

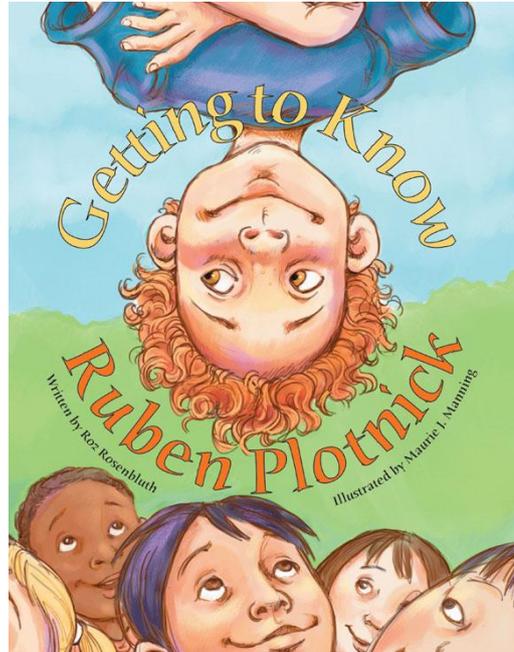
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** color or b/w digital images of book cover, author,
and illustrator are available upon request.

**Flash
Light**
PRESS

picture story books
that explore and illuminate

‘Silly’ meets ‘senile’ with some startling surprises in *Getting to Know Ruben Plotnick*

New York: Ruben Plotnick, the coolest kid in David’s class, balances books on his head and answers questions in a kooky voice. David’s Grandma Rosie still remembers the words to all the old songs, but sometimes she calls her grandson “little boy” instead of David. What will happen when zany Ruben Plotnick invites himself over to David’s and meets unpredictable Grandma Rosie for the first time?



Getting to Know Ruben Plotnick
(Flashlight Press, September 2005, ages 5-9) by

Roz Rosenbluth and illustrated by Maurie J. Manning, is a tender story about school-age embarrassment and senility, released just in time for National Grandparents Day (September 11, 2005) and World Alzheimer’s Day (September 21, 2005). In this tale of unexpected encounters and blossoming friendship, David is worried about how popular Ruben Plotnick will react when he meets Grandma Rosie, whose senility often leads to startling surprises.

Grandma Rosie is an awesome checkers player, though she sometimes knocks over the board when arguing with Grandpa Nate, who died five years ago. But her favorite thing is dancing, so whenever she calls out "Nate, let's waltz," the nearest family member helps her out of her chair, puts an arm around her waist and waltzes her around the room. This always makes Grandma Rosie very happy.

Now that Ruben has invited himself over to David's house, David is both pleased and understandably concerned. What will Ruben think of Grandma Rosie and her erratic behavior? Will he make fun of her in class? Will he imitate her whispery voice? And what will happen if Grandma suddenly wants to dance?

--more--

To David's great relief, when Grandma Rosie calls out "Nate, let's waltz," Ruben glides comfortably into the moment, gallantly dancing around the kitchen with Grandma. Their touching first encounter helps David see that although Ruben is the coolest kid, he also has the warmest heart.

David learns something important about Ruben and more about himself. He discovers that we can only get to know people when we see them in many situations. By accepting Grandma with all of her quirks, Ruben shows that he can be a true friend.

Roz Rosenbluth has written an endearing story about the surprises we may discover when we really get to know people. Maurie Manning's perfectly matched, joyous illustrations capture the sentiment and warmth in this unusual story. *Getting to Know Ruben Plotnick* is a compassionate tale in which a caring but anxious grandson, an unpredictable live-in grandmother, and the most popular boy in class waltz across the pages, finding love and acceptance in the unexpected.

Roz Rosenbluth is the author of twelve books for children, her fiction has been published in Cricket and Highlights magazines, and she was a winner of the Highlights Magazine Humor Contest (2000). She has held editorial positions at Bantam Books and at the National Education Association in Washington DC. Roz lives in New Rochelle, NY. **Maurie J. Manning** has illustrated three children's books, of which *The Aunts Go Marching* was a 2004 IRA Notable Book and a Scholastic Pick of the Month. Maurie lives in Berkeley, CA.

Book Details:

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