



## EVERYBODY HAS BAD DAYS—

and good days with bad moments, too. This book helps us see that tiny problems that seem to ruin a day can also make us laugh (later). And the ode format of this book will empower children to address their own bad experiences and deal with future mishaps in a positive, mindful way.



The title of this book uses the word "Ode." Poets have written odes for many centuries since ancient Greece. Odes usually praise or celebrate, but poets also write odes where they complain, the way the child in this book complains about hiccups, boredom, and other things that are ruining her day.

After reading this book once straight through (to enjoy the story), read it aloud again—and this time, take a moment to notice the rhyming words. Children might be able to guess (or remember) many of the rhyming words, especially if you use exaggerated hand movements or facial expressions during your first reading to dramatize unfamiliar words.

Whoops! A watercolor sploosh made a squish that spoiled the painting. But did it really spoil it? Ask your students, *have ever seen a piece of art in a museum that looked like it had an "oops" in it?*

Near the end of the book, the child lists many things that could be part of "a better day":

- her art would be "oopsy-free" (no watercolor blotches)
- she would be leading the lines (no one would cut in front of her)
- she would eat pudding all day (the pudding would not be forgotten at home)

Ask your students to make a list of things that would be part of their better day.

These activities are created by Janet Wong, a poet, anthologist, editor, and educator living in Gig Harbor, Washington. Janet is the 2021 winner of the NCTE Excellence in Poetry for Children Award, one of the highest honors that a children's poet can receive. She has served on the NCTE Commission on Literature, the Notable Books for a Global Society committee, and the boards of the Children's Literature Assembly and United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY). She can be reached at [janet@janetwong.com](mailto:janet@janetwong.com).

