

Einstein stated, "You can't solve a problem using the same thinking that created it." John and his wife, Pat, are both children's science educators. They both believe that today's serious problems call for a new kind of thinking and Pat's main character, Pink Hat, playfully expresses this in *'Pink Hat's Adventure with Seagulls, Hats, and Dancing Feet,'* created for elementary school children. The Rollers live in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas. They have three children and eight grandchildren. Pat's awards include: Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, and induction into ECU's "Educators Hall of Fame" in 2008.

Will Pink Hat's "Special Power" save her in **THIS** Adventure?

Pink Hat, a hat who can communicate with all living things is bright, with the full range of emotions of a young child. She loves adventure more than anything. The story begins as Pink Hat, while on a 'SPICE' Connection' adventure walk encounters two seagulls who are so sad they have turned blue. It's February and the only visitors at the beach are old people and their dogs. They yell at the seagulls; they don't share their food, and their dogs bark at them. The sad seagulls want to learn how to dance for and with the college kids who come for Spring Break. The kids welcome them, accept them, and feed them junk food. Without thinking, Pink Hat promises to teach the seagulls to dance. As their walk continues, Pink Hat, who now realizes how big the other seagulls are and how badly they misbehave, begins to get really worried. During the 'SPICE' Connection' adventure walk she learns a lot about how our planet works, and she also meets many hats from all over the world at the 'Go Green' Hats Convention. Will the hats help her solve her problem? What will Pink Hat need to do herself to get ready to teach the gulls? Will Pink Hat keep her promise? Will the seagulls learn to dance?



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# PINK HAT'S ADVENTURE

with  
Seagulls, Hats,  
and  
Dancing Feet

Pat  
Kellogg  
Roller



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# Pink Hat's Adventure with Seagulls, Hats, and Dancing Feet

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**Pictures: John Roller**

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This book is a work of fiction. Places, events, and situations in this book are purely fictional and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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## ***CREDITS***

INSPIRATION – our eight grandchildren: *Andrew, Daniel, Jonathan, Sarah, Katherine, Rebecca, Zachary, and Elise.*

Special thanks to *Sarah*, who was five years old when she gave me her pink hat to take on vacation with us to Australia. Her generous gift brought Pink Hat to a life of adventure. ‘*Pink Hat’s Adventure With Kites*’ and ‘*Pink Hat’s Adventure With Seagulls, Hats, And Dancing Feet*’ are the first two books to tell of Pink Hat’s adventures.

*John Roller’s* photographs; for his pictures and unlimited support.

*Riana Salazar*, our illustrator, with great humor and skill she brought John’s pictures to life, making this a fine book for children, ages 5-12.

Editors: *Dr. JeDene Reeder*, Language Specialist and *Carolyn Williams*, English Teacher, worked tirelessly to help make this book a model of good communication and good grammar. Both are dear friends whom we cherish.

*Mary Sallee*, Composer and Music Teacher, helped with the dance at the seashore. Her notes captured the music of the sea. Her love and respect for nature is clearly expressed in many of her compositions.

These books and our website; [www.free-energy-env-exp4kids.com](http://www.free-energy-env-exp4kids.com) are the legacy we leave to all of Planet Earth’s children. We are grateful to all who helped us.



## *A Model for Taking Children on a ‘SPICE Connection’ Adventure Walk*

As a parent, you are your child’s first and most important teacher. The enthusiasm you bring to sharing this book is contagious, so go with your kids outdoors and take many ‘SPICE CONNECTION’ Adventure Walks. Engage your emotions, and you will bring *‘Pink Hat’s Adventure With Seagulls, Hats, And Dancing Feet’* to life for everyone. Remember, this is a book that you read then ‘do’ outdoors.

I used the acronym SPICE to help children begin to learn how our planet works. I used dancing to Nature’s Music to help them listen and respond. I used a ‘Green Hats’ Convention to help them learn how to care for our planet. This book is a delightful mix of fact and fantasy and here is how I taught it to our nine-year old twins last weekend. It’s the same way I taught it to my students in grades 2-8 for over 20 years.

On Friday evening at bedtime, we read together the first two chapters, ‘The Sad Seagulls’, and the ‘Spice Connection Adventure Walk’. We talked together about the SPICE ideas and how they work.

On Saturday morning we collected plastic bags, hand lens, and scissors and went for a ‘SPICE Connection Adventure Walk’ in the park behind our home.

The twins decided to collect leaves. As they did they noticed something had eaten on some of the leaves. Some of the bushes had sharp thorns. As we continued our walk we saw: turtles sunning on a log at the edge of the lake, a big water snake swimming in the lake, a flock of birds eating the seeds of the tall grasses near the water, and ducks and geese swimming in the lake. As we walked near the shore, we saw big bird prints, small bird prints and the prints of different animals. The wind was causing ripples in the water. The early morning sun’s rays touching the water made the water sparkle. Insects were everywhere but flying slowly because it was cool. Elise collected several to study as well as some minnows and a tadpole. She touched them, observed them with her hand lens, and then she put them back where they came from. Using the book as a guide we discovered that IT WAS ALL THERE! WE FOUND EXAMPLES OF EVERY IDEA IN THE SPICE CONNECTION!

After I hosed the mud off of them and they changed clothes, the twins sorted the leaves on the table on the patio. They sorted them by size, by shape, by texture and by the leaf edges. They were amazed at the leaves’ delivery systems as well as the variety of leaves.



We had lunch at the Cleveland County Fair. The admission was free and SPICE was there. The twins saw variety and similarity, patterns, interaction and interdependence, change, adaptation and evolution in the many animals and plants. They saw mothers (pigs, goats, sheep and cows), taking care of their babies. They held baby animals. They saw and tasted home grown food, both fresh and canned in glass jars. Except for the lunch it was *free*.

We returned home and while they were resting, we finished the adventure of Pink Hat by reading chapters 3 & 4, '*The Seagulls Learn to Dance*' and '*People Music*.' I had saved some toilet paper rolls and we used them to listen to each other's heartbeat. They discovered the rhythm of the beating heart and soon we were dancing to the '**lub-dub**' **sounds, singing the beat as we danced.** They learned how to calculate the number of heartbeats per minute for each of us and were amazed that each of us had different rates of heartbeats (pulse rates).

We talked about ways we could save energy, and they decided they would learn *by practicing* five ways to save. To help them learn, they decided to put a nickel in the jar each time they forgot; as they *applied* their new thinking, developing new habits of saving and caring for the environment. The money would go for new shoes for a young person with 'needy dancing feet.'

The payoff for me came as I saw them making connections; beginning to get a feeling for how interconnected everything is. I know that if we keep taking SPICE walks together over the seasons, they will come to love and respect our planet and want to take care of it. ***If you put in the time with your children outdoors, the same joy will be yours as you make the "SPICE CONNECTION" together. Backyards, parks, any green space will do, but the best ones have plants and water.***

***Our website address is: [www.free-energy-env-exp4kids.com](http://www.free-energy-env-exp4kids.com)***

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Both this book and the book '*Pink Hat's Adventure With Kites*' are available for purchase in regular book form ***on our website*** as well as Amazon, Barnes & Noble or Dog Ear Publishing. They may also be downloaded as an eBook Conversion, on Kindle, on Nook and on iBook.

If you view our website, you will not only find free experiments; but you will also learn why we have become involved in helping kids with creative problem solving, and with beginning to learn how our planet works.







## Chapter 1

### *The Sad Seagulls*



Jose and Carmelita watched Pink Hat and Nanny Pat coming down the beach.

“You ask her,” said Carmelita.

“No, you ask her. I don’t talk so good, especially to **pink hats**,” said Jose.

“Remember, Jose, the pelicans said Pink Hat could communicate with every living thing. I know you can do it, Jose,” said Carmelita.

“No, I can’t.” he replied. His voice sounded angry.

“Yes, you can.”

“No, I can’t.” At that point they were beak-to-beak, ready to fight.

“Hi, seagulls,” said Pink Hat, “is there a problem?”

“Well, actually, we are BORED,” said Jose. “It’s February and no one is here but old people and their dogs. If we come near them, people yell at us to go away, and their dogs chase us. People are afraid we’ll make ‘*nasty*’ on them. They won’t even share the food they don’t eat.”

“Is anything else bothering you?” said Pink Hat. “Maybe it’s because you are blue?”





Aren't seagulls usually black, gray, and white?"

Carmelita burst into tears. She said, "We're blue because we're depressed!"

"Oh dear, what happened?" asked Pink Hat.

"Yesterday when no one was looking, we snuck into the movie house to see a movie about penguins. The young penguins went to '*singing school*.' One

little boy penguin could not sing, but he could dance. He had so much fun! Soon all the penguins were dancing and having fun! We are sad because we want to dance, but we don't know how. We can't hear the beat. We have no rhythm. There is *no music* here," said Carmelita. She nudged Jose to talk while she began to cry again.

Jose looked up; then he looked down as he shuffled his feet. Finally he said, "No one will help us learn to dance because we have a bad reputation. We scream, squawk, push, grab food, and then fight over it."

To test Jose's idea, Nanny Pat pulled some Cheerios out of her bag and threw them up into the air. The seagulls acted just as Jose had said. It was awful! When they had eaten the last of the Cheerios, these seagulls, looking for another handout, moved away. Not a one said thank you. Pink Hat was *shaking* with *fear*! That *was scary*!

When it was quiet, Nanny Pat said, "Is it true that your favorite time of year is Spring Break when the college kids come to the beach to play?"

"Oh, yes, yes," said Carmelita.

"Yeah," said Jose. "Those kids let us move in right among them. They share their food with us. It's our favorite junk food! They dance, sing, and play. They make music all day and all night. They don't fuss at us for the way we act."

"Yes," said Carmelita. "That's why we want to learn to dance. We want to put on a special show for them because they are so nice to us. We also want to dance *with them*!"

Without thinking at all, Pink Hat blurted out, "I would LOVE to help you learn to dance. We can begin tomorrow. But I need your help. When you get back home tonight, move quietly among your friends and family. Find *those* who really *want* to learn to dance. Tell them they will have to be quiet and listen. In the morning at 10:00 A.M. bring those seagulls and meet us at the pavilion. Tomorrow you shall DANCE!" They waved goodbye to the seagulls and walked on down the beach.



## CHAPTER 2

### *The “Spice” Connection*

Nanny Pat noticed that Pink Hat seemed worried. She wanted her to enjoy the walk.

“Pink Hat, I know you love adventures more than anything. I also know that you can communicate with every living thing. Tomorrow will be a great adventure for you and for the seagulls. I know you’ll do a great job. I love adventures too, and I have a great adventure every time I take a walk.”

“How do you do that?” said Pink Hat. “A walk is just a walk. Good exercise, but it’s not an adventure.”

“I take SPICE with me,” replied Nanny Pat. “I also take my hand lens, magnifying bug box, and my camera. With this equipment and what I know about SPICE, I always have an adventure!”

“How did you learn about SPICE?” asked Pink Hat. “What is SPICE?”

“I studied with an ecologist one summer and he taught me just as I will teach you. *ECOLOGY* (e-KOL-o-g) is the science of relationships between organisms (living things) and their environment. This teacher made my life much better by showing me this simple way to learn and to remember,” replied Nanny Pat.

“Show me what you mean,” said Pink Hat.

“SPICE,” said Nanny, “is a short way to remember five big ideas about how our planet works. You already know a lot of how it works in your relationships with your family and friends, but SPICE is about the *outdoors* environment and how living things work within the *natural world*.”

“The first letter in SPICE stands for SIMILARITY (sim-i-LAR-i-t) and for VARIETY (va-RI-e-t). There are many different living things in the environment, but almost all of them are *alike* in that they need the same things: clean air and water, good soil and light, food to eat, and a safe place that is not too hot or too cold to call *home*.”

“VARIETY just means how things are different. SIMILARITY means how things are alike. So, as we walk, we look for likenesses and differences.”



“Let’s look for some examples of these ideas,” she continued. “See those pelicans, curlews, sandpipers and seagulls at the shoreline? They are all birds. They all can fly. They all need food. But each kind of bird is different from the other kinds. Can you see some differences?”

Pink Hat said, “There is *variety* in them. Some are larger than others. And look; each kind of bird has a beak, which is different from the other kinds. Each beak is shaped just right to get its food.”

“Good,” replied Nanny. “Now look at the seagulls. See. They are grabbing the tiny, shelled animals brought in by the water. Watch how fast the creatures burrow into the sand. The shelled animals want to hide so they won’t be eaten by the seagulls.”

“Seagulls have not always had bad manners. It began when people *cleaned* the fish they caught *on the shore* and threw out the parts they did not want. The seagulls would fight over this free food. It became worse when other people would leave junk food lying on the beach. After a time, the seagulls did not want to work to get their food. They wanted free food. They fought over it. That’s why seagulls act as they do. Notice the seagulls feeding at the shoreline are working for their food, and *those* are not misbehaving.

Pink Hat smiled. She wiggled just a little to show her pleasure that Nanny understood how she felt.

“You know, Nanny; if I’m lucky, I just might have these nice hardworking seagulls in my dance class tomorrow,” said Pink Hat.

Nanny laughed and laughed. “Yes, Pink Hat,” she said. “That would be great. Now let’s go back to your SPICE lesson. The ‘P’ in SPICE stands for PATTERNS (PAT-terns). That is an easy one to find here on the beach. Look at the ripples in the places where the ocean water moves slowly. Look at the ripples in the sand. The wind and the water helped make these beautiful patterns.”





“Nanny,” said Pink Hat, “let’s collect some of these seashells.” And so they did. They cleaned and dried them. Then they grouped them in ways they were alike and in ways they were different.



“Look, Nanny,” said Pink Hat. “The colors are almost the same. The sizes and shapes are different. Some feel smooth and some feel rough. But what I like best are the patterns on the back of the shells.” She carefully grouped the shells according to the patterns on the back of each shell. She used the hand lens to see them better. She was very quiet. She was very busy. She was seeing earth’s creatures in new ways.

“Pink Hat,” said Nanny. “Do you know what seashells are?”

“Beautiful and interesting?” replied Pink Hat.

Nanny laughed. “That is true,” she replied. “But shells are homes for little creatures to live in. Some of these shells are empty because as the owners grew, they needed bigger homes. So they moved out of these small homes, leaving them to some tiny creatures, which were just the right size. Hermit crabs love to do that.”

“Wow, I love that plan!” said Pink Hat.

“Come on, Pink Hat. There is a lot more to see,” said Nanny. As they walked along, they saw many different footprints in the sand. “What made those giant bird-like prints? Has *‘Big Bird’* been to the beach?” laughed Nanny Pat.



Beside the ‘big bird’ prints they saw raccoon prints and possum prints. There were so many seagull prints it looked as if they had been stomp dancing instead of fighting over food!

As they walked on down the beach, they saw hills of sand. There were many different plants growing in the sand. Some had flowers of different colors.





“These hills of sand are called *sand dunes*. This is just the place for the third letter in SPICE,” said Nanny Pat. “The ‘I’ stands for INTERACTION (in-ter-AC-tion) and INTERDEPENDENCE (in-ter-de-PEN-dence). INTERACTION means ‘to *act* on each other’. INTERDEPENDENCE means ‘to *depend* on each other’.”

She continued, “The sand dunes INTERACT with the ocean waves by stopping the water. The result is this lovely beach we all enjoy. The roots of the plants go down deep in the sand dunes. They hold onto the sand and keep it from blowing away. The long roots gather water and minerals the plants need so they can grow. With the help of the sun, plants use the water and minerals in the sand to help them make food. Only green plants can do this. Green plants give us food to eat and oxygen to breathe. *All* living things *depend* on *green* plants.”

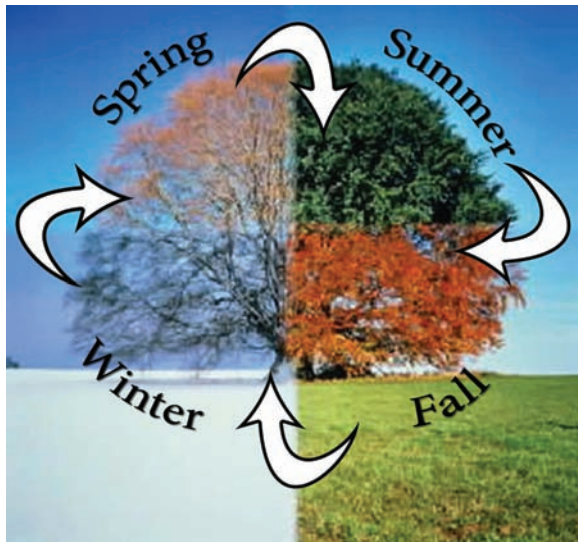
“The plants hold the sand in place so the wind does not blow it away. So the sand dunes and the plants DEPEND on each other. The sand dunes give the plants a home. All of these interactions are also good examples of interdependence because each one helps the other,” said Nanny Pat.

“Look!” said Pink Hat. “The bees are getting nectar from the plants. This gives the bees food. The bees move pollen around among the plants so the plants can make seeds to make more plants! They DEPEND on each other. I think I am catching on, Nanny. I like this way of taking a walk!”



“Before we leave the sand dunes,” said Nanny, “let’s look at one special plant and insect that depend on each other in an unusual way. See that green plant with sharp stalks? It’s called a ‘*yucca plant*.’ See that gray moth on the *yucca flower*? It’s called a ‘*yucca moth*.’ As the moth feeds on the nectar of the flowers of the yucca plant, it moves the pollen around and pollinates the plant. In this way the plant can make seeds so there will be more yucca

plants. Before it leaves, the yucca moth lays its eggs in the yucca plant. The yucca babies hatch out and feed on the plant until they are ready to fly away. So the yucca plant and the yucca moth are very dependent on each other. They work together to live. They are said to work only with each other.”



They walked together quietly for a few minutes and then Pink Hat said, “Nanny, what does the ‘C’ in SPICE stand for?”

Nanny Pat replied, “The ‘C’ stands for CHANGE. Think about how you have changed in the past year. In nature, signs of change are everywhere because every living and non-living thing on earth is always changing. Wind, soil, water, and sunlight all bring changes on earth. So does growing up like you are, and growing old like I am. In places where there are four seasons each year,

the changes each season brings are very easy to see. Many people think that humans have caused changes dangerous to our planet.”

“Is that why everyone is talking about saving energy and ‘*going green*’?” said Pink Hat.

“Yes, Pink Hat; the other ‘C’ word is CONTINUITY (con-ti-Nu-i- t). CONTINUITY means ‘a *connected whole*.’ We need to do all we can to help our planet CONTINUE these life processes which help keep our planet green and



healthy. Green plants make food and give us oxygen to breathe. We need to keep our air clean for breathing and our water clean for drinking for ourselves and for all living things. Our planet is in trouble, and it needs all of us to help.”

“But now we must hurry because it’s almost time for lunch. Are you ready for the last letter in SPICE?”

“I’m ready,” said Pink Hat.” Her hat brim was puffed out from all the new information; but Pink Hat was a trooper, and she would stay to the end.

“The ‘E’ in SPICE stands for two ideas. One is ADAPTATION, (a-dap-TA-tion) and the other is EVOLUTION, (e-vo-LU-tion). Adaptation means a change in a living thing which helps it live in a changed world. EVOLUTION means the continuous ways of acting, or genetic changes, like changes in *color*. When these changes last through many generations of the living thing, for a long period of time, we call this evolution.

“Look at these butterflies. Watch how they get nectar from flowers.”

“WOW,” exclaimed Pink Hat. “The butterfly has a long tube-like mouth so it can go down into the flower and suck out the nectar. That is so COOL!”

“Yes,” replied Nanny. “That mouth is an adaptation which helps the butterfly get food.”



She continued, “Do you remember when we were collecting leaves and we came to that tree which had long thorns? Remember how sharp those thorns were? Why do you think they were there?”

“Oh, now I understand,” said Pink Hat. “The thorns were an adaptation which kept the tree’s leaves from getting eaten. And there were a lot of those trees.”



“Yes,” replied Nanny Pat. “Remember that snowshoe hare we saw in the mountains last summer? It was brown to blend in with the ground and plants. But in the winter its fur turns white so it blends in with the snow. Its babies do the same thing so many of these hares survive because of this adaptation. Since this color change has been happening for a long time, this is also an example of evolution.”

“Nanny Pat,” said Pink Hat. “I am beginning to understand how strong the ‘life force’ is. I wonder what would happen if all the yucca moths died. Would the yucca plants all die also? After all, they depend only on each other?”

“I think some would die, but others would ‘*adapt*’ (change) and learn how to work with other insects in order to get their needs met. Many living things do, and that is what adaptation is all about. It is making changes in order to survive and reproduce,” said Nanny Pat.

“Look here in the water,” said Nanny Pat. “See those little fish. They always stay together in large groups. This is how they survive. The groups are called ‘*schools*.’ You could say they learned to do this by “*schooling*.” Nanny Pat laughed. Pink Hat laughed.



“Nanny Pat,” said Pink Hat. “Sometimes you are silly. I think it’s time for you to eat lunch.” And off they went to meet Poppy at the Seafood Shack.

As they neared the shack, Pink Hat giggled, “I want to play a joke on Poppy.” Pink Hat laughed as she jumped on Poppy’s head. “Hi, Poppy,” she said. “Do you know you are the **SPICE** of my life?” Poppy’s face turned red. He grinned from ear to ear. He patted Pink Hat fondly.

“I’m glad to hear that,” said Poppy. “I like you a lot too.”

After they had ordered their lunch, they told Poppy about their “**SPICE** Connection Adventure Walk” and all they had done.

Then Poppy said, “This morning I went to the Convention Center. There is a ‘**GO GREEN**’ Hats Convention’ there. There are hats from all over the world. Most of them have their people with them. Would you like to go there this afternoon?”

“Yes,” replied both Pink Hat and Nanny, “we would. We would like to go and meet the hats. Do you think they could help me with my problem?” said Pink Hat. “I’m worried I won’t be able to get the seagulls’ attention so I can teach them how to dance.”



“Maybe they will have some ideas,” Poppy replied. And off they went to the convention center. When they arrived, they sat near the back of the large room and listened. A debate was going on about global warming and the high cost of energy. After the debate, the leader stepped to the podium and began to speak.

“Fellow Hats, you have heard the debates. We have discussed what we can do to save energy and help keep our planet clean and beautiful. I will read the resolution and then we will vote on it.”

“WHEREAS, since we believe that everyone can help save energy, and help our planet, we resolve that we will do our very best to do the following:

1. Install energy saving CFL (compact fluorescent lamps), to light our homes.
2. Turn out lights we don't need.
3. Grow a garden for food and recycle plant material.
4. Walk, ride bikes, or carpool to save gasoline.
5. Take short showers.
6. Recycle paper, plastic, cardboard, etc.
7. Take reusable cloth bags when shopping.
8. Pack lunches in reusable containers.
9. Use reusable water containers instead of buying plastic.

When he had finished reading the resolution, he called for a vote; and almost everyone said yes. He then thanked them for coming and for the hard work they had done. He said the convention was over, and everyone began to leave.



Pink Hat, Poppy, and Nanny, met several of the hats, greeting them and asking them and their humans, to come to the Seafood Shack for some visiting. On arrival they ordered snacks and had a good time getting to know each other.

Soon Pink Hat felt brave enough to ask for their help with her problem. She told them what she had learned from Jose and Carmelita.

She told them some of the seagulls wanted to learn to dance and that she had promised to help them. She explained to them that the seagulls' bad manners had her worried that she could not teach them.

The hats and their humans talked together quietly about the problem. Soon they were laughing among themselves. Then '*Big Walter Hat*' spoke for all of the hats. "Pink Hat," he said, "my friends and I have two ideas. First, we suggest that tonight,



you learn all you can about your *students*, the *seagulls*. While you do that, we want to spend some time on the beach meeting some seagulls. We believe we can promise you there will be no problems with bad manners when you begin tomorrow. Is it O.K. if we attend the dance lesson?"

"Oh, yes, we would be happy to have you come!" said Pink Hat. The hats left for the beach, and Pink Hat and her family headed back home. They wondered what the hats would do.



Meanwhile at the beach, the hats were very busy. They split up and began to talk to the seagulls. Big Walter Hat and David Hat with his Mountain Man were the leaders. Each hat said to the seagulls, "From what I hear, you seagulls are going to have a chance to be taught to dance by that great dance teacher, Pink Hat! Do you plan to go to the lesson tomorrow? Do you mind if I come? I have never had a chance to learn from Pink Hat. I can't believe how lucky you are that she has come to you."



“Nah,” replied the seagulls. “We don’t care for learning. We go only where there is free food.”

“Oh, I see.” replied the hats. “Well, do as you like; however, you are missing the chance of a lifetime. See you around.”

Since all the seagulls had gotten the same message from the hats, they began to feel very curious. Perhaps they *would* go to the *dance* lesson just to *see* what was going on.

Meanwhile, Pink Hat had gone to her room to learn all she could about seagulls. Nanny called everyone to dinner. Poppy said, “Pink Hat, would you share with us what you learned about seagulls?”

“Seagulls,” replied Pink Hat, “live in individual families which, all together, are called a **Flock**. A mother seagull may lay 2-3 eggs, which hatch as baby seagulls in about 26 days. The young seagulls stay at home about six months. Their mother brings



them some of her food to eat. If a predator tries to hurt a baby seagull, other adult seagulls will fight to protect it.”

“Adult seagulls have strong legs and are good walkers. Their broad wings catch the wind so they are also strong fliers. The larger seagulls are smart and good problem solvers. They communicate well with each other. They can be well organized and work together. Seagulls are very important to humans because they are *scavengers (SCAV-en-jers)*, and they help keep the beach and water near the beach clean by eating much of the food waste. That’s what I learned,” she said.

“So if they have strong legs and good walking feet, they may be good dancers. If they are also smart and good problem solvers, they may well show us a thing or two,” laughed Nanny Pat. “I have a wonderful book titled, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* written by Richard Bach. May I begin to read it to you tonight?”



“Oh yes, Nanny, I would love that.” said Pink Hat. She climbed up on Nanny’s lap as Nanny began to read. After awhile Nanny closed the book and asked, “Pink Hat, what did you learn about Jonathan?”

Pink Hat yawned and stretched, and then she said, “Jonathan thought there was more to life than eating, or fighting, or power in the Flock. He wanted to learn to fly better even though the Flock did not want him to be different. They gave him a hard time, but he just kept on practicing, *flying higher* and better. He did not fly just to get

food and get back home like the other gulls. He flew because he loved the adventure of it. He brought food home to share with the old, weak seagulls! Jonathan Seagull is a lot like me. I also love adventure.”

Suddenly she lit up like a light bulb! Pink Hat had an idea! “Nanny, Poppy,” she said, “Jose and Carmelita are like Jonathan Seagull. They are tired and bored with the same old day after day fighting over food. They want to bring something new and joyful to their Flock! They want to learn how to dance! Guess what? I’m not scared about teaching them anymore. If they are brave enough to stand up to the other seagulls, then I can stand up for them and help them reach their goal.”

Nanny and Poppy laughed out loud. “Goodnight, Pink Hat, see you in the morning.” They were so excited and happy for Pink Hat that she had learned what she needed. She had her self-confidence back! They agreed that books offer wonderful ways to learn.



## CHAPTER 3

### *The Seagulls Learn to Dance*



The next morning Pink Hat, Poppy, Nanny, some seagulls, and hats gathered at the pavilion. It was a beautiful sunny and breezy, day. The sunlight on the water caused it to sparkle like diamonds! The light and shadows playing in the pavilion were magical! The hats and the curious seagulls gathered to watch Pink Hat with her class. David Hat and his Mountain Man walked quietly among the seagulls, smiling and greeting them. Nanny and Poppy thought David Hat and his Mountain Man might be *Seagull Whisperers*. The seagull students were ready for the dance lesson.

“I am glad you came here today to learn something new, different and fun. Very soon you will begin to dance. By the time the college kids arrive for their Spring Break, you will be ready to entertain them! So, let’s get started,” said Pink Hat.

“There is music all around you. *Nature is full of music.* Let’s begin to hear that beautiful music. Place your ear on the chest of your partner. Move your head until you hear





its heartbeat. Listen to that sound. Are there two sounds? Do the sounds say ‘lub-dub, lub-dub?’ Some of the seagulls nodded their heads up and down. “Did you notice that the ‘*dub*’ in ‘lub-*dub*’ makes a louder sound than the ‘lub’ part of the sound? That means when we count or say it we put more emphasis on the ‘*dub*’ sound.”

“Let’s sing together ‘*lub-dub, lub-dub, lub-dub.*’ Now let your partner listen to your heartbeat. Do you all hear it? Dear seagulls, that heartbeat is the rhythm of life! Now, let’s dance to that beat. Follow me.” They began to move to the ‘lub-dub’ beat.





Now let's sing the beat in numbers '1-2,1-2.' When we say '1' pick up one foot, then put it down. As we say '2' pick up the other foot and put it down. Since your heart beats fast, your feet must move fast! Keep doing that '1-2,1-2,1-2.' LOOK AT YOU! YOU ARE DANCING!" Pink Hat shouted happily. All the hats clapped for the dancing seagulls. Some of the seagulls had just come to watch, they clapped their wings together. Those seagulls were beginning to have fun too!

"OK, STOP," said Pink Hat. "I think you are ready to learn another dance. Let's go down near the water. Let's watch and listen together as the foamy waves break on the shore. Listen to the crashing sound! Listen to the soft sound as the water moves back out to sea. They all watched and listened as several waves, one by one, crashed on the shoreline.

"There is a rhythm in this water music which repeats over and over. Notice the water waves move in fast and hard. Then the water goes back out to sea slowly, and another big wave breaks on shore. Let's sing this water song. *Here comes a wave*, count '1-2-3-4' as the wave *breaks* on the shore.

We could sing 'dah-dah-dah-dah' in place of 1,2,3,4." They sang this rhythm together. They practiced lifting a foot *up*, *down*, with *each* count.



Pink Hat continued. "Here's the count for when the water goes back out to sea. It's a *soft, longer* sound '1-2.....3-4.' Or you could sing for this part of the dance '*daaaaaaa-dah.*' Since it takes longer you hold one foot up for the '1-2' ....., put that foot down, then hold up your other foot for the '3-4'..... Let's put it together now. Sing it and move your feet to the count, '1,2,3,4',..... '1,2 .....3,4.' Or, sing *dah-dah-dah-dah, daaaaaaaaah-dah.*"

And so the graceful dance began as many of the seagulls heard the rhythm

of the ocean waves breaking on the shore and then the water moving gently back to sea. Pink Hat noticed some of the seagulls seemed confused.

“Don’t worry,” Pink Hat said gently. “It will come to you; just take your time, keep listening and watching the other seagulls. Then jump into the dance when you are ready.”

When the seagulls stopped to rest, Pink Hat said, “Dear seagull friends, you are doing so well. To hear nature’s music, you only need to be quiet and listen. When the wind causes objects to strike one another, there is a rhythm. People put wind chimes in their yards to hear this wind music. There are many other rhythms in nature, and they are right here where you are. You can learn to dance to every one of them.”

She continued, “Just watch how the children move their bodies as they ride on their surfboards. Go down to the beach and watch how the kites dance in the wind. This afternoon there is a kite flying contest down the beach past the pavilion,” said Pink Hat.

The seagulls continued to practice their first two dances. Some of them began to add some turns and whirls, making the dance more interesting. They were having fun. And, they were too busy learning to dance to think about food or fighting.

When they were tired and resting again, Pink Hat said, “We are proud of you! You have already learned so much. There is one other kind of music we want to share with you. It’s the last lesson to get you ready for your dance concert for the college kids at Spring Break. Tomorrow we will have children with instruments who will come and make people music for you. You will hear their beat, and you will dance. Thank you for working so hard and acting so nice. We’ll see you here tomorrow at 10:00 A.M. Goodbye until then.”

That night six grandchildren of Nanny Pat and Poppy Johnny were so excited they could hardly sleep. Each child was thinking about what he or she would do to help the seagulls. They were each just a little bit afraid of the seagulls’ sharp beaks and big wings. Being just a little bit afraid and a whole lot excited, is about as good as it gets. Soon everyone was asleep under the full moon, reflected in the sparkling sea.



## Chapter 4

### *People Music*

Everyone arrived at the pavilion on time. Big Walter Hat, David Hat, and his Mountain Man had calmed the seagulls. There seemed to be more seagulls today than yesterday. The hats stationed themselves among the watching seagulls. The second seagull dance class was ready to begin.

“Welcome again seagull friends,” said Pink Hat. “I would like you to meet Zachary. He’s a very good dancer. He wants to tell you how he learned to dance.”



“Good morning, seagulls,” he said. “We’re practicing rhyming at my school because we think, ‘A rhyme is something you can remember for all time.’ So here is what I think.”

“I *feel* the *beat* through my *feet*.

Old shoes won’t do; cause they’re not neat.

New shoes make neat feet

So you can hear the *beat*.

And that’s how you can get

HAPPY DANCING FEET.”

Then Zachary began to dance. He was dancing the dance of the penguins. He must have seen that movie too. Everyone laughed and laughed. What fun to watch Zachary dance! When Zachary finished his dance, Jose,

the blue seagull, said, “But Zachary, seagulls don’t have SHOES.”

“Sorry, Jose,” said Zachary. “That’s all I know about how to have dancing feet. I need to go now. Bye, seagulls.” And Zachary ran down the beach to collect seashells.

Pink Hat saw that more advice was needed so she called Elise, Zachary’s twin sister, to stand with her. “Elise, what do you think?” she asked.



Elise raised her voice so all could hear. “I don’t feel the beat through my feet like Zachary does. I feel the beat in my head,” she said.

Jose shouted, “So do you dance on your head?”

“No, Silly,” laughed Elise. “I WHIRL AND TWIRL’ CAUSE I’M A GIRL. AND IT WORKS BEST IN MY CHERRY RED DRESS.”

SO, GIRL SEAGULLS, FOLLOW ME, DO AS I DO,” said Elise.

As Elise led the way, the seagulls began to do as she did. Nanny and Poppy joined in the dance. What fun they had! They became so tired that they had to lean on each other to stand up. Poppy was feeling a bit silly. **He** wanted to give the seagulls some advice about dancing.

“Poppy,” said Pink Hat, “Do you have some advice for our seagull friends?”

“Yes, I do,” grinned Poppy. “I have happy, dancing feet when I get a *pedicure*.”

The seagulls looked puzzled. Pink Hat decided to go on with the lesson.

“Seagulls, Hats, Nanny, Poppy, while you are resting from the dance with Elise, I would like you to hear music played by Andrew on his flute. Clap your wings; clap your hands for Andrew!”

While Pink Hat was introducing Andrew, **he** was whispering to Nanny Pat. “**LOL**, I have **never** talked to or **played** for seagulls. His voice had a nervous squeak in it. Nanny, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?”

“Don’t worry, Andrew,” whispered Nanny. “Music has its own universal language. You don’t need to talk to the seagulls. Just make music for them.”





Andrew lifted his flute to his lips, and the air was filled with the sweetest music. It helped to soothe and calm everyone. The *background music* was created by the ocean waves breaking on the shore.

In moments, most of the seagulls were asleep on their feet as were Nanny, Poppy and quite a few of the hats. Those still awake were under the spell of Andrew's beautiful music.

"Duh, Andrew," said his brother Jonathan. "With 'your' music, you've put the seagulls to sleep on their feet. It's overkill, I say."

A moment later, Jonathan began to beat his drum loudly. He shouted, "Move your feet to *my* beat!" As the seagulls began to dance, Jonathan began to play faster and faster. He beat the drum harder. Some of the seagulls began



to lose their balance! They began to spread their wings trying to stay on their feet! Some seagulls were being knocked down!

### HOW WOULD ORDER BE RESTORED?

Nanny had the answer. She threw up a whole box of Cheerios, one handful at a time. There was enough for all of the seagulls. After feeding, they settled down to listen to Pink Hat.

Pink Hat whispered to Nanny Pat, “I think it’s time for Sarah on the oboe.” Nanny quickly agreed.



“Hi, everyone,” said Sarah in a calm voice. “I’m glad to play on my oboe for you. My music can make you feel glad or sad or mad. I have chosen music to make you feel glad. Listen and feel your joy; then dance to that joy!”

Sarah began to play. The seagulls began to listen. As usual when Sarah is around, peace is restored. And so it was. It was a beautiful sight as Sarah, her hair blowing in the wind, created oboe music at its best.

“Thank you, Jonathan. Thank you, Sarah. Seagull friends, didn’t you love the beat of Jonathan’s drums and the joy of Sarah’s oboe? Please show your appreciation.” There was much flapping of wings and clapping of hands.



“Pink Hat,” whispered Nanny. “Have you noticed that many of the seagulls who just came to watch have begun to dance?”

“Yes, Nanny,” replied Pink Hat. “They too are learning life is more than fighting over free food.”

Pink Hat turned back to the crowd. “Daniel is our last performer. He plays the bass guitar. Please welcome Daniel.” And everyone in the crowd did just that.



In his rich, calm voice, Daniel said, “Hey DUDES,” let’s mellow out together. Like Jonathan’s drum, my guitar helps carry the beat for everyone. The drum and the bass guitar create a framework to help hold the music together. I really like jazz music best. But for now, how about all you guys spread out so everyone has some room. Just listen to the music and move your feet to the beat of my guitar.”

As Daniel began to play slowly and softly, the seagulls stepped away from each other, and one by one, they started to sway and move their feet.

“Hey, Dudes; that is so COOL. Keep it going,” said Daniel.

And Poppy said, “WOW!” I would not have believed it possible.”

The dance continued, and soon the grandchildren joined in. The seagulls, the hats, the people, everyone was dancing to Daniel’s music. What fun they had!

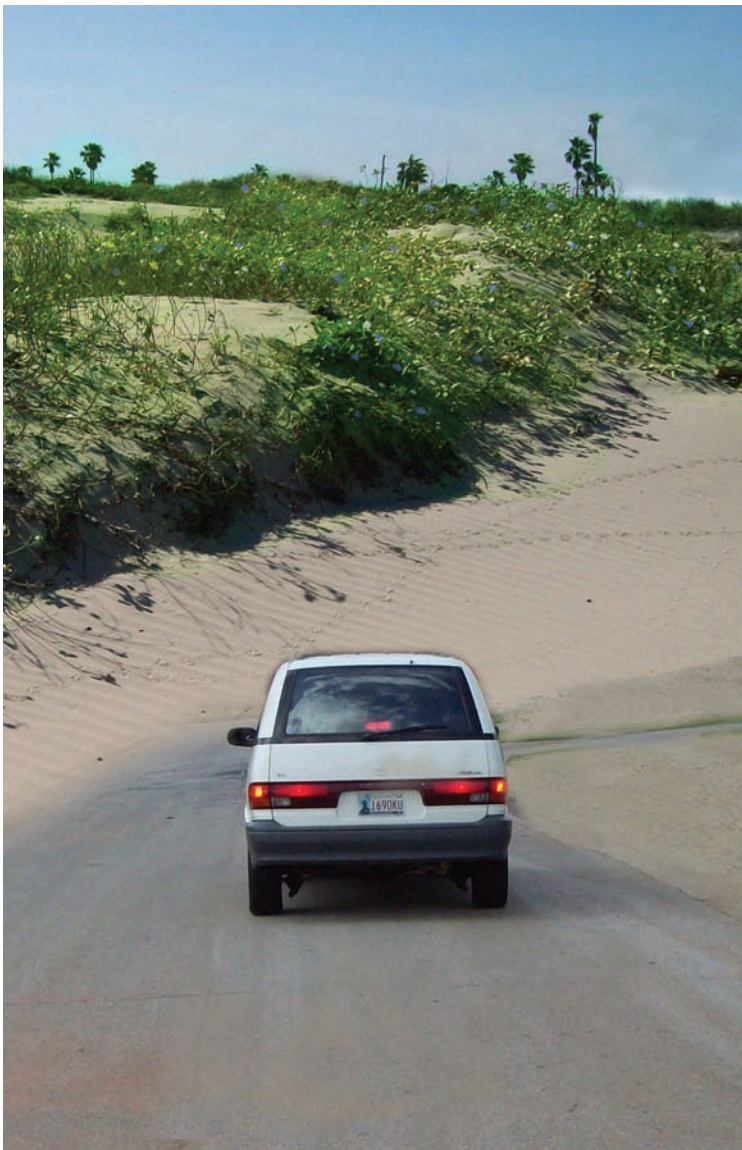
When the dance finally ended, Pink Hat spoke, “Friend seagulls, you are on your way. From that first dance to the ‘1-2,1-2’ of your heartbeat, to your dance to the rhythm of the moving sea, to the beat of people music, you have danced well to it all.”

“What a treat the college kids have in store for them! How I would love to see you dance for them and then dance with them.”

“This is the beginning of a new life for you. You have *not* just learned to dance. You have learned to work together peacefully. You have learned good manners.”

“I predict that January and February will be better for you from now on. When the old people see how you have changed, they will *want* to share their food with you. Some will even want to dance with you. YES, it’s a new winter day on the beach!”

“My dear hat friends, how can I thank you enough for all the help you have given the seagulls and me as their teacher? We must all go back to our homes now, but I want to wish you Godspeed and safe travel. We look forward to the day when we will meet you again. We will all work together to help save energy and keep our planet healthy. *Scavenger Seagulls* are really good at that. Thank you, thank you, Goodbye, HATS!”



As Nanny, Poppy, the grandchildren, and Pink Hat walked to their van, Pink Hat said, “It’s easier to act nice when you have lots of fun things to do. Did you notice that Jose and Carmelita are no longer blue? Did you notice that they are now the *leaders* of the *Flock*?”

“Yes, Pink Hat, I did notice. It is so good to see them well and happy again. Let’s hurry, Poppy is waiting for us in the van.”

Just as Poppy was about to drive everyone away, the seagulls all shouted together, “Goodbye, people friends. We love you. We thank you. Please come again.”

As everyone was trying to agree on where to stop to eat dinner, Nanny Pat spoke softly to Pink Hat, “We are so proud of you. You are growing up. You kept your promise to Jose and Carmelita. You are becoming a good teacher.”



Pink Hat softly replied, “Thank you. Teaching is what I want to do with my life. This adventure made me so happy. I learned that dancing feet are truly happy feet. I really liked helping the seagulls learn to dance. And I met my buddy, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. It was all good.”



The END

