

**VERSION 1: SEPTEMBER 2009<sup>1</sup> (see footnotes for editorial comments)**

Spread 1 (4-5)	Spread 2 (6-7)	Spread 3 (8-9)	Spread 4 (10-11)	Spread 5 (12-13)
<p>I dare you not to yawn.</p>	<p>Yawns are tricky things.</p> <p>A yawn will get you sent upstairs to get your PJs on.</p> <p>PJs lead to teeth-brushing.</p> <p>Teeth-brushing leads to bedtime stories.</p>	<p>And bedtime stories lead to goodnight hugs and kisses.</p> <p>Then, it's time for bed.</p> <p>See? Yawns equal bed.</p>	<p>So, if you're not quite ready to go to bed just yet,</p> <p>DON'T think of baby orangutans holding their long arms out for their mommas with their droopy eyes and open mouths forming perfect 'oh's.</p> <p>Oh...oh...oh...</p>	<p>If you do, you <i>may</i> start to feel sleepy...</p> <p>But, I dare you not to yawn.</p>
Spread 6 (14-15)	Spread 7 (16-17)	Spread 8 (18-19)	Spread 9 (20-21)	Spread 10 (22-23)
<p>Oh, and DON'T think of warm quilts, dim night lights and cuddly stuffies.</p> <p>Or twinkling stars and baa-baa-ing sheep.</p> <p>Especially not sheep.</p> <p>Baa...baa...baa...</p>	<p>If you do, you <i>could</i> start to feel snuggly...</p> <p>But, I dare you not to yawn.</p>	<p>And whatever you do,</p> <p>DON'T think of baby tigers arching their backs in one last stretch with their eyes squished tight and their tongues curled back.</p> <p>Rawr...rawr...rawr...</p>	<p>If you do, you <i>might</i> start to feel stretchy...</p> <p>But, I DARE YOU NOT TO YAWN!</p>	<p>If someone else yawns, like your baby brother, or your big sister, or the dog—look away.</p> <p>Yawns are like colds.</p> <p>They spread.</p>
Spread 11 (24-25)	Spread 12 (26-27)	Spread 13 (28-29)	Spread 14 (30-31)	End page (32)
<p>If you catch a yawn, QUICK, cover your mouth!</p>	<p>Unless you're really sleepy...</p> <p>Or snuggly or stretchy...</p> <p>Because if you're sleepy or snuggly or stretchy, a yawn might be okay.</p>	<p>Just stretch your arms up and squeeze your eyes shut.</p> <p>Open your mouth and curl your tongue.</p> <p>And say...Oh...oh...oh...</p> <p>And baa...baa...baa...</p> <p>And rawr...rawr...rawr...</p> <p>And y-a-w-n...</p>	<p>Because a yawn will get you sent upstairs to get your PJs on.</p> <p>And PJs lead to teeth-brushing.</p> <p>And teeth-brushing leads to bedtime stories.</p> <p>***</p> <p>And bedtime stories lead to goodnight hugs and kisses.</p> <p>And then, it's time for bed.</p> <p>Time for twinkling stars and baa-baa-ing sheep and dreams of tigers and orangutans, cuddled up with stuffies under warm quilts by dim night lights.</p>	<p>Yawns are tricky that way.</p>

**VERSION 2: FEBRUARY 2010<sup>2</sup> (see footnotes for editorial comments)**

Spread 1 (4-5)	Spread 2 (6-7)	Spread 3 (8-9)	Spread 4 (10-11)	Spread 5 (12-13)
<p>Yawns are sneaky.</p>	<p>A yawn can creep up on you when you least expect it.</p> <p>Next thing you know, you're being sent upstairs to get your PJs on.</p> <p>PJs lead to teeth-brushing.</p> <p>Teeth-brushing leads to bedtime stories.</p>	<p>And bedtime stories lead to goodnight hugs and kisses.</p> <p>Before you know it, you're tucked into bed, snug as a bug, wondering how you got there.</p>	<p>Yawn—teeth-brushing—bedtime stories—goodnight hugs and kisses—BED!</p> <p>Sneaky...</p>	<p>So, if you're not quite ready to go to bed</p> <p>&lt;Warning&gt;</p> <p>follow these tips and</p> <p>I DARE YOU NOT TO YAWN.</p>
Spread 6 (14-15)	Spread 7 (16-17)	Spread 8 (18-19)	Spread 9 (20-21)	Spread 10 (22-23)
<p>If you begin to feel snuggly, stay away from huggable stuffies, cozy blankets and dim night lights.</p> <p>Mm...mm...mm...</p>	<p>If you're still feeling snoozy, be careful of twinkling stars and baa-baa-ing sheep.</p> <p>Especially the counting kind.</p> <p>One sheep, two sheep</p> <p>Baa...baa...baa...</p>	<p>If you start to feel stretchy <i>don't</i> think of baby orangutans holding their long arms out for their mommas with their droopy eyes and open mouths forming perfect 'oh's.</p> <p>Oh...oh...oh...</p>	<p>If you're really, really sleepy, beware of tigers arching their backs in one last stretch with their eyes squished tight and their tongues curled back.</p> <p>Rawr...rawr...rawr...</p>	<p>And, WHATEVER YOU DO, if you see someone else start to yawn, like your baby brother, or your big sister, or the dog—LOOK AWAY!</p> <p>Yawns are like colds. They're contagious.</p>
Spread 11 (24-25)	Spread 12 (26-27)	Spread 13 (28-29)	Spread 14 (30-31)	End page (32)
<p>If you're not fast enough and a yawn grabs a hold of you</p> <p>QUICK!</p> <p>cover your mouth to keep it from escaping.</p> <p>Mmprrff...</p>	<p>But if your arms stretch up...mm...</p> <p>And your eyes squish tight...baa...</p> <p>And your mouth opens wide...oh...</p> <p>And your tongue curls back...rawr...</p> <p>And a Y-A-W-N escapes,</p> <p>Don't say you weren't warned.</p>	<p>Because, next thing you know you're being sent upstairs to get your PJs on.</p> <p>And PJs lead to teeth-brushing.</p> <p>And teeth-brushing leads to bedtime stories.</p>	<p>And bedtime stories lead to goodnight hugs and kisses.</p> <p>Before you know it, you're tucked into bed, snug as a bug.</p> <p>Time for twinkling stars and baa-baa-ing sheep and dreams of tigers and orangutans, cuddled up with stuffies under cozy blankets by dim night lights.</p> <p>Mm...mm...mm.../ Baa...baa...baa...</p> <p>Oh...oh...oh.../ Rawr...rawr...rawr...</p>	<p>See how sneaky yawns can be?</p>

**VERSION 3: April 2010<sup>3</sup> (see footnotes for editorial comments)**

Spread 1 (4-5)	Spread 2 (6-7)	Spread 3 (8-9)	Spread 4 (10-11)	Spread 5 (12-13)
<p>Yawns are sneaky.</p>	<p>Yawns can creep up on you when you least expect them.</p> <p>They make your arms stretch up and your eyes squish tight and your mouth open wide and your tongue curl back and then, OOPS, a yawn escapes.</p> <p>Next thing you know, you're being sent upstairs to get your PJs on.</p>	<p>PJs lead to bedtime stories.</p> <p>Bedtime stories lead to sleepy time songs.</p> <p>And sleepy time songs lead to goodnight hugs and kisses.</p>	<p>Before you know it, you're tucked into bed, snug as a bug, wondering how you got there.</p>	<p>Yawn → PJs → bedtime stories → sleepy time songs → goodnight hugs and kisses → BED!</p> <p>See? Sneaky. . .</p>
Spread 6 (14-15)	Spread 7 (16-17)	Spread 8 (18-19)	Spread 9 (20-21)	Spread 10 (22-23)
<p>So, if you're not ready to go to bed, follow these tips and DO NOT YAWN</p>	<p>First, if you see someone else start to yawn, like your baby brother, or your big sister, or the dog — ah!</p> <p>LOOK AWAY!</p> <p>Yawns are like colds. They're not only sneaky, they're contagious!</p>	<p>But if you only catch a teensy yawn, it might not be too late.</p> <p>Just pretend you're not tired while you're putting on your PJs and stay away from huggable stuffies, soft cozy blankets, and dim night lights because — mm . . . mm . . . mm. . . — those can start to make you feel snuggly.</p>	<p>And avoid bedtime stories about lions, tigers and bears, especially ones with baby cubs, arching their backs in one last stretch, their eyes squished tight and their tongues curled back — rawr . . .rawr . . . rawr — or you might start to feel stretchy, too!</p>	<p>And don't sing sleepy time songs about twinkling stars and baa-baa-baaing sheep — one sheep, two sheep— especially not the counting kind!</p>
Spread 11 (24-25)	Spread 12 (26-27)	Spread 13 (28-29)	Spread 14 (30-31)	End page (32)
<p>And WHATEVER YOU DO, when it's time for goodnight hugs and kisses, don't think of droopy-eyed baby orangutans holding their long arms out toward their mommas, their little mouths forming perfect 'oh's — Oh . . . oh . . . oh — that could spell disaster, as in Y-A-W-N, yawn!</p>	<p>If you try all these tips, but a yawn STILL creeps up and grabs a hold of you, QUICK, cover your mouth — mmprrff! — to keep it from escaping.</p>	<p>But if your arms stretch up . . .mm. . . .</p> <p>And your eyes squish tight . . . baa. . . .</p> <p>And your mouth opens wide . . . oh. . . .</p> <p>And your tongue curls back . . . rawr. . . .</p> <p>And, OOPS, another yawn escapes then it's really time for bed.</p>	<p>Time for orangutan hugs and kisses Oh . . . oh . . . oh . . . .</p> <p>cuddled up with stuffies under cozy blankets by dim night lights. Mm . . . mm . . . mm...</p> <p>Time for twinkling stars and baa-baa-ing sheep Baa...baa...baa...</p> <p>and dreams of lions and tigers and bears. Rawr . . .rawr . . . rawr</p>	<p>See? I told you yawns were sneaky!</p>

**Version 4: OCTOBER 2010<sup>4</sup> (see footnotes for editorial comments)**

Spread 1 (4-5)	Spread 2 (6-7)	Spread 3 (8-9)	Spread 4 (10-11)	Spread 5 (12-13)
<p>Yawns are <i>so</i> tricky.</p>	<p>One minute, you're minding your own business, building the tallest block tower in the history of the universe or dressing up the cat—then, all of a sudden, an invisible force takes over.</p> <p>Your arms stretch up, your eyes squish tight, your mouth opens wide and then, OOPS, a yawn pops out.</p>	<p>Next thing you know, you're being sent upstairs to get your PJs on.</p> <p>PJs lead to bedtime stories.</p> <p>Bedtime stories lead to sleepy time songs.</p> <p>And sleepy time songs lead to goodnight hugs and kisses.</p>	<p>Before you know it, the blocks are in the toy box, the cat's been put out and you're tucked into bed, yawning your head off, wondering how you got there.</p>	<p>See? Tricky!</p> <p>But, what if you're not READY to go to bed? What if you're NOT TIRED?</p> <p>Well, if you say so.</p> <p>But...</p>
Spread 6 (14-15)	Spread 7 (16-17)	Spread 8 (18-19)	Spread 9 (20-21)	Spread 10 (22-23)
<p>I DARE YOU NOT TO YAWN!</p>	<p>So, if someone <i>else</i> yawns, like your baby brother, or your big sister, or the dog—you'd better LOOK AWAY!</p> <p>Because yawns are like colds. They spread.</p> <p>But, you knew that, right? You wouldn't fall for that trick, would you?</p>	<p>What about warm, cozy PJs, huggable teddy bears or your favorite blankie?</p> <p>Mm . . . mm . . . mm...one little snuggle couldn't hurt.</p> <p>Could it?</p>	<p>Or how about bedtime stories about poky little puppies or furry purring kittens arching their backs in one big stretch, their eyes squished tight and their tongues curled back?</p> <p>Meow...meow...meowrrr...those always make ME yawn.</p> <p>How about you?</p>	<p>And what happens when you sing sleepy time songs about twinkling stars and baa-baaing sheep?</p> <p><i>Especially</i> the counting kind!</p> <p>Go ahead and try it.</p> <p>One sheep, two sheep, three sheep... baa...baa...baa...</p>
Spread 11 (24-25)	Spread 12 (26-27)	Spread 13 (28-29)	Spread 14 (30-31)	End page (32)
<p>But I DARE YOU NOT TO YAWN!</p>	<p>Because if your arms stretch up, and your eyes squish tight, and your mouth opens wide and then, OOPS, a yawn pops out, well...</p>	<p>... maybe it <i>really</i> is time for bed.</p>	<p>Time for warm, cozy PJs, snuggled up with a teddy bear and your favorite blankie</p> <p>Mm...mm...mm...</p> <p>Time to wonder about twinkling stars and to count baa-baa-ing sheep</p> <p>Baa...baa...baa...</p> <p>Time to drift off into dreams about poky little puppies and furry purring kittens.</p> <p>Meow...meow...meowrrr...</p>	<p>I told you yawns were tricky.</p>

**Version 5: JANUARY 2011<sup>5</sup> (see footnotes for editorial comments)**

Spread 1 (4-5)	Spread 2 (6-7)	Spread 3 (8-9)	Spread 4 (10-11)	Spread 5 (12-13)
<p>Yawns are sneaky.</p>	<p>One minute, you're building the tallest block tower in the history of the universe, or dressing up the cat.</p> <p>Then, an invisible force takes over.</p>	<p>Your arms stretch up, and your mouth opens wide, and then</p> <p>OOPS!</p> <p>A yawn pops out.</p>	<p>Next thing you know, you're being sent upstairs to get your PJs on.</p> <p>PJs lead to bedtime stories.</p> <p>Bedtime stories lead to sleepy-time songs.</p> <p>And sleepy-time songs lead to goodnight hugs and kisses.</p>	<p>Before long, the blocks are in the toy box, the cat's been put outside and you're tucked into bed, yawning your head off, wondering how you got there.</p>
Spread 6 (14-15)	Spread 7 (16-17)	Spread 8 (18-19)	Spread 9 (20-21)	Spread 10 (22-23)
<p>But, what if you're not READY to go to bed?</p> <p>What if you're not tired?</p> <p>Well, here's a little secret the grownups DON'T want you to know.</p> <p>Everything about bedtime is supposed to make you yawn!</p>	<p>Did you know that comfy PJs are made that way ON PURPOSE?</p> <p>Same goes for squishy, cushy stuffies and soft, cozy blankies.</p> <p>Ah... ah... ah...</p> <p>It's impossible to stop yawning when you're feeling so snuggly!</p>	<p>And bedtime stories? They're the yawniest trick in the book!</p> <p>Especially the ones about poky little puppies or fluffy, sleepy kittens</p> <p>Meow... meow... me-aowr...</p> <p>arching their backs in one last stretch with their eyes squished tight and their tongues curled back.</p>	<p>Then, there are the sleepy-time songs about twinkling stars and baa- baaing sheep — one sheep, two sheep—</p> <p>Baa... baa... baa...</p> <p>And sweet, slow tunes about moons and spoons and rock-a-bye babies.</p>	<p>Yawniest of all are goodnight hugs and kisses</p> <p>Mm... mm... mm...</p> <p>full of snuggles and cuddles and whispers and nuzzles.</p>
Spread 11 (24-25)	Spread 12 (26-27)	Spread 13 (28-29)	Spread 14 (30-31)	End page (32)
<p>So, what's a kid to do?</p> <p>Well, you <i>might</i> be safe from yawns if you wear SUPER HERO PJs.</p> <p>Or read exciting stories about desert dogs and jungle cats.</p> <p>Or sing loud songs like a rock-and-roll star.</p> <p>Or give raspberry kisses and big BEAR hugs. Unless...</p>	<p>...someone else yawns.</p> <p>Like your baby brother, or your big sister, or the dog.</p> <p>If so — ahh! LOOK AWAY!</p> <p>Because, yawns are like colds.</p> <p>They're contagious!</p>	<p>If you catch a yawn, QUICK, cover your mouth—MRRFPT!—to keep it from escaping.</p> <p>But, if your arms stretch up, and your mouth opens wide, and then</p> <p>OOPS!</p> <p>A yawn pops out...</p>	<p>...next thing you know, you'll be sent upstairs to get your PJs on.</p> <p>Ah... ah... ah...</p> <p>PJs lead to bedtime stories.</p> <p>Meow... meow... me-aowr...</p> <p>Bedtime stories lead to sleepy-time songs. Baa... baa... baa...</p> <p>And sleepy-time songs lead to goodnight hugs and kisses.</p> <p>Mm... mm... mm...</p>	<p>See? I told you yawns were sneaky.</p>

Spread 1 (4-5)	Spread 2 (6-7)	Spread 3 (8-9)	Spread 4 (10-11)	Spread 5 (12-13)
<p>Yawns are sneaky.</p> <p>They can creep up on you when you least expect them.</p>	<p>There you are, minding your own business, building the tallest block tower in the history of the universe or dressing up the cat when, suddenly . . .</p> <p>your arms stretch up, your eyes squish tight, your mouth opens wide, your tongue curls back and . . .</p>	<p><i>Mmm...rrr...yawwrrrr... — a yawn pops out.</i></p> <p>Next thing you know, you're being sent upstairs to get your PJs on!</p>	<p>PJs lead to bedtime stories.</p> <p>Bedtime stories lead to sleepy-time songs.</p> <p>And sleepy-time songs lead to goodnight hugs and kisses.</p> <p>Before you know it, you're tucked into bed, snug as a bug, . . .</p>	<p>and wondering, "How did I get here?"</p> <p>See? Sneaky!</p>
Spread 6 (14-15)	Spread 7 (16-17)	Spread 8 (18-19)	Spread 9 (20-21)	Spread 10 (22-23)
<p>So, if you're not ready to go to bed, follow these tips and DO NOT YAWN!</p> <p>If someone else yawns, like your baby brother, or your big sister, or the dog — ahhh! — LOOK AWAY!</p> <p>Yawns are like colds. They're not only sneaky, they're contagious!</p>	<p>Stay away from huggable stuffies, soft cozy PJs, and your favorite blankie because — <i>mmm . . . mm . . . mmm</i> — those can make you feel snuggly.</p>	<p>Avoid bedtime stories about sleepy baby animals, like lion cubs arching their backs in one last stretch, their eyes squished tight and their tongues curled back — <i>rawr . . . rawr . . . rawr</i> — or you might start to feel stretchy, too.</p>	<p>Don't sing sleepy-time songs about twinkling stars or baaing sheep, especially the counting kind — one sheep, two sheep, <i>baa . . . baa . . . baaaaa. . . .</i></p>	<p>And WHATEVER YOU DO, don't think of droopy-eyed baby orangutans holding their long arms out for a hug from their mommas, their little mouths forming perfect o's — <i>oh . . . oh . . . oh!</i></p>
Spread 11 (24-25)	Spread 12 (26-27)	Spread 13 (28-29)	Spread 14 (30-31)	End page (32)
<p>Oh-oh!</p> <p>If you try all these things, but a yawn STILL creeps up and grabs a hold of you, QUICK, cover your mouth — <i>mmpprff!</i> — to keep it from escaping.</p>	<p>Because if your arms stretch up... <i>Mm...mm...mmm...</i></p> <p>your eyes squish tight . . . <i>Rawr . . . rawr . . . rawrrr . . .</i></p> <p>your mouth opens wide . . . <i>Baa...baa...baaa . . .</i></p> <p>your tongue curls back . . . <i>Oh . . . oh . . . ohhh . . .</i></p> <p>And, a yawn pops out . . . <i>Mmm...rrr...yawwrrrr!</i></p>	<p>Off to bed you'll go.</p>	<p>See? I told you. Yawns are sneaky.</p>	<p>&lt;wordless vignette&gt;</p>

<sup>1</sup>**VERSION 1 comments/ ML:** To summarize the sorts of edits you'll see: I've made recommendations for maintaining a consistency of frame, of clarifying the mental game played here, and of keeping your reader always on the verge of a yawn! I've made some suggestions for cuts to that effect, or have lobbied for alternatives. A bit of rearranging is within, though not much, and a suggestion that you massage and invigorate the language here and there. Obviously, you may not agree with everything, you may find your own solutions or approaches as you spend time with these comments and the manuscript, and that is at it should be. The goal here is to offer you some prompts to look again, to look more carefully, to look afresh, to push the text further. If you need to discuss anything, don't hesitate to let me know. We can talk, email, whatever is most comfortable for you. I want you to feel that this is a collaborative process, that I am here to help and support, not to dictate.

Take your time looking this over, putting your thoughts together. I'll look forward to hearing from you any time you want to talk, or simply when you're ready to send in a revision!

<sup>2</sup>**VERSION 2 comments/ ML:** Thank you for the very good revision of I DARE YOU NOT TO YAWN. You've really addressed the comments intelligently. The adjustments you've made serve to highlight the personality of the text/voice. The cause-and-effect sequences/escalation are much clearer in this version than in the last, and the addition of more descriptive language makes for a more satisfying read and helps up the ante.

I do have a few more questions and comments, which I hope you'll consider. Primarily, I'm not sure I follow what's now happening on pages 12-13, and that may be my own fault – I'm not sure my editorial comments were very clear. In any case, it may be worth having the narrator be quite plain. You'll see what I mean when you open the doc to read the new comments.

When you provide the examples/tips, you might try transposing the clauses for stronger logic. Even some of the sound effects might be placed differently, making it even harder to heed the narrator's warnings not to yawn. i.e. "Stay away from . . . they are bound to make you feel snugly, warm -- mm, mmm, mmm -- and very yawny." I've marked the manuscript to show you what that might look like, how it might work in each case.

I like the way the end mirrors the beginning, but I have an idea for how the ending could be more of a continuous list – the heavy artillery, if you will – to induce a real yawn (or several) from the reader! Hopefully, you'll see what I mean when you open the doc.

I'm starting not to like the mark-up feature. It tends to make things look much worse than they are, so be sure to look at it both ways: showing mark-up and mark-up hidden!

I'm eager to hear your reaction to these latest ideas and suggestions, and they are just that: suggestions! If it's too difficult to get clarity via the online method of editing, let me know and I can easily send you old-fashioned hard copy with penciled notes!

<sup>3</sup>**VERSION 3 comments/ ML:** Many thanks for the new revision. It's always fun to revisit this!

This round, I noticed sections that seemed perhaps too repetitive of one another without the desired effect. They are not that different from what was there before, but for some reason, they jumped out at me more in the new context.

The arrowed sequence on spread 5, for example, now feels excessive. I think the cause-and-effect narrative that opens the book is very strong and very clear, thus rendering this "diagram" unnecessary. Perhaps you can leave it in as a parenthetical bit for the illustrator to illustrate if he so chooses, but otherwise, eliminate?

The other area that felt redundant to me this time around was spread 13. More than that, it felt regressive. Perhaps you need to sum up differently to avoid repeating the same phrases (if your arms stretch up and your eyes squish tight, etc.). How about another version of, "If none of this works . . . then maybe it's time for bed." I

really like that addition about it maybe being time for bed, after all! It's a fun way to sum up, and a great way to cement the fact that, between the lines, this really IS a bedtime story!

I wondered about your choice of lions and tigers and bears for bedtime stories, since I don't think of those things as particularly reassuring, especially if you're a kid. Maybe I've watched "The Wizard of Oz" one too many times, but those beasts seem suggestive of nightmares rather than of sweet dreams. What do you think?

In spread 14, I understand what you mean when you refer to "orangutan hugs and kisses," but I do think this could easily be misread, as if the child is to get hugs and kisses FROM an orangutan at bedtime! Do you think you could come up with an alternative, but an alternative that still harkens back to the image on spread 11 in some fashion? For example, "Time for hugs and kisses from momma" or some such might achieve your aim more simply and unambiguously.

Finally, Helene, after addressing these various comments, I encourage you to read the text aloud to yourself and to others and to have others read it aloud back to you for an auditory edit. There is some awkwardness that has crept into the phrasing and the language, which is not an uncommon byproduct of big-picture editing. But I think this is now far enough along in the revision process to begin looking again quite closely at how things sound, at how rhythmically and smoothly the text reads. So I encourage you to massage your words this round, as well. I fear my edits and our back and forth may have subverted your voice somewhat, and it's important that the personality of the text remains intact when all is said and done.

Many thanks for your good revision, and I look forward to the next stage!

<sup>4</sup> **VERSION 4 comments/ ML:** I'm very glad you revisited your text, aiming to restore some of what was lost along the path of revision. I agree that strengthening the dare is a good move. But perhaps we differ on how that dare can be strengthened. I find humor and challenge in the fact that the title says, "I dare you," while the inside story is all about how not to yawn. In other words, the title sets the reader up before she's even opened the book – *Beware, this book is yawn-inducing!* To me, that's part of the strength of the title, and the joke.

I'm also concerned that the text revision has gained an adult edge or tone, the voice of someone who knows better rather than the voice of someone who is empathetic, on the reader's side, outraged by the way a yawn can sneak up on you, make you do something you don't want to do, send a message you don't want to send.

And only once do you actually give the reader a tip on how to avoid a yawn, yet it seems like most of the text should be examples/cautions, like the one about looking away when others are yawning, even if your aim is to have the opposite effect. Instead, there's a litany of vague references like "What about," or "How about," and "What happens when," none of which pose a dare directly nor provide a tip on avoiding a yawn.

And I'm really concerned about ending this with "maybe it really is time for bed." Almost seems like a betrayal! The trick you're trying to pull off here is take the child's side and, in doing so, accidentally-on-purpose get them to yawn again and again and again! That wink between author and reader is what will get kids to embrace the book fully and enthusiastically and keep coming back for more, more, more.

Rather than line edit this one, I think it best if you go back again on your, your instinct to revisit the first draft still intact, but while protecting the between-the-lines game you began.

<sup>5</sup> **VERSION 5 comments/ ML:** I have been thinking a lot about I DARE YOU NOT TO YAWN, and about the many and varied paths explored so far. The latest version you sent was an entirely new sort of direction, I thought, and I can see the merit in taking a stronger stance as an advocate of the child, as a fellow protester of the injustice of bedtime! "Rise up and resist, all ye who are not ready to go to sleep!"

As a result of this direction, the sly humor is more deeply submerged, and that worries me. The brilliance of your original idea and approach was the fact that the warnings against yawns were worded in such a way as to



obviously elicit the very thing the reader was hoping to avoid and that you were purporting to provide a vaccine against.

I totally agree with your impulse to restore a more playful tone, but I don't know that you need to go so far as you do with the alliance and allegiance aspect. Gone are the sleepy references that used to induce yawns. The tenor and tone of the text is now so outraged and vehement as to seem to cancel out sleepy responses. The sly author who was actually setting out to make the reader yawn – numerous times – has been replaced by someone who is utterly guileless. Bring back the guile, I say!

Using your handy storyboard, I will try to reconstruct what was once there and what I hope you can bring back. I know it's been a long haul, Helene, but I really do think you were extraordinarily close back in October and can quickly get back on track. Let me know what you think! So you understand my marks, I've struck through those bits of text that seem to have gotten too far afield of your original purpose. I've bracketed bits of text that, if reworked and moved, would likely still be included. I've typed in red anything new from me – a comment, question, basic suggestion.

Take a look and do let me know how this strikes you. I imagine you may be feeling discouraged, but I really hope you can believe me when I say that this is not unusual for the process of crafting a picture book text. The simplest ideas are often the most difficult to boil down into their essence. It's so easy to go too far in one direction or the other – too much or not enough, too obvious or too subtle.

**Version 6: March 2011:** Sixth time's the charm! A few more tweaks and off to press...