

# Wherever You Go



A Graduation Event Kit for Schools and Families

## Wherever You Go: A Graduation Event Kit

### A GRADUATION EVENT KIT

Author Pat Zietlow Miller has watched her daughter march through all her school transitions from “stepping up” from preschool to preparing for her upcoming high school graduation and departure for college. The picture book **Wherever You Go** is Miller’s love song to the journey they have been on and the road her daughter will take without her—a road that will always loop home.



*“...reminiscent of the lyrical charm and poignant prose of Dr. Seuss’ **Oh, the Places You’ll Go!** As your graduate begins his or her journey, so does Miller’s rabbit. Over mountains, through cities, to oceans and beyond. Sometimes traveling alone, while other times accompanied by a pile of friends. Rabbit embraces life’s dreams, detours, and adventures, with the promise that no matter how far you may travel, or where you may land, home will always be there for you.” –The Essay Advisor*

Either as a book a parent hands a child or a book that a school uses to celebrate graduations at *all* ages, **Wherever You Go** serves to mark life transitions, give confidence that adventure awaits and comfort that the parents, teachers, institutions and experiences that have supported students, will still be there.

*“...works best as a candidate for a graduation present.” –School Library Journal*

This **Graduation Event Kit** offers the following tools to help schools or families celebrate graduations at any age:

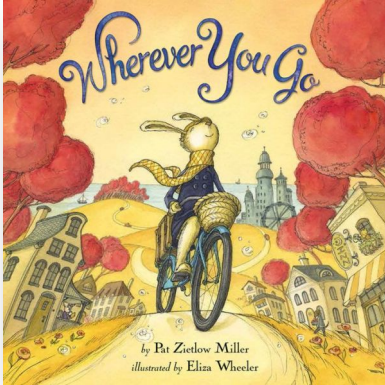
- Sample graduation speech
- Suggested graduation traditions
- Graduation medallions to present when graduates “walk”
- Pennant flags to decorate a celebration space
- “Toppers” to decorate cupcakes or other food, straws or gifts

These activities were created by Curious City. Contact [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com) for other graduation needs for **Wherever You Go** or to find additional tools that celebrate children’s books.

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### ABOUT THE BOOK



#### **Wherever You Go**

By Pat Zietlow Miller

Illustrated by Eliza Wheeler

Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

ISBN-13: 9780316400022

Age range: 3 - Adult

*Roads give you chances to seek and explore.*

*Want an adventure?*

*Just open your door.*

Join an adventurous rabbit and his animal friends as they journey over steep mountain peaks, through bustling cityscapes, and down long, winding roads to discover the magical worlds that await them just outside their doors. Award-winning author Pat Zietlow Miller's lilting rhyme and bestselling illustrator Eliza Wheeler's enchanting, lush landscapes celebrate the possibilities that lie beyond the next bend in the road—the same road that will always lead you home again.

*"This joyful book explores the power of roads to transport, connect, entertain, enlighten, and return adventurers home...Miller's gentle urging to chart new courses...gives this lovely offering appeal both as an inspirational gift book and as a bedtime tale." —Publishers Weekly (starred review)*

*"Miller's verse, infused with musical momentum, communicates the emotional arch of a journey with beautiful brevity...At the mountain's summit, young readers will glow with the understanding that roads connect more than places—and the assurance they can retrace this reading journey nightly." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)*

#### **About the Author**

Pat Zietlow Miller is the award-winning picture book author of *Sophie's Squash* who loves exploring new places and learning new things. Some of her favorite travels have led her to Hong Kong, China, and Canada.

#### **About the Illustrator**

Eliza Wheeler grew up in northern Wisconsin in a family of artists, musicians, and teachers. Her picture book, *Miss Maple's Seeds*, debuted on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Eliza has illustrated other children's books, including *The Grudge Keeper* (Mara Rockliff), and the Newbery Honor Book *Doll Bones* (Holly Black).

## Wherever You Go: A Graduation Event Kit

### DECORATE & CELEBRATE

Whether you are planning a home or school celebration, this kit pulls out elements of the book for event decorations. Flip through this kit to locate flag pennants to print, cut and hang. Decorate your cupcakes or other food, straws and presents with small circle “toppers” featuring illustrations from the book. Look for higher-resolution stand-alone decoration files when you search “Wherever You Go” at [CuriousCityDPW.com](http://CuriousCityDPW.com).

### SCHOOL GRADUATION TRADITIONS

Here are some ideas that use the story and themes of **Wherever You Go** to create graduation celebration traditions at your school.

**Encourage Adventure.** Look for the Graduation Medallions in this kit. One side reads, “Want an adventure? Just open your door.” The other side leaves room for a custom message like “Class of 2015.” Follow the instructions on the sheet to make simple medallions to place over students’ heads as they “walk” graduation. This could serve not only as a keepsake, but also as a continuous reminder to embrace adventures in learning.

**Just Open Your Door.** Could you work with your favorite set designer to have children pass through a door on stage when they “walk” graduation? Could you also have a blue bike on stage with you? What other visual and thematic aspects of the book could you add to your event?

**Road to the New School.** Imagine the allegorical roads in the book as the actual roads to a new school. Can you take your graduates on a “road trip” to their new school or classroom? Could the halls be the roads? Could you organize a walk or bike ride to the new school? Can you invite previous graduates to lead or greet the new students?

**Books.** If the book is integrated into your graduation ceremony, should children be gifted with a copy signed by staff or should families have an opportunity to buy a copy at graduation? Contact a local bookseller to brainstorm ideas.



## Wherever You Go: A Graduation Event Kit

### SAMPLE GRADUATION SPEECH

Consider reading **Wherever You Go** aloud at your graduation ceremony. Even without the audience being able to see the pictures, the book reads like a poem. A follow-up graduation speech could be something like:

The book **Wherever You Go** tells us that roads **zoom, bend, reach, merge, grow, wait, climb, remember and return.**

Is the story talking just about roads or is the story also telling us something about all of you.

I have watched the Class of \_\_\_\_\_:

**Zoom** toward new learning (and recess),  
**bend** their thinking to compromise with classmates,  
**reach** for a pencil when they have a new idea, and  
**merge** ideas on a group \_\_\_\_\_ project.

I have watched the Class of \_\_\_\_\_:

**Grow** both in height and in knowledge,  
**wait** for others to catch up, and  
**climb** beside the ones they have waited for.

The book **Wherever You Go** tells us, “Want an adventure? Just open your door.”

You are about to open the door of \_\_\_\_\_ school for adventures envisioned and for some not yet imagined.

**Remember** the teachers, staff, students and experiences of \_\_\_\_\_ school that set you on your road. **Return** to us someday and tell us of all your adventures on the road beyond our door.

You will be missed and you will be remembered.

You have been our adventure. Congratulations!



# Wherever You Go



## Graduation Medals

Whether they are stepping up to Kindergarten or going off to middle school, you can identify and honor your graduates by placing this medal around their necks as they enter the event or walk the stage. The front of the medal sends them off with an adventurous message and the back is reserved for your unique message. For example, Class of 2015!

Cut out both circles, affix them back-to-back, laminate, hole punch and string with a ribbon!

# Graduation Pennant Flags

Print all ve pennants on white cardstock and cut out the pennants and their top tab.

Fold tab to the back unprinted side.

Tuck and tape string or ribbon to the inside fold of the tab.

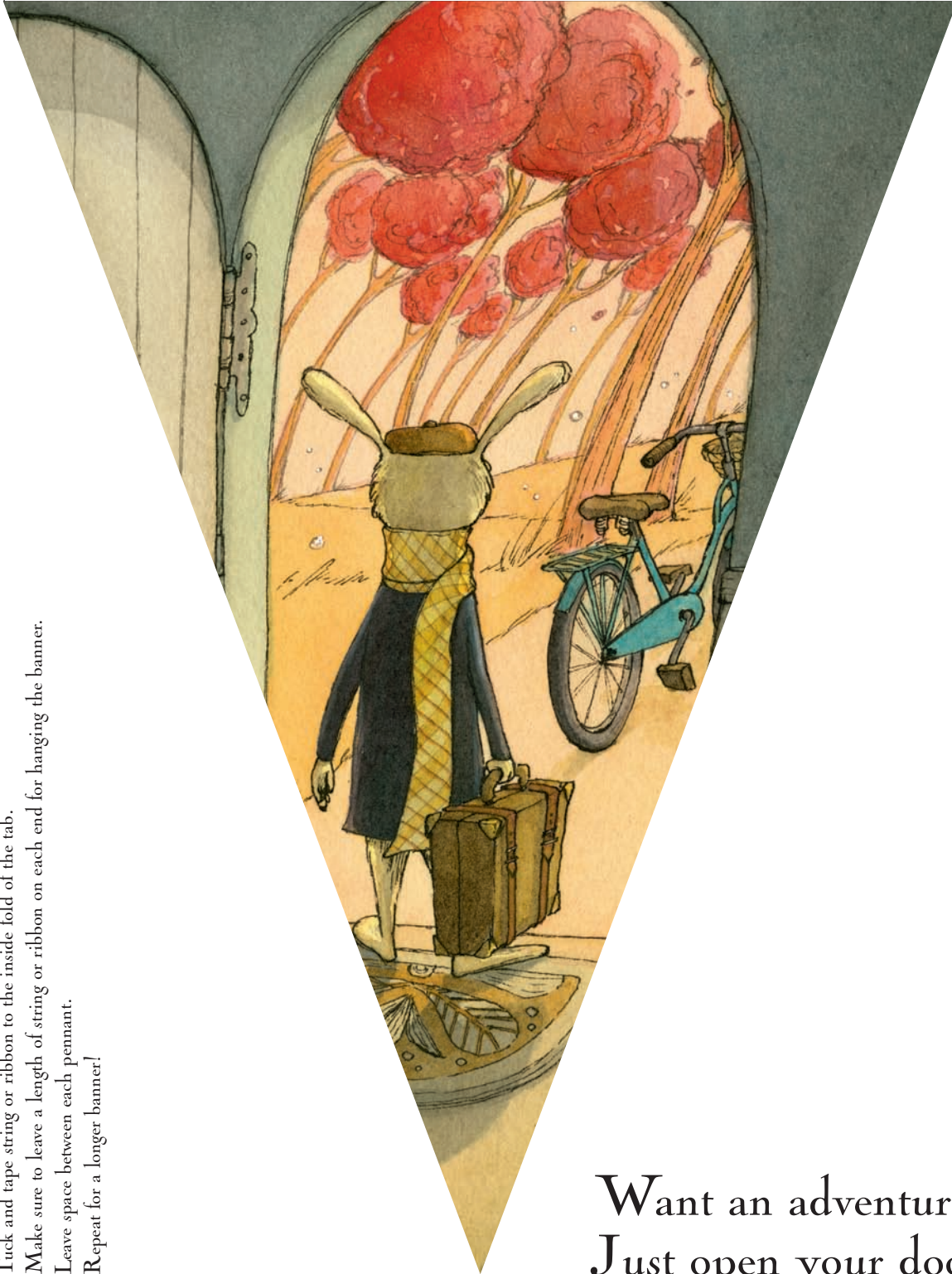
Make sure to leave a length of string or ribbon on each end for hanging the banner.

Leave space between each pennant.

Repeat for a longer banner!

# Wherever You Go

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Want an adventure?  
Just open your door.



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A Book for All Ages  
#whereveryougo

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## Cupcake Toppers, Gift Tags, Straw Toppers or Stickers

Print this sheet on white cardstock and cut out the circles with scissors or a 2-inch paper punch.

*Cupcake Toppers:* Paste backs & fronts with a lollipop stick, toothpick, or coffee stirrer in between.

*Gift Tags:* Paste backs & fronts and punch a hole for a ribbon or string.

*Straw Toppers:* Paste backs & fronts. Make a slit in the top & bottom with an Exacto knife. Slide straw thru slits.

*Stickers:* Print on sticker paper & cut out the circles with scissors or a 2-inch paper punch.