rhyme of a child learning to do all kinds of things by himself, some successfully and some not so successfully. An example: "I can brush my own teeth. I can pick my own clothes. This sweater is perfect!!! For wiping my nose." I think this book will be a smash with the little ones, especially those in Pre-K and K.

Amy says

The multimedia illustrations in this book are fascinating and so fun! I read it with my 6-year old today and he was so intrigued by the art. The story talks about all the amazing, new things this child can do but it is within the context of the illustrations that the story really comes alive. Super fun!

Lizzy Herda says

Jeff creates a personalized book about all the things that he can do to show what he is capable of. Making lunch, taking a bath, and even picking out his own clothes are some of the few things that Jeff listed out in his book to share with his reader.

This book reminded me a lot of the "David" books that I read in elementary school. They have very similar illustrations following along with the basic story plot. I overall was not very impressed with this book because it did not have a powerful theme that the reader would get from it. It simply was just listing off things that the little boy could do.

I would personally not have this book in my classroom because I want my students to become educated after reading a book and understanding an important theme that was shown as the book's main message. This is a creative book but I really do not see it impacting or inspiring any of my students. The one theme that I gathered from it was to show young kids what they can do on their own or some day look forward to doing on their own.

Jordan Davidson says

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Summary: The main character, Jeff, creates a list of things he can do – such as “make my own lunch,” “reach the top shelf,” “get my own drink,” etc – and shows readers illustrations to go along with the actions.

Genre: Picture Book

Content Warnings: None.

My Opinion: This book was absolutely adorable. It is designed to look like a small child created it, so the drawings are purposely crude and the text is all made to look like it was written in thick black crayon. This creates a very charming appearance. The book is very simplistic, but it’s supposed to be. I could see myself using this book to teach children to read someday. Not only is it easy to read, but also the message of empowerment and self-reliance is a good one to impart to children sooner rather than later.

Pam says

Cute story about a young boy becoming independent. Clever illustrations support the text.

Marissa Elera says

I really adore this fantastic hodgepodge of gleeful childhood confidence. The art is certainly a powerful tool in this book, but the text is authentic too. The result is just great!!!

Michelle says

Rip off of David Shannon-David books.

Chelsea Kirkland says

Simple words, rhyming. Could work for toddler storytime just to reinforce the idea that you should be proud to be able to do things by yourself. Maybe they would get the humor maybe not?

Laura says

I got this book for kindergarten - I thought they could observe how the main character writes - in all capitals - and use it to reflect on how they wrote their names at the beginning of the year (all caps) and how they write their names now (uppercase and lowercase letters). Kind of the "Junie B. Jones" effect - I anticipate students will enjoy interacting with a character younger than themselves in a text that invites them to think about the ways they know more and are more capable than the main character.

Susan Foster says

This would be cute for a read-aloud. I think kids would like it. The art work is ambitious, but it kinda drove me crazy! Too messy for me--haha!
