

Amazon.com TOP 50 Reviewers and what they thought of [Tyler and His Solve-a-matic Machine](#)

★★★★★ **Jennifer Bouani and the Gift for Writing for Children**, March 30, 2007

Reviewer: [Grady Harp](#) (Los Angeles, CA United States) -

TOP 10 REVIEWER REAL NAME™

Every so often a new writer surfaces who along with the company of the likes of Roald Dahl, EB White, CS Lewis and others has the talent to speak to children about things adult in a manner that is not only informative and correct intelligently, but at the same time keeps in mind the importance of molding the realm of fantasy and tales that still focus the attention of all of us. Jennifer Bouani has the gift and in TYLER & HIS SOLVE-A-MATIC MACHINE she bows on stage as a skilled thinker and a consummate communicator.

Billed as a part of a series for 'Future Business Leaders', this story is told through the palpably real ten year old orphan Tyler Sogno who dreams of sailing around the world to meet all peoples. His daydreaming for his lost sailor father distracts him from his studies and he comes up with the idea of building a machine that will make homework a snap - the Solve-a-matic machine. Tyler 'meets' the spiritual guardian Soté, the Great Spirit of the Entrepreneurs from the land of Profits, who introduces Tyler to the prospects of becoming an entrepreneur, instructing and supporting him as to how to accomplish his dream. Then with a deft hand at creating whimsy that is pertinent and smart (Tyler lives in a metropolis called 'Nessibus', a reconstructed version of 'Business' - for example) Bouani sets tasks using the elevators of skyscrapers on top of which are penthouses to aid Tyler and friends on the journey to success.

In the end Soté congratulates Tyler on his perilous adventure: "You have succeeded in creating your Solve-a-matic company before sunrise. You have learned many lessons along the way. You have found your confidence, learned to be organized, and devoted yourself to your work. You have learned to be resourceful and have unleashed your imagination on the world. You've learned to lead and to take risks." And the lessons learned are soundly basic and richly entertaining in the introduction of all manner of animal life and wild adventures.

This book is aimed at the age 9 to 12 group, but the book is so full of well-conceived steps to take in making something of a dream that it is fodder for much older wannabe entrepreneurs! Highly sophisticated writing and a true pleasure to read. Grady Harp, March 07

★★★★★ **Entertaining, educational, inspirational -- an absolutely brilliant book**, April 25, 2007

Reviewer: [Daniel Jolley "darkgenius"](#) (Shelby, North Carolina USA) -

TOP 50 REVIEWER REAL NAME™

It's one thing to have a great idea, but it's something else to take that idea and truly bring it to life - but that's just what Jennifer Bouani has done in this first book of the Future Business Leaders' Series. Tyler and His Solve-a-matic Machine wildly succeeds on two levels: entertaining its target audience of ages 9 to 12 with an excellent, fun fantasy adventure and offering its young readers a number of very sound lessons in the principles of entrepreneurship. If you're a parent, your child might not remember how to spell entrepreneur after reading this book, but he will be familiar with most of the basic concepts behind the term - and could very well be excited about the prospect of becoming an entrepreneur himself.

Tyler is an orphan who dreams of sailing around the world like his late father did. One night, while slogging his way through a homework assignment, he dreams up the idea of a machine to help him do all of his homework quickly. Then a strange voice leads him downtown to a magical high-rise building, where it reveals itself to be Soté, the Great Spirit of the Entrepreneurs. After hearing about entrepreneurship and its potential rewards, Tyler accepts Soté's challenge: get to the top of the hundred-floor building before sunrise if he really wants to realize his dream of having his very own boat.

Obviously, it's not as simple as just taking the elevator or stairs up to the top floor. The stairways are locked, different elevators in the building take you to different levels, and Tyler must find the keys to several special elevators. Along the way, he will also meet up with certain individuals and groups determined to stop him from succeeding.

Tyler's entrepreneurial quest basically takes him through the process of taking his idea of a Solve-a-matic Machine and turning it into an actual manufacturing business. Bouani came up with some really brilliant ways to illustrate the kinds of obstacles entrepreneurs must deal with in the real world- and that's really the key to the book's success and eminent readability. Even as your child is reading this entertaining fantasy adventure featuring all kinds of exotic locations and animals, he/she is actually learning how to take an idea and turn it into a marketable product by coming up with a design, assembling the necessary tools and resources for production, hiring and managing workers (including dealing with unions), setting prices and production levels, etc.

I have a degree in economics, so I know how boring this subject matter can be. Bouani deserves major kudos for taking such a potentially dry subject as entrepreneurship and communicating its basic principles in such a fun and entertaining way to younger readers. She actually gets kids excited about the prospects of becoming entrepreneurs themselves, and that's an amazing accomplishment. Similar books involving Tyler and his friends are forthcoming in the Future Business Leaders' Series, and I am sure they will build upon the strong foundation this first book has already established.

★★★★★ **A wonderful lesson in capitalism and entrepreneurship**, April 20, 2007

Reviewer: [Kurt A. Johnson](#) (Marseilles, Illinois, USA) -

TOP 50 REVIEWER REAL NAME™

Young Tyler Sogno has big dreams - he would like to buy a big boat, and sail all around the world. But, being an orphan, and a bit of a slacker, he knows that his dreams will never come true. However, when a disembodied voice tells him that there is a path to that brighter future, Tyler sits up and take notice. The voice tells him that to make his dreams come true, he must become an entrepreneur! What does Tyler have to do to become an entrepreneur? He (and we) are about to find out!

This book is a wonderful lesson in capitalism, presented in the form of a story. I am tempted to say an allegorical story, but in fact few things are veiled here. This book teaches the young reader all about what it takes to become an entrepreneur, everything from coming up with a product, getting the patents, developing the plant, and hiring employees.

I must admit, I wish I had had this book a couple of years ago. For a high school class, my nephew and some other students were supposed to develop the idea for a business to place on an island. They came up with exporting coconut bikinis and monkey butlers. They understood so little about what running a business meant, and this book would have told them.

Overall, I think that this is a great book, one that should be required reading in all American schools! I give this book my highest recommendation.

Oops, I almost forgot to mention...I love the characters in this book, especially the monkey J.J. Junglehammock, Attorney at Law. He cracked me up!

★★★★★ **Teaching older children the basic concepts of entrepreneurship**, April 6, 2007

Reviewer: [Craig Matteson](#) (Ann Arbor, MI) -

TOP 50 REVIEWER REAL NAME™

This is a fantasy adventure story for children between, say, 9 & 12. However, it isn't just a fantasy adventure story. It has the purpose of entertaining while it introduces children to the basic topics of becoming an entrepreneurial businessperson. To an adult inured to the typical squishy values of much children's writing, the frankness of the pro-business ideas might seem jarring. However, it is unlikely the kids will have such feelings of strangeness.

Tyler is an lives in an orphanage and all he has of his father is a picture of him. I may have missed it, but I couldn't find any explanation of what happened to his mother. He ends up going through the floors of a very magic tall building and has to solve projects on each floor in order to get to the penthouse by the next morning to win his dream.

The projects do discuss topics that every entrepreneur will have to face, but not in a realistic way. That isn't the purpose of the book. It is a fantasy adventure and wants to start children thinking along certain lines. No one faults the squishy literature for presenting human relations in unrealistic ways. It is just that there is so much of it we have come to accept it.

However, this book seems to cover even union busting. Is that really a topic a nine year old will understand in any way? It might be that in some states the kind of behavior the adventurers engage is illegal in some states! I don't know.

Anyway, it is a fresh kind of story. I am not a person who reads a lot of children's literature so I don't know how the writing fits for its target audience. Even when I was a child, I didn't read children's literature. The language isn't beautiful or particularly enchanting. However, it does get its point across and that is probably more important to its goals.

★★★★★ **Great read and a wonderful story.**, April 2, 2007

Reviewer: [Michael J Woznicki](#) "[Michael J Woznicki](#)" (Holland, MA USA) -

TOP 100 REVIEWER REAL NAME™

What makes a great book? What is that, that will capture a child's attention and make him read a 120 page book in less than 2 hours? Reading a book about an orphan child making his dream come true would just about cover it. Watching the journey that Tyler takes in this book captured my son and had him not just reading the pages but also involved in the storyline from beginning to end.

The story is interesting, fun, easy to follow and most of all exciting making it fun to read. The plot takes you from one adventure to another and is keeps you wanting more from beginning to end. Tyler is a young man wanting to find a way to get his homework done so he starts his own business to solve this problem. What happens along the way is magical, from the monkey to the forest to the ocean - it is nothing short of one adventure after another.

I watched my son turn page after page in a book that not only tells a story but also teaches the child lessons on never giving up and following your dream. The author has an engaging style and makes the characters come out of the book and become part of life. Finding this book is the catch of the year.

Take the time to have you child read this book and spend time together talking about it and you'll see how much reading can really be. My son is looking forward to the next book in the series and as a parent this is always a good thing. You can't be the price and it would make the perfect gift. This one is a keeper!

★★★★★ **Excellent business primer for a child**, March 29, 2007

Reviewer: [Charles Ashbacher](#) (Marion, Iowa United States)

TOP 50 REVIEWER REAL NAME™

I am totally in favor of the concept behind this first book in a series for young people about how business operations are performed. The targeted audience is children in the 9-12 age range. As long as it is properly executed, it is an idea that will prove invaluable to the future of the world.

Tyler is an orphan; his father owned a boat and was killed while working on it. Since that time, his ambition has been to get his own boat so that he could travel to whatever waters his whim told him to explore. However, like everything in life, boats cost money and Tyler has none. Fortunately, he is in a wishbone pulling contest with his buddy Jake and he emerges victorious.

Tyler's wish is granted, but he must work for it. The Great Spirit of the Entrepreneurs arrives and issues a challenge that he must accept and meet within a few hours. His challenges all involve solving the business problems that one faces when developing and marketing a new product. The product is the Solve-a-matic machines, which wondrously does your homework for you.

The story is an excellent one for young people, not only is it fun to read, but they also learn something. Problems such as keeping your intellectual property safe, setting the price of your product, dealing with labor issues and delegating responsibility are all solved as Tyler finally achieves the boat of his dreams. There are simple riddles, animal characters such as the pirate parrots who try to steal his plans and some good friends made along the way. If this book had existed when my daughter was young enough to enjoy it, I would have insisted that she read it.

★★★★★ **I read this with my son and he was inspired by this book (so was I),** June 26, 2006

Reviewer: **K. Corn "reviewer"** (Indianapolis,, IN United States) -

TOP 500 REVIEWER REAL NAME™

My son related immediately to Tyler, the boy in this book, a kid who has trouble getting his homework done and spends too much time daydreaming. What kid doesn't deal with those challenges from time to time? Tyler also longs to travel the world and have great adventures. He's tired of his everyday life and he also happens to be an orphan so he feels particularly alone and hopeless.

Making his dreams come true seems a very remote possibility until...one day.. Tyler finds a wishbone, makes a wish and...poof! he gets in touch with the Great Spirit of the Entrepreneurs, who guides him as he learns the basics of becoming an entrepreneur, from his dream of a Solve-a-matic machine to actual production and sales. But first he has to find the "keys" to get to the top of a 100 story building by a looming deadline. Can he do it?

It is quite a challenge and my son wondered how Tyler was going to meet the challenge. While on his adventure, Tyler develops skills useful to all budding business people, including patience, confidence, problem-solving, flexibility, trying alternative solutions, marketing his product and much more.

My son was riveted by the various mysteries and puzzles Tyler had to solve to get the "keys" to get to the top of a hundred story building. Along the way, he learns the basics of becoming a successful entrepreneur and my son and I discussed those skills as we read this book. It is written in such a lively and fun style that I'm not even sure he realized how much he was learning!

Unlike many financial or business books written for children, this one approaches kids from their level - with an engaging story, plenty of mystery and suspense and a thorough look at what it takes to go from budding entrepreneur to having a solid business plan.

I asked my son what he thought of the book when we finished it and he said, "I learned about what it takes to succeed in business and that you should be patient, do your research and stick with it. You can't give up easily and you have to know how to market what you make. "

I was impressed.