



# Believing In Horses

By: Valerie Ormond

## ∞ Author Visit ∞

### Volunteer READ-ALoud with the Author

#### SET-UP

Reed: Let's have some audience members read some of the ideas written down in your book, Believing In Horses. Which chapter would you recommend, Ms. Ormond?

Valerie: Well, one of the magical moments for me was when I let my imagination gallop while writing **Chapter 6 – The Signs**. You see, after Sadie confessed to her Grandma Collins that she was having trouble keeping Lucky under control, her Irish grandmother told her she needed to look for the signs that would help her and Lucky be in harmony. After looking in vain the next morning, Sadie finally asked her older brother, Austin, for help.

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Kid 1: It began at his face. Austin, standing eye to eye with Lucky. A six foot tall boy and a 16 hand high horse.

“It starts here,” he said.

Austin ran his hand gently from the top of the white blaze on Lucky's forehead down to his warm breathing nostrils. “I,” he said.

He moved his hand along the left side of Lucky's face and followed his brown pinto markings along the curves into what appeared to be a “B.” He turned to Sadie and smiled — a perfect Austin smile conveying that nothing made him happier than to make other people happy. Sadie smiled back, pushing it a little, since she wasn't sure what she was supposed to be so happy about or what Austin was on to. Something she had learned, though, from spending her entire life as Austin's sister, was to be patient. And so she patiently waited for this mystery to unfold.

Kid 2: Austin continued his slow, deliberate stroking of Lucky's coat and next announced “E,” as he traced the letter E on Lucky's markings. Sadie watched, totally enthralled at what her brother was finding in this beautiful pinto's markings. She had stared and stared at this horse for hours on end and had never seen such things. He continued down the horse's left shoulder and pointed out what to him seemed to be an obvious “L.” Sadie wanted to kick herself for not having seen this. But then again, she was happy to see her brother getting such delight from helping her with this.

And so it went. Austin's declarations became stronger with each letter. “I,” he exclaimed. He drew out the next “E,” then “V,” and then a final “E.” He turned to Sadie and said, “That's it.”

Kid 1&2 w/Author: Sadie's heart raced as she put it all together. She wasn't sure what she felt curiosity-astonishment, or disbelief. She now had a clear sign. A sign beyond what she could ever have imagined. “I Believe” marked on her horse.

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## WE BELIEVE IN YOU!

*Thank you for your help!*