What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up

By Evelyn Bartelme and Jodie Lea Martire
Illustrated by Fariza Dzatalin Nurtsani

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Original illustrations by Fariza Dzatalin Nurtsani

What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up
Bartelme, Evelyn and Lea Martire, Jodie
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Do you want to be a lawyer? Looking out for citizens and keeping them safe from danger.

Do you want to be an astronaut? Exploring space and the universe, flying out to Mars and navigating stars.
Do you want to be a doctor? Taking care of people, giving them their pills and needles, curing them of sickness.

Do you want to be a nurse? Working in a hospital, visiting patients at home, and making them feel better.
Do you want to be a veterinarian (a vet)? Taking care of pets, looking after farm animals, and helping rescue native creatures that are hurt.

Do you want to be a chef? Making delicious food, serving it to hungry customers, and running a restaurant.
Do you want to be a parent? Looking after children, giving them care and love, telling them what is right and wrong to keep them safe from harm.

Do you want to be a geologist? Analysing rocks, soil and minerals, learning about the earth’s beautiful gems.
Do you want to be a basketball player? Shooting hoops and dribbling, going to world championships, and winning for your team.

Do you want to be a scientist? Making chemical reactions, exploring the natural world, and learning how the earth works.
Do you want to be a teacher? Helping children learn, teaching geography, science, reading, mathematics, sport, art and drama, giving kids new knowledge.

Do you want to be an author? Dreaming up stories, thinking of beautiful words, writing novels and poems in books.
Do you want to be a farmer? Harvesting the crops, milking cows, and getting eggs. Phew! This must be hard work.

Do you want to be a gold medallist? Training in sport, competing on the world stage, being the best you can possibly be.
Do you want to be a hiker? Packing a backpack full of food and camping gear, climbing up mountains, seeing glorious views.

Do you want to be a professional sportsperson? Being on TV, swimming laps in the pool, riding bikes, and doing the high-jump challenge.
Do you want to be an artist? Painting portraits and landscapes, or anything you can imagine.

Do you want to be an archaeologist? Digging up the past, finding ancient artefacts, and studying our history.
Or do you just want to be YOURSELF?
Learning to be yourself is about recognising your strengths and your limitations. We all have things we are naturally good at, as well as things that might take a lot of practice for us to achieve. Exploring lots of different hobbies and interests is a good way to build your confidence while you are still figuring out what you might like to be when you grow up.
You can use these questions to talk about this book with your family, friends and teachers.

What did you learn from this book?

Describe this book in one word. Funny? Scary? Colourful? Interesting?

How did this book make you feel when you finished reading it?

What was your favourite part of this book?

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About the author

Evelyn Bartelme is a Year 3 student and she wrote this story with her aunt, Jodie. Evelyn says, “I was born in Sydney and I still live in Sydney, in Bellevue Hill. I’m passionate about writing any and all types of stories. I just love telling stories! I love all books and I can’t really decide on a favourite book — but I love books that teach about the earth and animals and environments. I love to play handball with my friends and read books with my family.”

Jodie Lea Martire is a forgetful old lady who never remembers what school year her nieces are in. She is also a Brisbane-based book lover, who has experience as a writer, editor, translator, bookseller, librarian and ESL teacher. She studies the ways that book publishing can contribute to meaningful social change and her favourite book growing up was Anne of Green Gables. It was a delight to write this story with her big niece Evelyn and she hopes her small niece Harriet also enjoys it.
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