

# This book is dedicated to Katy, a phenomenal teacher!

—Julia



P.O. Box 22185 • Chattanooga, TN 37422-2185  
423-899-5714 • 866-318-6294 • fax 423-899-4547 • [www.ncyi.org](http://www.ncyi.org)

ISBN: 9781937870089 \$9.95 • E-book ISBN: 9781937870911  
© 2012 National Center for Youth Issues, Chattanooga, TN • All rights reserved.  
Written by: Julia Cook • Illustrations by: Michelle Hazelwood Hyde  
Published by National Center for Youth Issues • Softcover  
Printed at RR Donnelley • Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico • July 2021

## DUPLICATION AND COPYRIGHT

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, video or audio recording, or otherwise without prior written permission from the publisher, except for all worksheets and activities which may be reproduced for a specific group or class. Reproduction for an entire school or school district is prohibited.

The information in this book is designed to provide helpful information on the subjects discussed and is not intended to be used, nor should it be used, to diagnose or treat any mental health or medical condition. For diagnosis or treatment of any mental health or medical issue, consult a licensed counselor, psychologist, or physician. The publisher and author are not responsible for any specific mental or physical health needs that may require medical supervision, and are not liable for any damages or negative consequences from any treatment, action, application or preparation, to any person reading or following the information in this book. References are provided for informational purposes only and do not constitute endorsement of any websites or other sources.

## Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Cook, Julia, 1964- writer. | Hyde, Michelle Hazelwood, illustrator.  
Title: Ricky sticky fingers / written by Julia Cook ; illustrated by Michelle Hazelwood Hyde.  
Description: Chattanooga, TN : National Center for Youth Issues, [2021] | Audience: Ages 5-12 | Audience: Grades K-1 | Summary: Ricky likes to take things that do not belong to him but learns first-hand what it feels like to have something stolen from him, so he uses the good inside himself to overtake the bad and returns the items he took from others.  
Identifiers: LCCN 2021019946 (print) | LCCN 2021019947 (ebook) | ISBN 9781937870089 (paperback) | ISBN 9781937870911 (pdf)  
Subjects: CYAC: Stories in rhyme. | Stealing--Fiction. | Behavior--Fiction.  
Classification: LCC PZ8.3.C76797 Ri 2021 (print) | LCC PZ8.3.C76797 (ebook) | DDC [E]--dc23  
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021019946>  
LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021019947>

NCYI titles may be purchased in bulk at special discounts for educational, business, fundraising, or promotional use.  
For more information, please email [sales@ncyi.org](mailto:sales@ncyi.org).

My name is Ricky, but lately  
everyone's been calling me

***“Ricky Sticky Fingers.”***

That's because sometimes  
I take stuff that doesn't belong to me.

***I steal!***





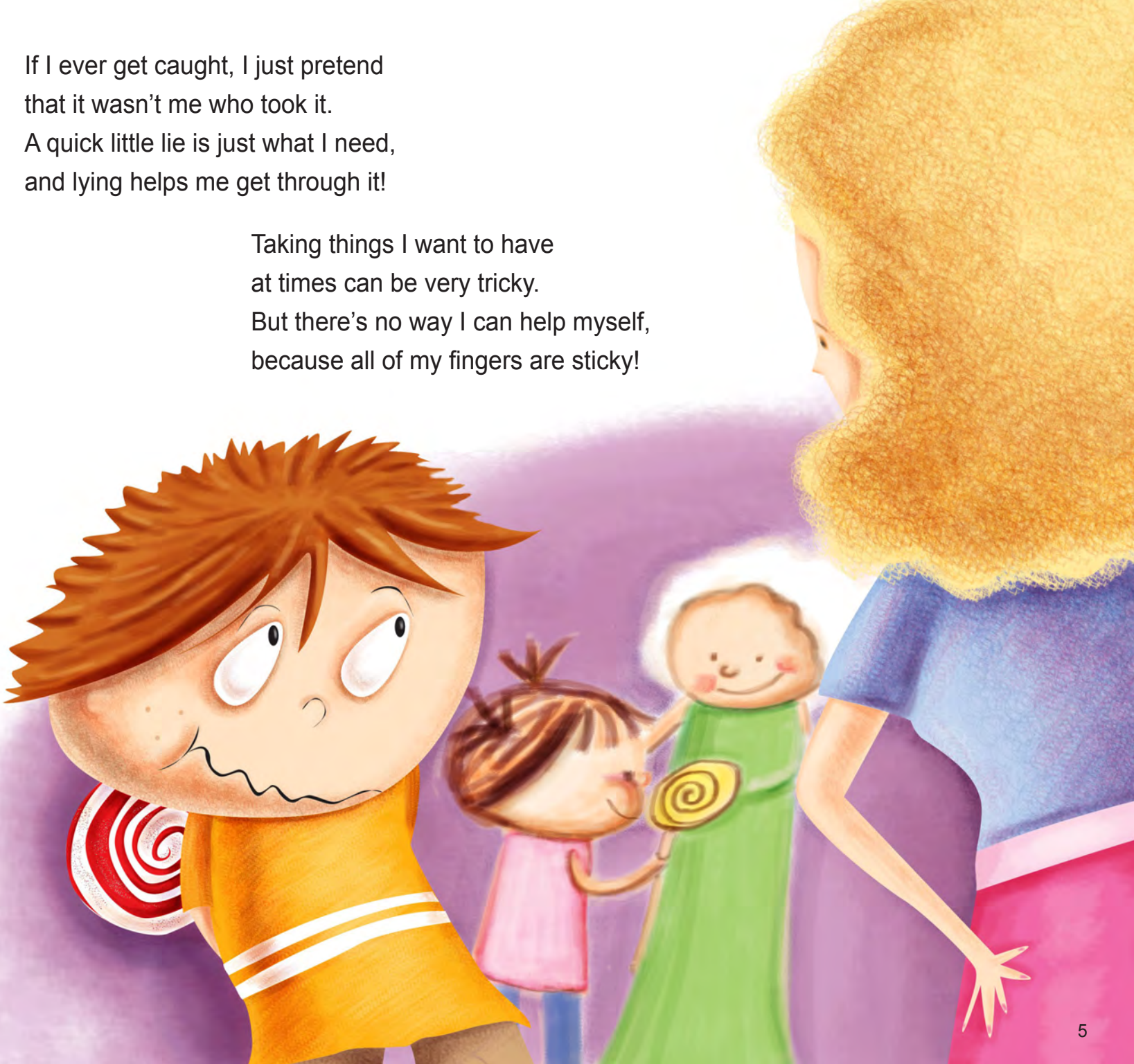
When I see something I really want,  
I think, "Hey, that could be mine!"  
So I look both ways, reach out my hand,  
and take it at just the right time.





If I ever get caught, I just pretend  
that it wasn't me who took it.  
A quick little lie is just what I need,  
and lying helps me get through it!

Taking things I want to have  
at times can be very tricky.  
But there's no way I can help myself,  
because all of my fingers are sticky!



A few days ago, I saw bubble gum in Marvin's desk at school. It wasn't just any bubble gum, it was my **ABSOLUTE FAVORITE** kind of bubble gum...

***"Super Bubblorama!"***

I thought about how good that gum would taste and how big the bubbles would be that I could blow.



Ever since our principal sat in a wad of gum and ruined his pants, gum hasn't been allowed at school. So actually, I was doing Marvin a **BIG** favor by keeping him from being caught with it.



I looked both ways when no one was looking, and Marvin had gone to band. I took a deep breath and reached in his desk, and the gum just stuck to my hand!

I pulled my hand out of Marvin's desk and stuck the gum in my pocket.



When Marvin came back, he looked for his gum, but I convinced him he must have lost it.



On the way home from school that day, I stopped at the corner store to buy a bottle of triple-thick, double chocolate milk. On my way to the cooler in the back of the store, I walked by the toys, and there “it” was...the one thing I wanted more than anything...a package of **Slime Wads** – the gooey balls that stick against walls when you throw them, and then they just...

Ooze doWn Onto the floor!



Slime Wads are cool.  
They're not easy to find.

I just had to take them  
so they could be mine!