



## Vera B. Williams

**Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart**  
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A note from Vera B. Williams...

Dear Friends,

*Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart* is my first book written in separate poems. I found these poems in the deep pockets of my early years. The memories of growing up with a sister who looked after me lovingly while bossing me around were especially poignant to me. (She and I are both active women in our seventies now.)

After I wrote the poems I said, "good, wonderful ... FINISHED." But my heart and memories spoke differently. One after another a profusion of colored pencil pictures emerged to tell my story over in faces, postures, details and colors. It was exciting for me even after thirteen picture books! We placed the colored pencil pictures in an album of their own following the poems.

I've been close to the world of children all my life, as teacher, parent, grandparent as well as children's author/illustrator. I speak with hundreds of kids every year. I feel how all children, not just the unlucky ones, face bewildering happenings and mysterious adult emotions. BUT just like my characters, Amber and Essie, they are BRAVE AND SMART! They take life into their small hands, intent on having the joy and hope and play of childhood no matter what.

My book is an offering to them ...

Thank you, Vera B. Williams