

Dear Reader,

I am very excited to hear that you are reading the adventures of Freddie Ramos in the *Zapato Power* series.

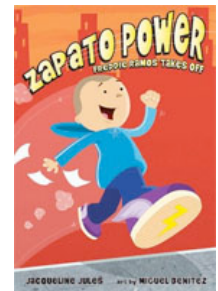
The character of Freddie was inspired by the students I taught when I was a school librarian. So many of my students asked for a book on superheroes that I got the itch to write one. But I didn't just want to write about any superhero. I wanted to write a book that imagined one of my students learning to how to handle a super power. Freddie's first name comes from one of my students and his last name comes from another.



After I came up with a name, I had to decide what super power to give Freddie. Once again, my students helped me, as I remembered many great class discussions after reading the folktale *The Seven Chinese Brothers*. It's a story about seven brothers who each have one special power. I often asked my students which brother they would choose to be. The brother with super strength? Or super hearing? Super eyesight? These conversations helped me consider what superpowers Freddie Ramos needed for his story.

I chose super speed because I wanted Freddie's power to come from special sneakers. As I continued the story, I gave Freddie a few additional powers, like telescopic eyesight, invisibility, and super bounce. These powers help Freddie solve mysteries and help others in the *Zapato Power* series.

As you read Freddie's adventures, I hope you will imagine what you would do if one day you came home from school to find a box with super-powered purple sneakers. How would you use super speed? And how would it complicate your life? Could you use your super speed on the playground or at gym? Could you tell your friends you had magic sneakers? These are all questions I had to consider while writing the *Zapato Power* series. I had a lot of fun thinking about these things and I hope you have fun reading the answers I came up with.



### **Zoom into Reading with *Zapato Power*!**

Your friend,  
Jacqueline Jules  
[www.jacquelinejules.com](http://www.jacquelinejules.com)

#### **Zapato Power Activity Guide**

<http://www.jacquelinejules.com/ZapatoPowerActivityGuide2.pdf>

#### **Zapato Power You Tube Video**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ekHuWEYBtQ>

## JACQUELINE JULES—AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE



*I assume Readerkidz provides the first description of the book in your review here. Let me know if you need material for this section. I have provided material below on how I came up with the idea for Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Zooms to the Rescue.*

### ABOUT THE BOOK from Jacqueline Jules

I work in an elementary school as a part-time teacher. This gives me the opportunity to hear and see many real-life things that go on in a school. One day, at a staff meeting, our assistant principal shared a story of a squirrel who followed a group of students into the school after recess. The door was propped open and the squirrel just dashed in behind the last kid. The administrator told the story to remind teachers to be careful about closing doors to the building. But as I listened, I came up with an idea to begin Zapato Power # 3.

“What a great first chapter for Freddie!” I thought. “Freddie could use his Zapato Power and run through the school after the squirrel.”

Since I only had a beginning to my story, it took me awhile to come up with a mystery involving the squirrel and a heroic rescue that tied in with the rest of the story. I did some research about squirrels on the internet and slowly but surely one idea joined with another until I had a beginning, middle, and end.