

# ON OUR WAY!

A LOT CAN HAPPEN ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL.



A CHAPTER BOOK SERIES PROPOSAL BY STEPHEN FOX & TOM BANCROFT

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**Chapter Book Series Guide**

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## *Premise*

**Every morning** Stan and his daughters Beth & Rae embark on the simplest of drives to school. Without fail, every morning that drive is sidetracked by an unlikely **crisis of epic proportions** that only Stan and his girls can solve.

## *Tone*

**On Our Way** is a light-hearted adventure story with moments of education and comedy. While all the family members are very different, they do share an **optimistic approach to the world** which reflects in their approach of each crisis. The goal of every book in this series is to entertain while sharing bits of education where possible and appropriate.

# CHARACTERS



## Beth (10.25 years old)

Why do the gaseous rings of planets stay in place? What was the largest tree-dwelling mammal alive during the Cretaceous Era? Beth is the girl to ask. Stacked to the brim with an endless array of facts and figures, Beth is happiest when she's learning or teaching. She likes things to run like clockwork, and when they don't she can become frustrated. While she's not a natural adventurer, Beth can't resist a good puzzle or crisis. She also can't resist correcting others (sometimes to Dad's ire (he's a little sensitive)). At heart, Beth is a brilliant and generous girl with a few social shortcomings.

## Rae (3 years old)

Rae may be little, but she's spunky. Despite her lacking life experience, Rae is always in the middle of each crisis and its solution. No matter how long and rough the day is, Rae is ready for action with a grin and crazy animal-hat.

## Dad

Part dreamer, part analytical scientist, Dad is a free spirit with a mind for science and invention. Creator of dozens of lesser known devices (including the "Up-and-Attem" spring-loaded pet bed/alarm, and the "No More Wedgie" anti-bully super-stretchy underwear (not as effective as you might think.)), Dad is an energetic optimist always eager to embark on an adventure.

## Mom

Providing for a family can be a long thankless path. Mom doesn't mind though, she just wishes she were home with her family more. After a long day of work, you'd think a lady would be ready to kick her heals up—Not mom. If anything, she's more ready for action after work. Come to think of it...maybe that's where Rae gets her boundless energy. The only thing Mom likes more than hugging her babies is hearing their silly stories about saving the world.

## **BOOK CONCEPT SUMMARIES**



### ***Book #1 - Attack of the Overly-Apologetic Oddly-Appetited Brontosaurus Apatosaurus!***

It was only a matter of time, really. After years of abuse and overuse, those horrifying ionic hair-dryers finally opened a temporal vortex leading to the teleportation of a full-sized overly-apologetic 36 ton Apatosaurus. *The outline for this book is attached in the final section of this proposal.*

### ***Book #2 - King Turtex of Shellaxia 5***

While helping a turtle cross a busy street, Stan and the girls discover said turtle is actually an ambassador from Shellaxia 5 that must find his way back home before an evil overlord can overthrow the rightful (and nicer) king.

### ***Book #3 - Not So Imaginary Friends!***

Rae has a feisty stuffed bear named “Fluffington” that she constantly uses to torment her big sister. That would be bad enough—but things become much worse for Beth when Fluffington gains a mind of his own after being zapped by a stray cosmic bolt!

### ***Book #4 - Eat Your Veggies—Or Else!***

Due to construction; Stan, Beth, & Rae are accidentally detoured to an alternate reality where the city is buried under a pile of earth’s uneaten vegetables. It turns out, every time a kid doesn’t eat his veggies, they rain down on the city of Tofunia and destroy everything! Stan and the girls have no choice but to teach the children of the world to eat vegetables and save Tofunia from destruction!

### ***Book #5 - Teacher's Pets!***

For once, Beth makes it to school without a crisis! Just as she’s about to open the door, she’s greeted by the principal...who has been turned into a gorilla! The story begins as a class parrot becomes jaded when his class ignores him for weeks on end. What the class doesn’t know is, this parrot was once the pet of a powerful wizard! Using one of his former master’s spells, the parrot turns everyone in the school into an animal version of themselves! Beth, Rea, and Dad have to make amends with the tyrannical bird and restore everyone in Central Middle School to their rightful form!

## ***Attack of the Overly-Apologetic Oddly-Appetited Brontosaurus-Apatosaurus!***

**Introduction:** A quick introduction of the family, as narrated by Beth. Dad's a quantum physicist (who's a little silly). Beth is an adventure hunting, history-loving Kindergartener, Rae is rambunctious, but typical baby.

**6:30am** (Chapter 1) - Dad wakes Beth and Rae for school. Beth is a morning grump, Rae is very giggly. Dad lays out clothes, fixes Beth's hair (with super stretchy hair bands), and changes the baby. Momma makes breakfast and gets backpacks ready. Today, Dad also loads a batch of cupcakes into the back of the SUV (it's Beth's birthday :). As he does, Momma notices a box in the back seat. "Is that the T-shirt launcher I told you to return?" Dad argues that t-shirts make quantum physics more approachable to the public...t-shirts launched from a cannon? Doubly so. As he talks, Dad does his best to keep Rae out of the cupcakes.

**7:05am** (Chapter 2) - After kissing momma goodbye, Dad and the girls begin their drive to school. Dad is proud to be leaving the house with plenty of time. He presses play on the CD player and "princess music" fills the car.

**7:10am** (Chapter 3) - Dad and the girls are talking and being silly, when suddenly there's a flash in the distance! Rae lets out a gleeful scream. "Dinna Soar!!!" Dad looks in the distance, one of the hills is actually the back hump of a dinosaur (Apatosaurus)...and he's walking toward the city!

**7:20am** (Chapter 4) - The Apatosaurus is clumsily destroying everything in sight. Dad and the girls can't believe their eyes!(Dad calls the Apatosaurus a brontasaurus...Beth corrects him politely.(Dad can be sensitive.)) Rae is wrestling with her shoulder strap as she continues her quest for a cupcake.

**7:23am** (Chapter 5) - "How in the world did an Apatosaurus end up in downtown Serenville?" Dad, with the help of Rae (and diagrams) explains that since the advent of ionic hair dryers, the occasional temporal vortex is known to randomly pop open if too many said dryers are blowing at once. The last time it happened, Arsenio Hall got his talk show back.

**7:26am** (Chapter 6) - Dad and the girls make their way toward the Apatosaurus. As they approach, they can hear the dinosaur apologizing as it destroys several buildings in its attempt to navigate the city.

**7:32am** (Chapter 7) - Dad asks Beth to tell him everything she knows about the Apatosaurus. This chapter should include a fun data sheet with Beth spouting fun facts about the Apatosaurus. Painless education!

**7:36am** (Chapter 8) - Dad and the girls form a plan. Dad quickly explains to a nearby policeman how to open a temporal vortex using ionic hair dryers, while he and the girls run to a local nursery and collect as many vegetables as they can.

**7:40am** (Chapter 10) - The police have every ionic hair dryer in town plugged in at city hall. Dad gives the signal and the hairdryers pop on, immediately opening another temporal vortex! Dad and the girls load the vegetables into the t-shirt cannon and launch them at the dinosaur's mouth, attempting to lure him to the portal. As the vegetables land in the Apatosaurus' mouth, however, he spits them out! Oh, no...this dino doesn't like veggies?!

**7:45am** (Chapter 11) - Dad is frantic to find an alternative way to lead the dinosaur to the temporal vortex. Just then, Beth looks back at Rae. Rae's face is covered with chocolate cupcakes. "That's it!" Beth exclaims! Dad and Beth load up the t-shirt launcher with chocolate cupcakes, and launch them at the dinosaur. The dinosaur LOVES chocolate cupcakes (who doesn't?)! Dad and the girls successfully lead the dinosaur back to the vortex.

**7:55am** (Chapter 12) - The mayor orders a quick parade to celebrate Dad, Rae, & Beth. Fortunately, it's short enough that Beth still makes it to school in time.

**8:00am** (Chapter 13) - Beth is dropped off at school, another earth-shattering crisis averted before 8:00am!

