

Story Time Guide

ABOUT THE BOOK

Before YOU came along, so many things were different! But now . . . there's laughter, a house full of adventures and toys, a million little surprises. . . . And so much love. From bestselling author Sherri Duskey Rinker and award-winning artist Patrick McDonnell comes this funny and tender love letter from a parent to a child.

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

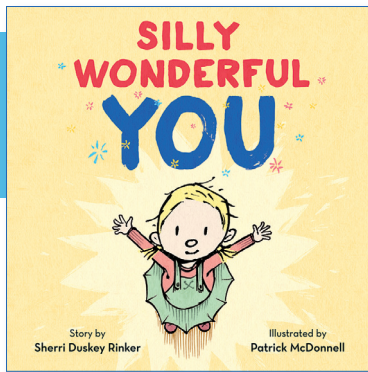
1. In *Silly Wonderful You*, the parent tells of all the ways the little girl surprises her and makes her life better. After reading the book at your story time or event (or later at home), ask the children to come up with some other ordinary things they do to make everyday life extraordinary, exciting, and fun.
2. The author uses many dynamic words to describe the child in the book, such as *giggly*, *splashy*, *crashy*, *grumpy*, *slimy*, and *grimy*. Photocopy those pages from the book and cut out the words to make flashcards to help children learn their meanings. Ask children to come up with additional words that describe them.
3. Before or after your story time, print copies of the *Silly Wonderful You* activity page in this guide and have each child complete the drawing exercise. Then encourage discussion among the group by asking each child to stand up and name one of the things they wrote or drew that makes him or her silly and wonderful.
4. Reverse the roles depicted in the book and ask children to write a letter or draw a picture describing how a parent or guardian is silly and wonderful. Set up a station with construction paper, crayons, markers, pencils, etc. for the children to work on their creations. Encourage them to take their letter or drawing home as a gift for their parent or guardian.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

SHERRI DUSKEY RINKER is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* and *Steam Train, Dream Train*. Sherri lives in the Chicago area with her photographer husband and two sons. She's constantly inspired—and often exhausted! Her books are love stories for her children, written to wrangle some smiles and with the hopes of happier bedtimes and sweet dreams for all.

PATRICK McDONNELL is the creator of the beloved internationally syndicated comic strip *MUTTS*, which features the characters that star in five of his children's picture books: *Wag!*, *The Gift of Nothing*, *Just Like Heaven*, *South*, and *Hug Time*. He is also the creator of *Me . . . Jane*, a Caldecott Honor Book and *New York Times* bestselling picture book biography of Dr. Jane Goodall, and has written and illustrated *A Perfectly Messed-Up Story* and the award-winning picture book *Art*. Patrick lives in New Jersey with his wife, their two formerly feral cats, and their adopted terrier.

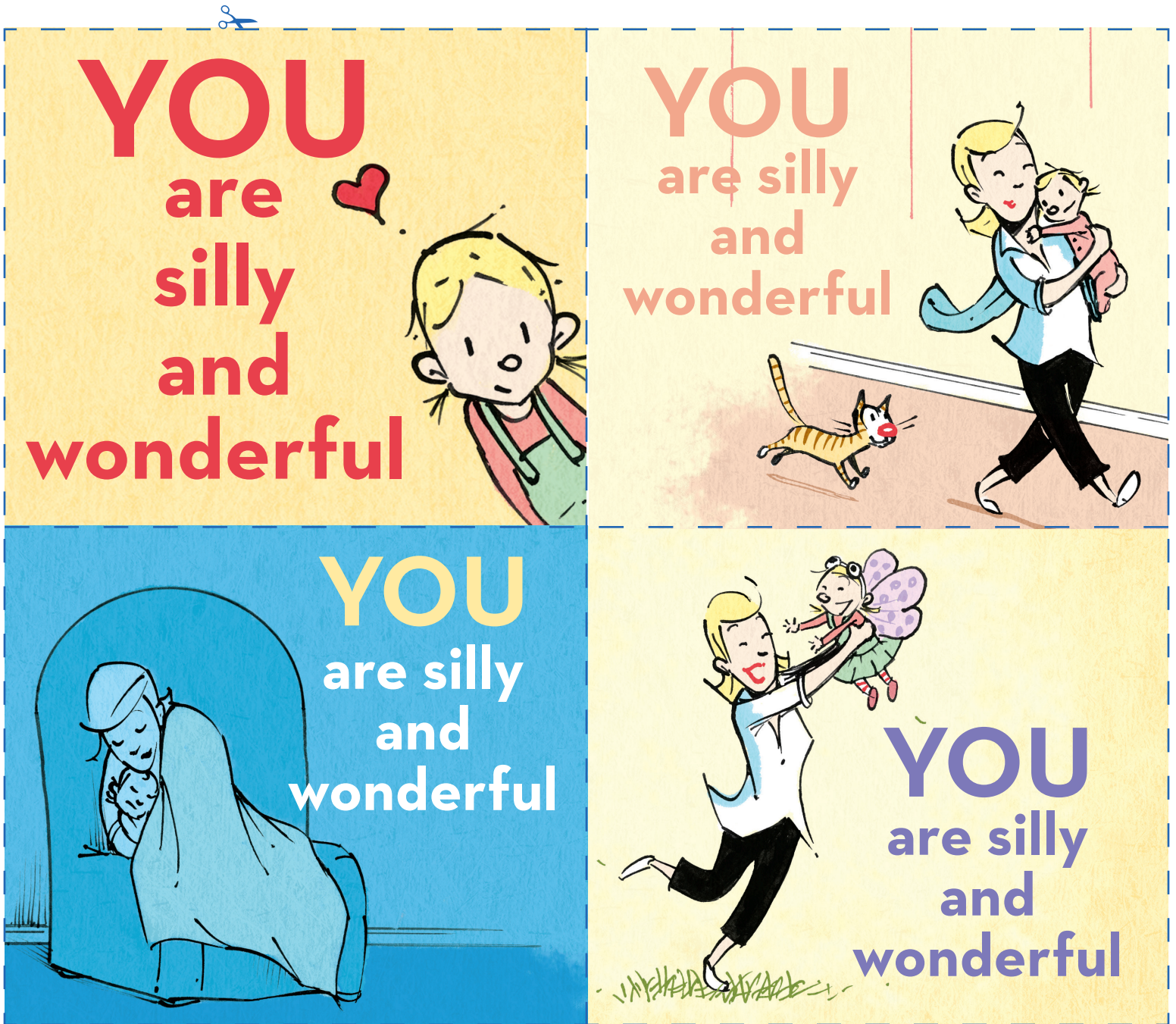


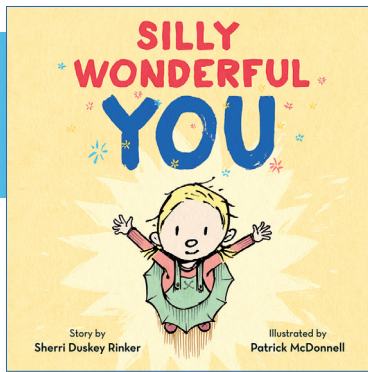


Silly Wonderful LOVE

Who do you love *ginormously*? Decorate and cut out the Valentine cards on this page and give them to the special people in your life to show that you love them.

Safety Note: Always be sure to ask permission from a grown-up before using scissors.





Silly Wonderful Animals

How many yellow animal faces and how many blue animal faces do you see on this page? How many red noses?

Write your answers below.



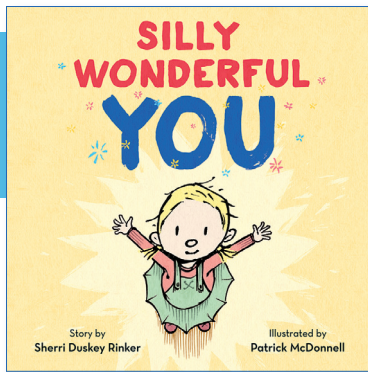
_____ Yellow faces

_____ Blue faces

_____ Red noses

Bonus: Circle the elephant if you can find him!

Answer Key: 18 yellow-faced animals; 7 blue-faced animals; 25 red noses

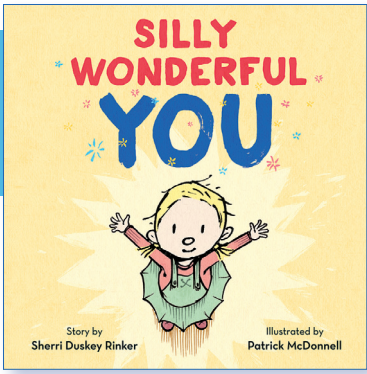


Silly Wonderful YOU

Everyone is different—but what makes **YOU** special?
Write or draw the things that make you silly and wonderful.

YOU





Color Wonderful

Use your imagination—and some crayons or markers—to make your own amazing creation by coloring in the picture on this page.

