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NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK ENCOURAGES CHILDREN TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS

Michelle Nelson-Schmidt's newly released children's book, ***Jonathan James and the Whatif Monster***, spurs young children to try something new by facing their fear of failure head-on, enabling them to fully experience life and follow their dreams. ***Jonathan James and the Whatif Monster***, published by Kane Miller, a Division of EDC Publishing, is available exclusively through the Usborne Books and More direct sales division (www.usbornebooksandmore.com).

Ms. Nelson-Schmidt took the kind of chance her book encourages when she headed to art school despite opposition from her family who advocated a more conventional career. Now, after working for years as a graphic designer, Michelle is not only an accomplished book author/illustrator of three picture books, but is also very much in demand as a presenter at schools, libraries, day care centers and festivals. She's thrilled to be able to share her work and her message with children around the country. The many letters she receives from child fans who've made a "pinky promise" with her to follow their dreams are a testament to her success in inspiring them. Michelle's made dozens of such visits and already has a fully-booked schedule for the new school year.

Ms. Nelson-Schmidt's first two books grew out of her pet portraiture. *Cats, Cats!* and *Dogs, Dogs!* were both published last year by Kane Miller Books, quickly becoming best-sellers for Usborne Books and More. ***Jonathan James and the Whatif Monster*** is anticipated to become an even greater success and a new title by Ms. Nelson-Schmidt is scheduled for publication next year. A companion plush toy Whatif Monster is also available with an eye toward holiday gift giving.

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Jonathan James and the Whatif Monster, by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt. Published by Kane Miller, a Division of EDC Publishing • June 2012 • Ages 3-7 • 32 Pages • \$6.99 Paperback • ISBN: 978-1-61067-1187-7