



# Today I Will: A Year of Quotes, Notes, and Promises to Myself

By Jerry Spinelli, Eileen Spinelli

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*Reassuring advice for every day of the year*

From an esteemed husband-and-wife team comes a book of daily advice and insight. In dated entries meant to be read one per day, the Spinellis open with a brief quote from children’s literature, write a paragraph of lively advice inspired by that quote, and end with a “Today I will . . .” promise. The entries range from the broad (self-esteem, the environment, gratitude, and openmindedness) to the simple and specific (Today I will call a grandparent . . . smile at a new kid . . . take a walk . . . and send a snail-mail letter.).

With wide appeal to fans of both children’s literature and advice books, this cozy page-a-day volume (with black-and-white spot art) offers inspiring quotes, gentle guidance, and 366 “Today I will . . .” promises to thoughtful readers everywhere.

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**Bibliography**

- Rank: #896312 in Books
- Brand: Knopf Books for Young Readers
- Published on: 2009-10-13
- Released on: 2009-10-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.26" h x 1.59" w x 5.29" l, .89 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 384 pages

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5–8—In a departure from their usual works, the Spinellis turn their skills to inspiring readers with quotes and promises for every day of the year. There is a single-page entry for each day, and each one begins with a quote from children's literature. For example, the quote for November 4 is, "When he was in school he longed to be out, and when he was out he longed to be in," from Norton Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth*. A quote for December 5 is from Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot nothing is going to get better." Anne Frank's birthday on June 12 is commemorated with a quote from *The Diary of a Young Girl*: "In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart." Each quote is followed by an explanatory note. Each note is then summarized into a short promise on which readers can reflect. For example, *The Lorax* entry tells readers to find one thing they care about and ask how they can make it better. The book covers a vast array of topics and themes, from serious to silly, and is inspiring and helpful. This is a book that that kids can dip into throughout the year.—*Kristen Oravec, Flint Hill Middle School, Oakton, VA* END

From [Booklist](#)

The popular husband-and-wife authors join together in this new direction for both: an advice book. Arranged in a chronological format, with one page dedicated to each day of the year, the book features three sections in each daily entry: a quotation from a children's book, a short passage of advice, and an affirmation. March 29, for example, features a quote from Paula Fox's novel *Western Wind* (1993): "You can't take words back . . . They sit there like big damp frogs." The following advice speaks about regret for something that was said, and the closing affirmation is, "Today if I feel myself about to release a word I'll regret, I'll bite my frog." Subjects cover a broad range of topics, including contacting grandparents, buckling seatbelts, resisting peer pressures, and turning off the TV. Readers can dip in at random and read a page per day or as many as they choose. The advice, while often humorous, is practical and age appropriate. Young book lovers will delight in the quotations (as will teachers and librarians), and fans of the *Chicken Soup* series will eat up this appealing offering. Grades 5-8. --Lynn Rutan

About the Author

**Jerry Spinelli**, Newbery Medalist, is the author of many award-winning books for young readers. **Eileen Spinelli**, author and poet, has published close to 50 books. You can learn more about them at [www.jerryspinelli.com](http://www.jerryspinelli.com), [www.randomhouse.com/features/jerryspinelli](http://www.randomhouse.com/features/jerryspinelli), and [www.eileenspinelli.com](http://www.eileenspinelli.com).

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