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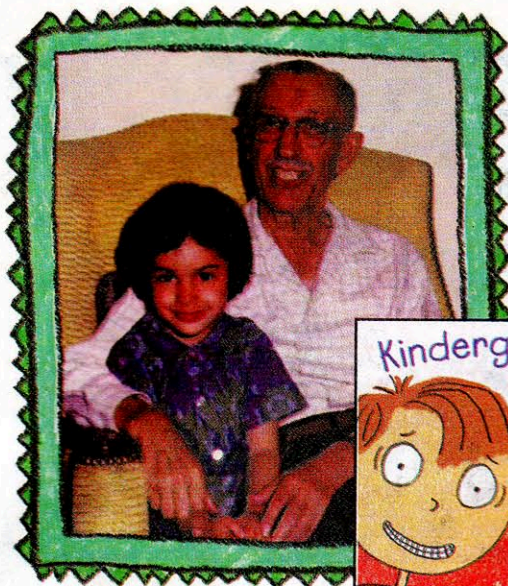
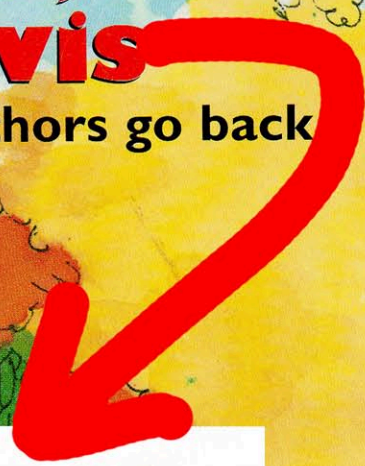
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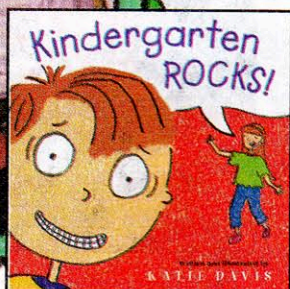
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Barbara Park, R.L. Stine, Katie Davis

& other favorite authors go back to school!



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Katie Davis, author of *Kindergarten Rocks!*

“Kindergarten: It’s April, we’ve just moved, and I’m the new kid. I stand in the classroom doorway, gripping my mother’s hand. I watch the children sitting crisscross applesauce, listening to Miss Terwilliger read a story and wonder if I’ll ever make a friend. Deena Teschner sees me, smiles, and waves wildly. I let go of my mom’s hand and sit next to Deena.

Third Grade: I hate my name! Katey? NO ONE is named Katey! Why couldn’t I be Cynthia? Then I read *Katie John*. I love my name! But I change the spelling.

Fourth Grade: I’m the class scapegoat. I run home crying every day. Mrs. Circillo reads *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* to us. I’m not allowed to eat candy, so I identify with Charlie, and get lost in the world of chocolate, bad children, and justice for good kids.

Sixth Grade: I’m popular again. Phew. After reading Helen Keller’s biography, learn sign language from the illustrations on the last page. Nancy Cozzilino and I use it to tell secrets in class.

Three years ago: It’s the first day of kindergarten for my daughter. The minute we arrive, she lets go of my hand, runs in, and sits crisscross applesauce on the rug, while Miss Sugarman reads a book to the kids. I go to sit crisscross applesauce, too. Then I remember . . . I’m not the kid now. But I do remember that kindergarten rocks so I go home and get to work.”

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