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**High-res photos available upon request**

***The Tiniest Tumbleweed Inspires BIG Thinking***  
*Top ranked for building children's self-esteem and self-respect*

**CHANDLER, AZ (Summer, 2016)**—Everyone feels small or inadequate at some point in their lives. *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* ([www.TiniestTumbleweed.com](http://www.TiniestTumbleweed.com)), a children's book by first-time author Kathy Peach, is a story strategically constructed to help children think *big* thoughts about what they can do to become their best selves, in spite of their circumstances.

Since its January 2016 release, *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* has reached more than 26,000 young readers and their parents. Early on it ranked #1 in three Amazon Kindle children's categories: Children's Self-Esteem & Self-Respect, Children's Growing Up & Facts of Life Books, and Children's Friendship & Social Skills Books. Additionally, the book won the Southwest Book Design & Production Award from the New Mexico Book Association and earned Honorable Mentions at the Los Angeles Book Festival, Great Southwest Book Festival, and the Amsterdam Book Festival, as well as being named as a finalist in the National Indie Excellence Awards.

It is the story of two Sonoran Desert characters, a tiny tumbleweed and a baby house sparrow. Both Tiny Tumbleweed and Baby Sparrow enter their worlds with similar challenges—they worry they are too small to accomplish the things bigger tumbleweeds and birds do, like making seeds and flying.

“Will I be as big and strong as my brothers and sisters?” they both ask, expressing their insecurities.

The timeless theme of the story is presented with Mother Tumbleweed's wise response: “You will be as big and strong as YOU will be, and that is just fine, just fine indeed.” With these words, each of the tiny ones decides to take on the difficult tasks of doing the work needed to help them grow. As a result, at just the right time, they provide the perfect help for each other, fulfilling their passionate need to be useful.

Peach says she developed the story to help children believe in their own capabilities.

“Tiny Tumbleweed and Baby Sparrow, like all of us, must learn to work within our limitations,” Peach says, “In telling the story, I combined a method of writing fine children's literature whereby children can

believe in a life that holds limitless possibilities, with learnings on fostering self-efficacy from psychologist Albert Bandura, Ph.D. The intended result is to build the reader's sense of self-efficacy and possibility."

At a time of life when most people begin to slow down, Kathy Peach decided to follow her lifelong dreams of earning a college degree and writing a children's book. She moved from her home of Middle Tennessee to Arizona, and graduated from Arizona State University in December 2014 with a degree in Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education and taught for the Head Start program in Phoenix.

"A tumbleweed may seem an unlikely character, but just as the Southwest has such allure for me as a transplant, it seems to enchant others too," said Peach. "After moving here, I saw a tiny bird dive into a tumbleweed near a fence. I almost wrecked my car watching the bird fly inside the tumbleweed but I didn't see it fly back out. I returned to that place several times to observe tiny birds fly inside tumbleweeds and simply sit." It was the synergy between living things and the boundless opportunities that relationship provides that helped inspire the characters and the story.

"This book beautifully demonstrates that each person has a unique gift to offer. It not only provides hope, but it also teaches young children how to respect each other's differences," says Linda F. Radke, president and publisher of Five Star Publications, Inc. "This is such an important message to instill early in the lives of little ones and I am so excited to partner with Kathy to publish this book!"

Edited by award-winning children's author Conrad J. Storad and charmingly illustrated by Alex Lopez, *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* supports Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards (Common Core) for third grade English Language Arts (ELA). The book includes a curriculum guide with facts about tumbleweeds and sparrows following the story.

Released January 8, 2016, *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* (ISBN: 978-1-58985-226-6, softbound; eISBN: 978-1-58985-227-3, eBook; \$12.95 US/\$13.95 CAN) is published by Little Five Star, a division of Five Star Publications, Inc., and is marketed and distributed by Midpoint Trade Books, Ingram, Baker & Taylor and eStarPublish.com. Professionals wishing to obtain a copy of *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* for review are welcome to email a request to [publisher@FiveStarPublications.com](mailto:publisher@FiveStarPublications.com) with "Tumbleweed Review" in the subject line.

To learn more about Five Star Publications, Inc. and its 30-year history of producing award-winning books for all ages, visit [www.FiveStarPublications.com](http://www.FiveStarPublications.com), email [publisher@FiveStarPublications.com](mailto:publisher@FiveStarPublications.com), or call 480-940-8182.

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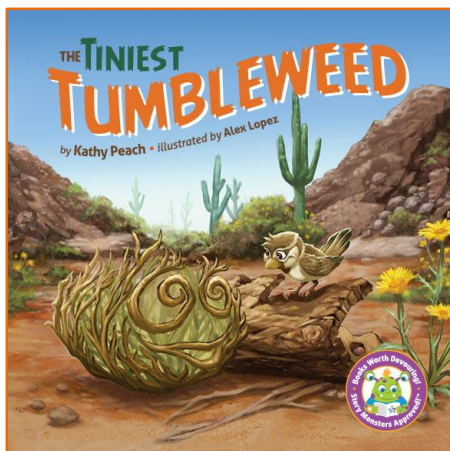
## FACT SHEET

# THE TINIEST TUMBLEWEED

*You can be all YOU were designed to be, and that is just fine, just fine indeed*

By Kathy Peach

Illustrated by Alex Lopez



**Author:** Kathy Peach  
**Illustrator:** Alex Lopez  
**Publisher:** Little Five Star, a division of Five Star Publications, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6698, Chandler, AZ 85246-6698  
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*“The Tiniest Tumbleweed is a heart-warming story of parental love and support, self-determination, collaboration, and individual differences. The author and illustrator share a wonderful world in which each individual celebrates their uniqueness and finds their way in the world with the support and encouragement of sometimes unexpected friends. This beautiful, encouraging story will inspire the very young and the very old as we all seek to find a sense of meaning, accomplishment, community, and joy in our lives.” —Kathleen Lynne Lane, Ph.D., BCBA-D*

### WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

Everyone feels small or inadequate at some point in their lives. *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* is a story written to help children learn more about what they can do to become *their* best selves, despite whatever may be making them feel small or limited. The characters are two Sonoran Desert neighbors, a tiny tumbleweed and a baby house sparrow, who are both small for their age. Guided by the loving encouragement of their parents, they learn to work within their physical limitations to grow to be the best *they* can be, rather than measure themselves against others. As a result, they also learn how they can help one another, providing a lesson about the synergy between living things and the boundless opportunities those relationships provide.

### WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

The proven psychological concepts for building self-efficacy combined with a children’s literature writing method that helps young readers believe in limitless opportunities are what make *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* unique. The connection between the characters in the book, a tiny tumbleweed and a sparrow, provides a fascinating look into the real-life desert relationship between tumbleweeds and birds. Following the story, a well-researched curriculum guide captivates young readers, helping them develop a deeper respect for nature.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

# THE TINIEST TUMBLEWEED

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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Achieving dreams is always possible—even big dreams, like becoming a first-time college graduate and starting *two* new careers at an age when most people think about slowing down. In 2009, Kathy Peach uprooted her life and moved from her home of 52 years in Middle Tennessee to Chandler, Arizona, with her husband, Bobby. She pursued her life-long dreams of earning a college degree and publishing a children’s book.

Kathy Smith was born in Nashville, Tennessee. She attended a small elementary school in Williamson County where reading and writing stories were a favorite pastime. After graduating Franklin High School, she met her husband, Bobby Peach. They were graced with two daughters, Tiffany and Amanda, and later four grandchildren. After successful careers in banking and project management, Kathy knew it was time to follow her vision and attend college. She moved to Arizona to be near daughter Amanda, and enrolled in Chandler-Gilbert Community College. Since then, the adventures have not stopped.

It was during the community college experience that three life-changing events happened: attending a children’s literature class, attending a psychology 101 class and an invitation to enroll in Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University. Peach grew up writing stories and hoped that one day she could be a published author. It was during the children’s literature class where she was introduced to a method of writing quality children’s literature whereby children could believe in a life that holds limitless possibilities. As part of the psychology class, Peach learned of theorists such as Albert Bandura whose work in self-efficacy taught that everyone has the capability to achieve. It was through Barrett, The Honors College that the two concepts were united and her first children’s picture book, *The Tiniest Tumbleweed*, was created.

Peach graduated from Arizona State University in December 2014, with a degree in Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education and has taught for the Head Start program in Phoenix.

### SHORT BIO

At a time of life when most people begin to slow down, Kathy Peach decided to head for the Southwest to live near her daughter after being in Tennessee her entire life. She then followed her lifelong dreams of earning a college degree and writing a children’s book. Peach graduated from Arizona State University in December 2014, with a degree in Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education and has taught for the Head Start program in Phoenix. In developing *The Tiniest Tumbleweed*, she incorporated a method of writing children’s literature whereby readers can believe in a life of limitless possibilities, with theories from a psychologist who taught that all people have the capability to achieve. It is this strategic approach to the creation of *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* that makes Peach’s first book not only a delight, but an inspiration.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



**Alex Lopez** is a self-taught artist whose career initially developed in the video game industry, where he worked for SEGA, 2K Games and Konami. He has also provided artistic production and management services for Disney Interactive, Dynamite Comics and Stanford University. Lopez is proficient with numerous print, digital and multimedia genres and currently serves as an art director, building and training artistic teams. Residing in the Silicon Valley in California with his wife and identical triplet daughters, Alex has a strong passion for enhancing his skills as an artist; yet his true joy comes from spending time with his wife and children. He is also the illustrator of *Gator, Gator, Second Grader (Classroom Pet...Or Not?)* by Conrad J. Storad.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

Photo by: Linda F. Radke



**Conrad J. Storad** is an award-winning author and editor of more than 50 science and nature books for children and young adults, including the “USA Best Book” *Rattlesnake Rules*, the ONEBOOKAZ for Kids 2012 selection *Arizona Way Out West & Witty* and *Gator, Gator, Second Grader (Classroom Pet...or Not?)*. He holds an undergraduate degree in mass media communication from the University of Akron and a master’s degree in mass communication/science journalism from Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. He resides in Tempe, Arizona, with his wife, Laurie.

“...Peach has juxtaposed authentic, lovable characters with the often-harsh backdrop of the desert to create a literal learning and growing environment through which children and adults of all ages can visualize their own progress against adversity and trials to become all they can become.”

—**Dr. Richard W. Andreasen**

## ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

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*Helping authors of children's books shape the future with great reads for growing minds...*



Linda F. Radke, president

Shining brightly since 1985, Five Star Publications, Inc., the parent company of Little Five Star, is proud of its reputation for excellence in producing and marketing award-winning books for adults and children worldwide. The genres represented in its growing collection include educational titles, nonfiction, picture books, juvenile fiction, memoirs, Westerns, novels, professional “how-to’s” and more.

Having assembled a team of dozens of skilled industry professionals, Linda F. Radke, founder and president of Five Star Publications, Inc. and Little Five Star, is committed to helping established and aspiring authors of all ages continually reach new heights.

Many Five Star and Little Five Star authors have enjoyed promotional and educational opportunities in schools, corporations and media venues across America.

Along with providing book production and marketing services, the Five Star team also assists organizations with website design, logo design and corporate/product branding. Setting the bar for partnership publishing and professionally fulfilling traditional publishing contracts, Five Star Publications and Little Five Star are recognized as industry leaders in creativity, innovation and customer service.

Many Little Five Star titles have earned prestigious national and international awards, including the Benjamin Franklin Award, Eric Hoffer Award, ONEBOOKAZ for Kids, USA Best Book, Moonbeam Award and Arizona Centennial Legacy designations.

A division of Five Star Publications, Inc., Little Five Star is a proud publisher of great books for growing minds and excels in educating and entertaining young thinkers.



[LittleFiveStar.com](http://LittleFiveStar.com)

## BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

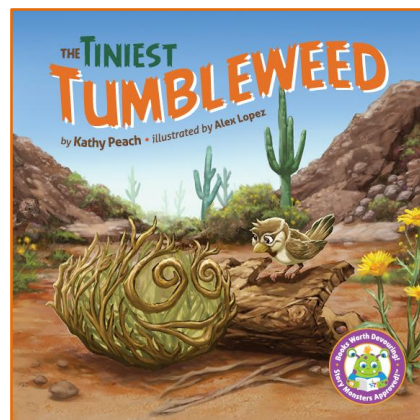
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- 10 words:** *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* helps children believe in their unique capabilities.
- 15 words:** *The Tiniest Tumbleweed's* two delightful desert characters help children believe in themselves and their capabilities.
- 25 words:** In *The Tiniest Tumbleweed*, two tiny Sonoran Desert neighbors demonstrate how working hard within their physical limitations and helping each other can produce big results.
- 50 words:** The Tiniest Tumbleweed is small for her age. So is her Sonoran Desert neighbor, a baby house sparrow. Through the incorporation of proven concepts in helping children believe in themselves and their capabilities, *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* shows how the desert companions work together and within their limitations to become their best.
- 100 words:** *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* is small for her age. So is her Sonoran Desert neighbor, a baby house sparrow. Through the incorporation of proven psychological concepts in helping children believe in themselves and their unique capabilities, *The Tiniest Tumbleweed* by first-time children's author, Kathy Peach, shows how the two desert companions work within their limitations and work together to become their very best selves. Together, they learn that *you can be all YOU were designed to be, and that is just fine, just fine indeed.*



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### Excerpt from *The Tiniest Tumbleweed*

*Tiny Tumbleweed was very thoughtful. "Will I grow as big as my brothers and sisters?"*

*"Perhaps not," said Mother. "But you will be as big and strong as YOU can be and that is just fine, just fine indeed."*

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## SUGGESTED MEDIA QUESTIONS

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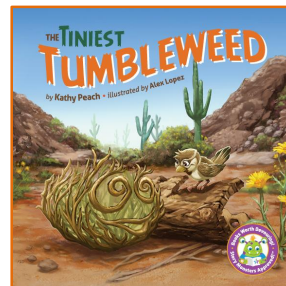
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*“Kathy Peach has the passion and the know-how to communicate effectively to children. Her vibrant personality bubbles up throughout the delightful story of *The Tiniest Tumbleweed*.”*  
*—Conrad J. Storad, award-winning author of more than 50 children’s science books*

1. What made you consider a tumbleweed as a central character?
2. What do you hope are the key learnings children will take away from your book?
3. When you developed the manuscript, what strategies did you employ?
4. How long did it take you to research and write this, your first children’s book?
5. What came easily? What was the most challenging?
6. What are your most important objectives as an author?
7. What are you working on next?
8. What would you recommend to others who also have a lifelong dream of writing a children’s book? What’s the first step they should take?
9. The theme of the book is very clear: You *can* be your best self and whatever that is, it’s “just fine, just fine indeed.” Does the theme have personal significance, and if so, will you tell us about it?
10. Will this book be a series? If so, what are some of your potential ideas/themes for the series?