



# The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter

By Vivian Gussin Paley

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**The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter** By Vivian Gussin Paley

How does a teacher begin to appreciate and tap the rich creative resources of the fantasy world of children? What social functions do story playing and storytelling serve in the preschool classroom? And how can the child who is trapped in private fantasies be brought into the richly imaginative social play that surrounds him?

*The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter* focuses on the challenge posed by the isolated child to teachers and classmates alike in the unique community of the classroom. It is the dramatic story of Jason—the loner and outsider—and of his ultimate triumph and homecoming into the society of his classmates. As we follow Jason's struggle, we see that the classroom is indeed the crucible within which the young discover themselves and learn to confront new problems in their daily experience.

Vivian Paley recreates the stage upon which children emerge as natural and ingenious storytellers. She supplements these real-life vignettes with brilliant insights into the teaching process, offering detailed discussions about control, authority, and the misuse of punishment in the preschool classroom. She shows a more effective and natural dynamic of limit-setting that emerges in the control children exert over their own fantasies. And here for the first time the author introduces a triumvirate of teachers (Paley herself and two apprentices) who reflect on the meaning of events unfolding before them.



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## **The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter** By Vivian Gussin Paley Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #444831 in Books
- Published on: 1991-09-01
- Released on: 1991-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.90" h x .50" w x 6.00" l, .45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 163 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Recent MacArthur award-winner Paley reveals the subtle, involved process that occurs as a child learns to socialize and interact with other children. In her classroom, children become storytellers. She feels that by letting them create stories with alternate patterns of behavior, they learn new ways to achieve acceptable behavior. By tape-recording and analyzing (with her colleagues) children's conversations and actions she shows how play is, among other things, a sort of rehearsal of problems, and misbehavior perhaps just a poor timing or performance. Calling to mind echoes of Sylvia Ashton-Warner's *Teacher* (LJ 5/1/63; 1986, pap.), this offers insight into class control, setting limits, and teaching methods. Ideal for those who specialize in working with children and for libraries in need of material on this subject.

- *Annette V. Janes, Hamilton P.L., Mass.*

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### Review

*The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter* is, among other things, an original essay on the practice of teaching young children...Vivian Paley's innovation is her use of children's stories as a vehicle of instruction...Paley is an artist whose medium is children in the classroom. The end product of her year's work is a group of children who can live comfortably with themselves and with one another. This group of children will soon scatter. But each child will always carry a bit of Vivian Paley along with him or her, and that is the way in which a gifted teacher's art lives on. (David Elkind *New York Times Book Review*)

For those interested in...the education of the spirit, this is finally a heartening and challenging book. (Geoff Fox *Times Educational Supplement*)

A tour de force...Years from now we may know the fruit of the trees Vivian Paley and her associates have planted. It will be easy, then, to recognize her former students. When asked to recall their kindergarten experiences, they surely will begin with the words, "Once upon a time..." (Thomas J. Cottle *Chicago Tribune*)

There are many funny moments...[and] an attractive humility in Paley's work...Anyone who was once a child, and especially those who were once helicopters, will enjoy it. (David Perkins *Kansas City Star*)

Humanity, wisdom, and understanding are the words that come to mind when reading Paley's latest book. She offers a view into the world of children that is respectful of their strengths and complexity...This book shines with an authenticity that comes from the voice of the teacher, not the observer...[It] should be required reading for all those working with children of any age. They and other readers will find it an absorbing and enlightening experience. (S. Sugarman *Choice*)

### About the Author

Vivian Gussin Paley, a former kindergarten teacher, is the winner of a MacArthur Award and of the 1998 American Book Award for Lifetime Achievement given by the Before Columbus Foundation.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

**Vincent Erickson:**

The event that you get from The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter is a more deep you excavating the information that hide into the words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter giving you excitement feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this kind of The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter instantly.

**Staci Eager:**

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the entire day to reading a e-book. The book The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can more quickly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

**Gayle Anderson:**

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**Willie Batres:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got students? We believe that that issue was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And you also know that little person including reading or as studying become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and also book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update regarding something by book. Numerous books that can you go onto be your object. One of them is niagra The Boy Who Would Be a Helicopter.

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