

STEP INTO READING READY? SET. RAYMOND!

A Step 1 Book

Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Illustrated by Derek Anderson





A NOTE TO PARENTS

When your children are ready to “step into reading,” giving them the right books is as crucial to their development as giving them the right food to eat. **Step into Reading**® books feature exciting stories and information reinforced with lively, colorful illustrations that make learning to read fun, satisfying, and rewarding. We have even taken *extra* steps to keep your child engaged by offering Step into Reading Sticker books, Step into Reading Math books, and Step into Reading Phonics books, in addition to fabulous fiction and nonfiction.

Learning to read, Step by Step:

- **Super Early** books (Preschool–Kindergarten) support pre-reading skills. Parent and child can engage in “see and say” reading using the strong picture cues and the few simple words on each page.
- **Early** books (Preschool–Kindergarten) let emergent readers tackle one or two short sentences of large type per page.
- **Step 1** books (Preschool–Grade 1) have the same easy-to-read type as Early, but with more words per page.
- **Step 2** books (Grades 1–3) offer longer and slightly more difficult text while introducing contractions and clauses. Children are often drawn to our exciting natural science nonfiction titles at this level.
- **Step 3** books (Grades 2–3) present paragraphs, chapters, and fully developed plot lines in fiction and nonfiction.
- **Step 4** books (Grades 2–4) feature thrilling nonfiction illustrated with exciting photographs for independent as well as reluctant readers.

Remember: The grade levels assigned to the six steps are intended only as guides. Some children move through all six steps rapidly; others climb the steps over a period of a few years. Either way, these books will help children “step into reading” for life!

For Raymond's aunts:

Katherine, Lucy, Stephanie, Uma, and Lori

—V.M.N.

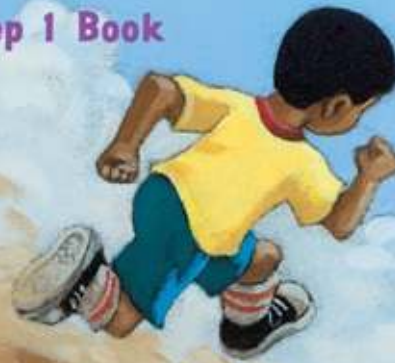
For Chery—D.A.


Step into Reading.

Ready? Set.
Raymond!

by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
illustrated by Derek Anderson

A Step 1 Book



Random House  New York



Slow Down, Raymond

Raymond does things fast.

He brushes his teeth fast.



He eats breakfast fast.



“Slow down, Raymond.

Chew your food,”

Mama says.



Raymond slows down—

but not for long!

Raymond

dresses fast.



He kisses

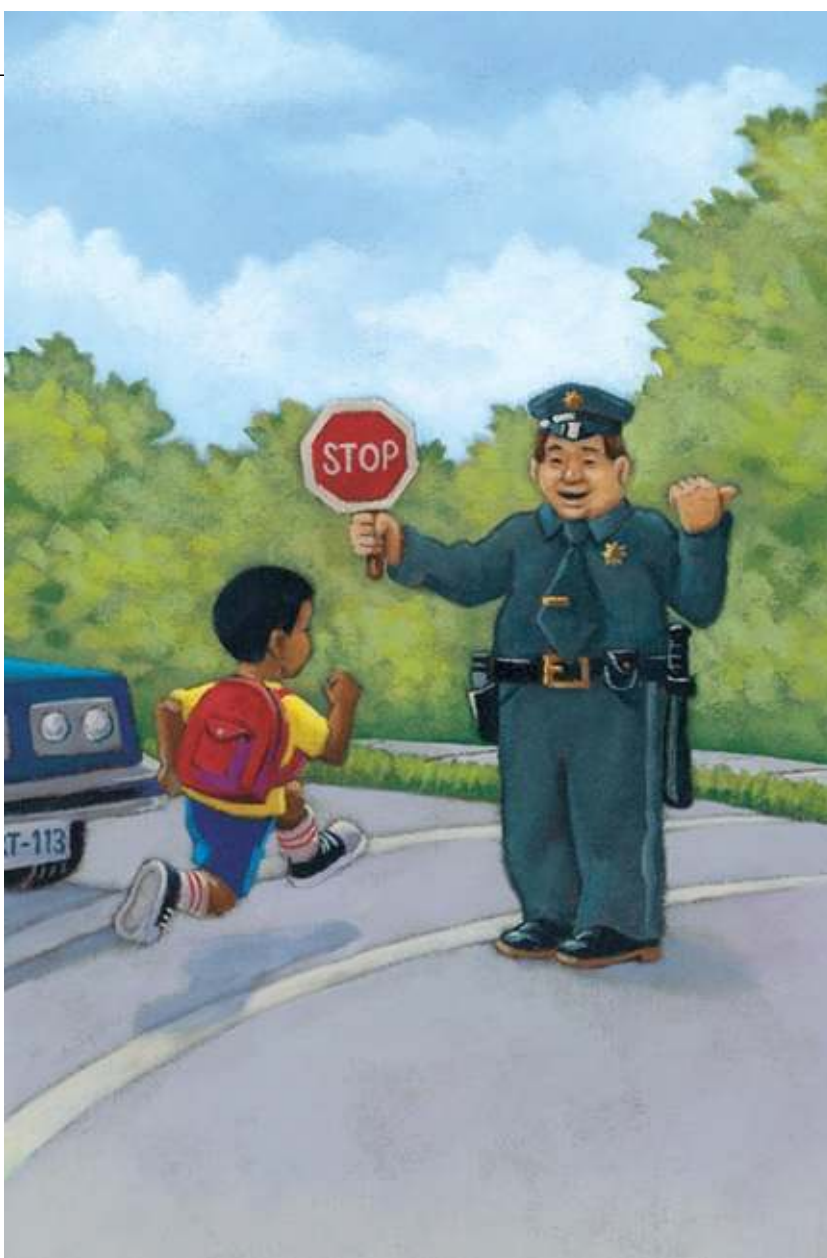
Mama fast.



He runs
to school
fast.



“Slow down, Raymond.
Look both ways,”
the policeman says.



Raymond slows down—

but not for long!

He reads fast.



He counts fast.



He draws pictures fast.



“Slow down, Raymond.

There’s no rush,”

his teacher says.



Raymond slows down—

but not for long!

He runs

home fast.



He eats

dinner fast.



He brushes his

teeth fast.





“Slow down, Raymond.

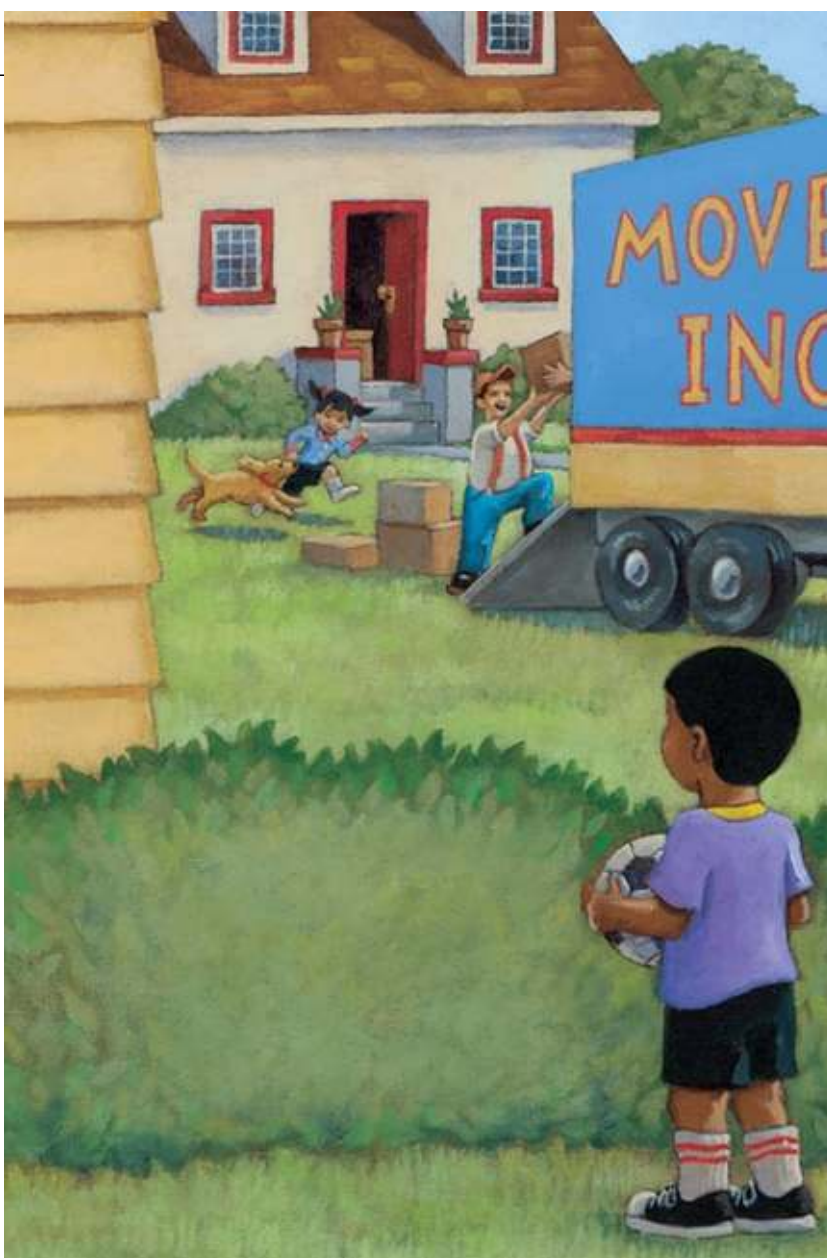
Time for bed,” Papa says.

Raymond slowly closes his eyes

and ...

... falls fast asleep!

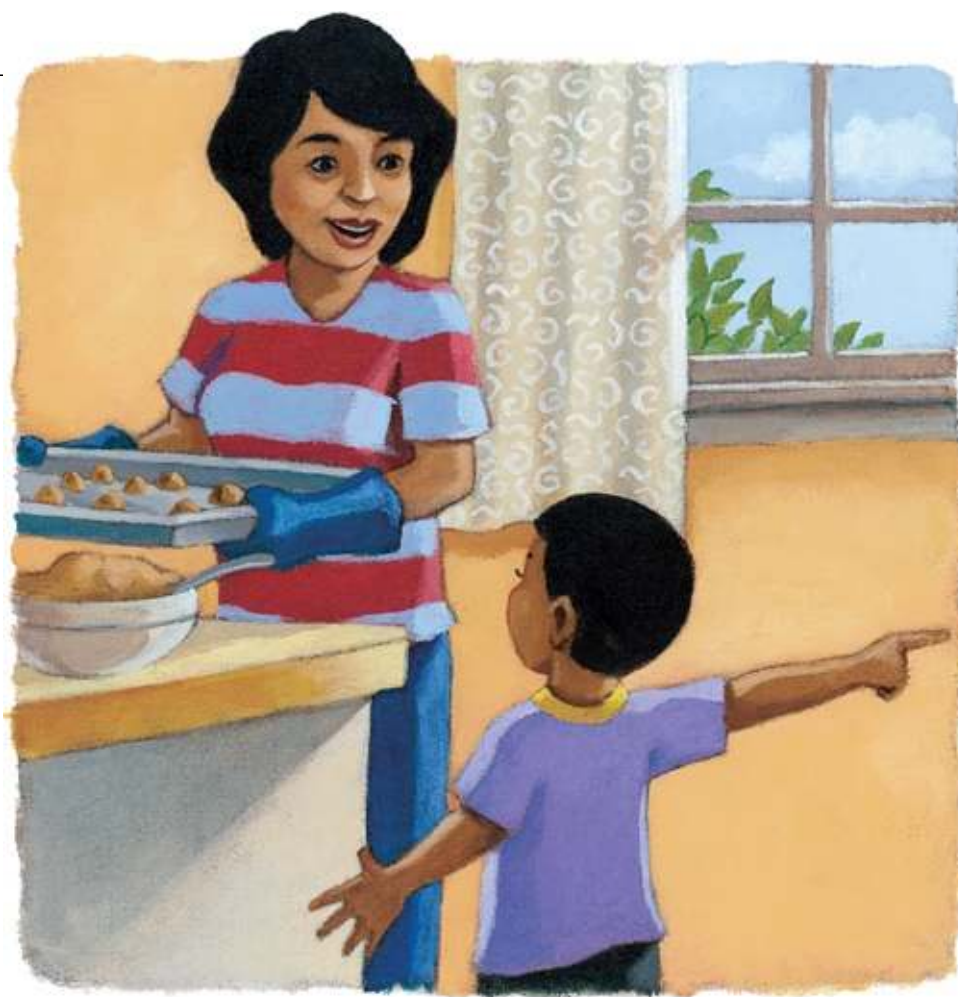




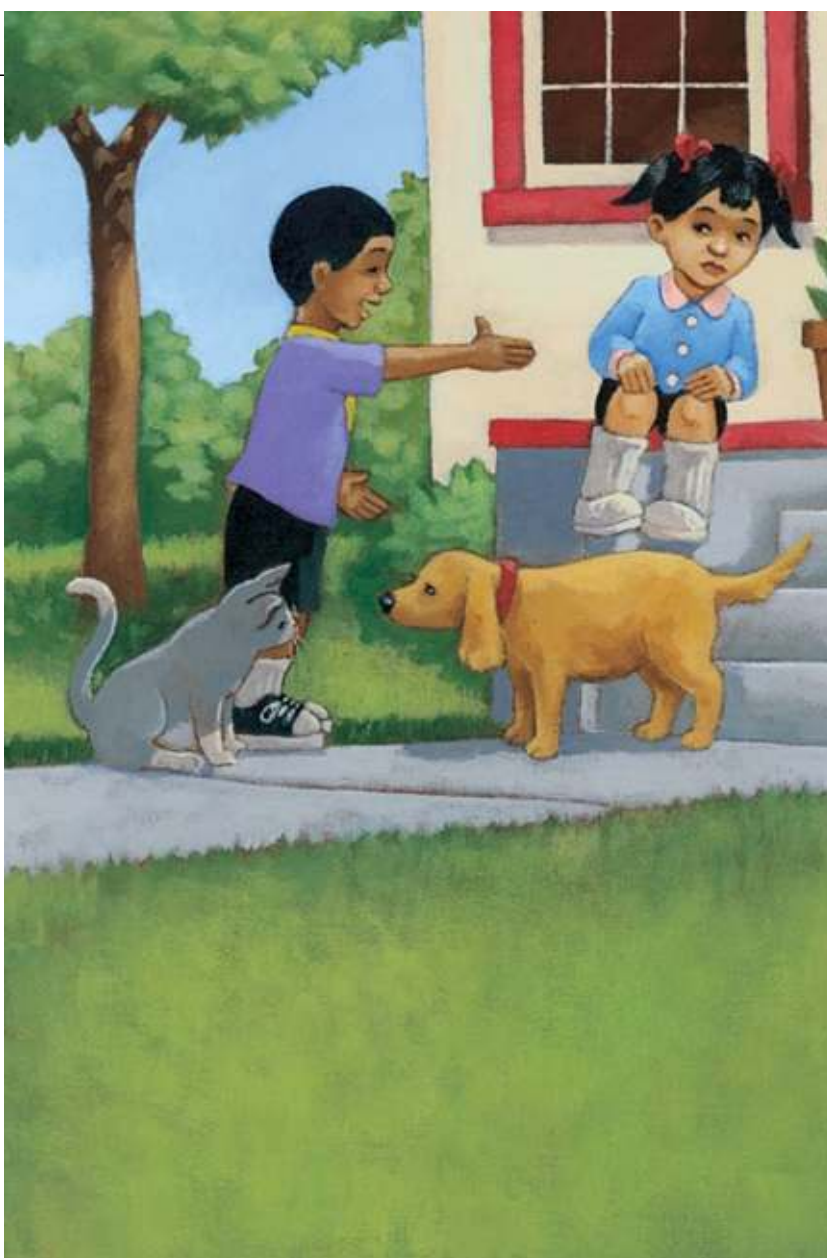
Raymond and Roxy

Raymond sees
a new girl next door.

He wants a friend.



“Making friends
takes time,”
Mama says.



But Raymond cannot wait.

He runs next door.

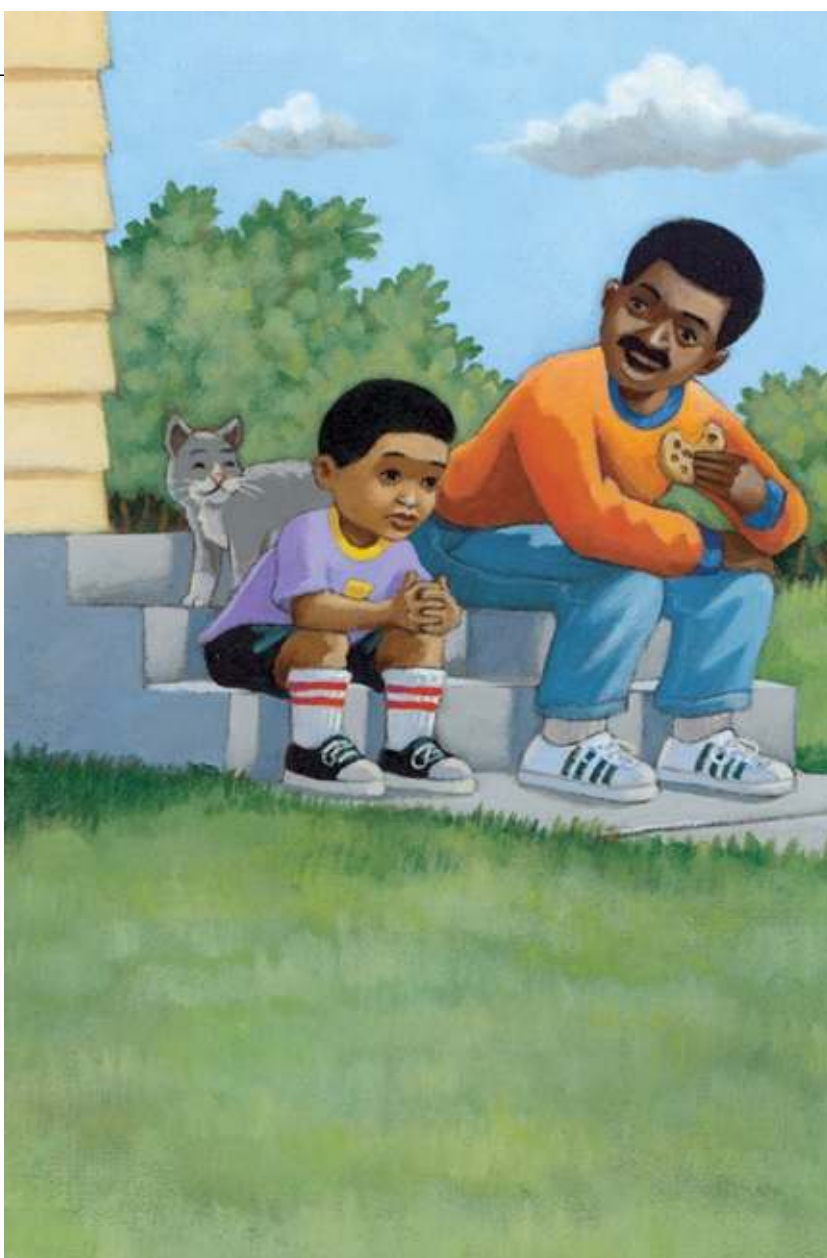
“I’m Raymond!” he says.

The girl runs inside.



Raymond walks home.





“Making friends

takes time,”

Papa says.

But Raymond cannot wait.

He runs to the cookie jar.



He runs next door.



Raymond gives the girl

a cookie.

She takes a bite.

She smiles with cookie

in her teeth.



“I’m Roxy,” she says.



Raymond and Roxy

become fast friends.

New Sneakers

Raymond likes to run.

He is going to be

in a big race.



He runs in the house,



in the yard,



at the park.

Raymond runs so much



he wears his sneakers out!

Mama buys Raymond

brand-new sneakers for the big race.

They are white,

like clean sheets.



Raymond wants
his sneakers
to stay clean.
So he walks slowly
in the house,

sample content of Ready? Set. Raymond! (Step-Into-Reading, Step 2)

- [*read We Can Build You*](#)
- [**The Killing Room \(Sandro Cellini, Book 5\) for free**](#)
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