

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS
STREET SMARTS MARIN

Faith and Fantasia

a Fable on Safety



Kristin Joy Breed

Illustrated by Javier Montiel

This book was produced by the Transportation Authority of Marin's Safe Routes to Schools program.

Safe Routes to Schools is an international program which promotes walking and biking to school, reduces traffic congestion and addresses safety barriers that prohibit children being able to walk and bike to school.

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DRIVE BIKE WALK SMART
– Street Smarts Marin

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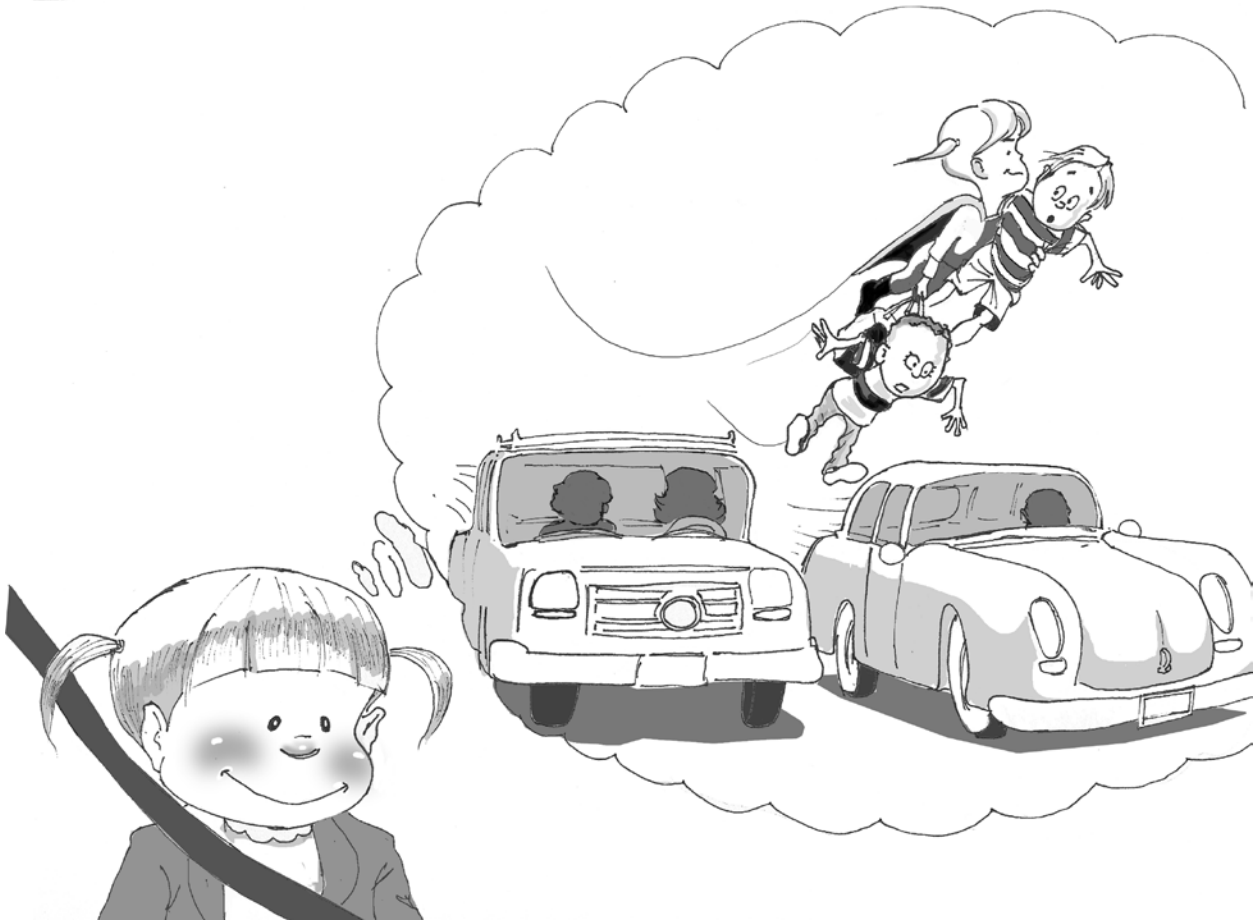
My name is Faith and one of my favorite things to do is walk to school. But, my mom rarely allows my brothers and me that privilege. She says it is because she loves us and is concerned about our safety. I think maybe my mother and I have different ideas of what safety means.



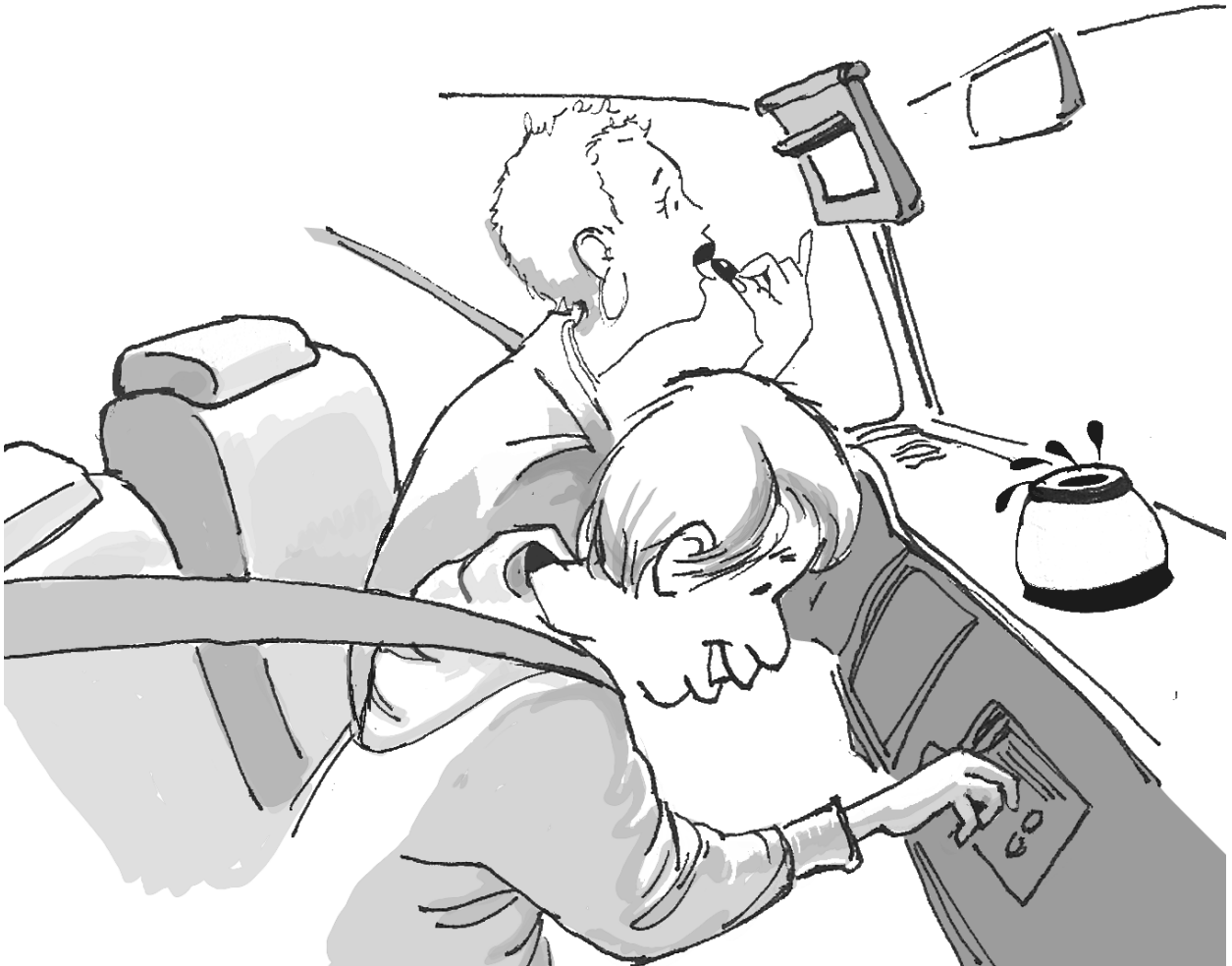
We're nearly always running late. It takes my brother Rex forever to wake up in the morning. Mom gets up before the sun so that she can work before she goes to work. I don't care if mom wants to add juggling jellybeans to her morning routine – if only she would pay attention to the road for the few minutes it takes to drive us to school.



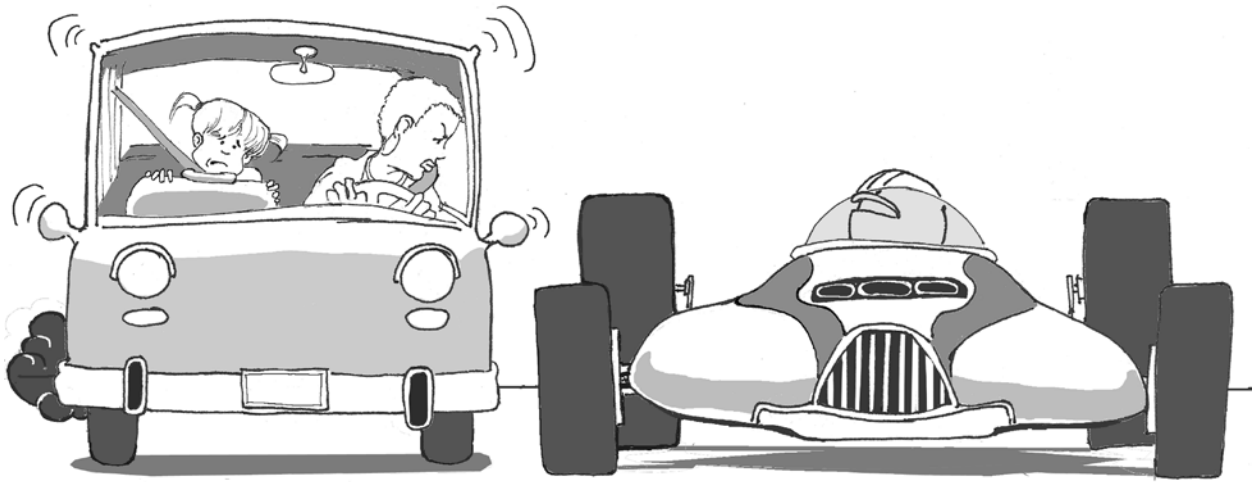
My other brother Wilder doesn't help. He distracts my mother even more with his boundless energy. If it were up to him, he'd swing tree to tree to school.



My mom thinks she has superpower, but she does not know what it means to really have super powers. I haven't told you my "secret." My real identity is Fantasia – Queen of Safety. I'm not bragging. But, I really am the reason my family makes it through each day.



You see, my family acts as though our beat up 2005 Subaru is a James Bond Powered, rocket fuel injected, people-transporting machine – protected and isolated from the rest of the community. It's not. If mishandled, this machine could cause big trouble. That's where I come in.



I love my mom. And, she's good at a lot of things. But, she is NOT the racecar driver she dreams of being.

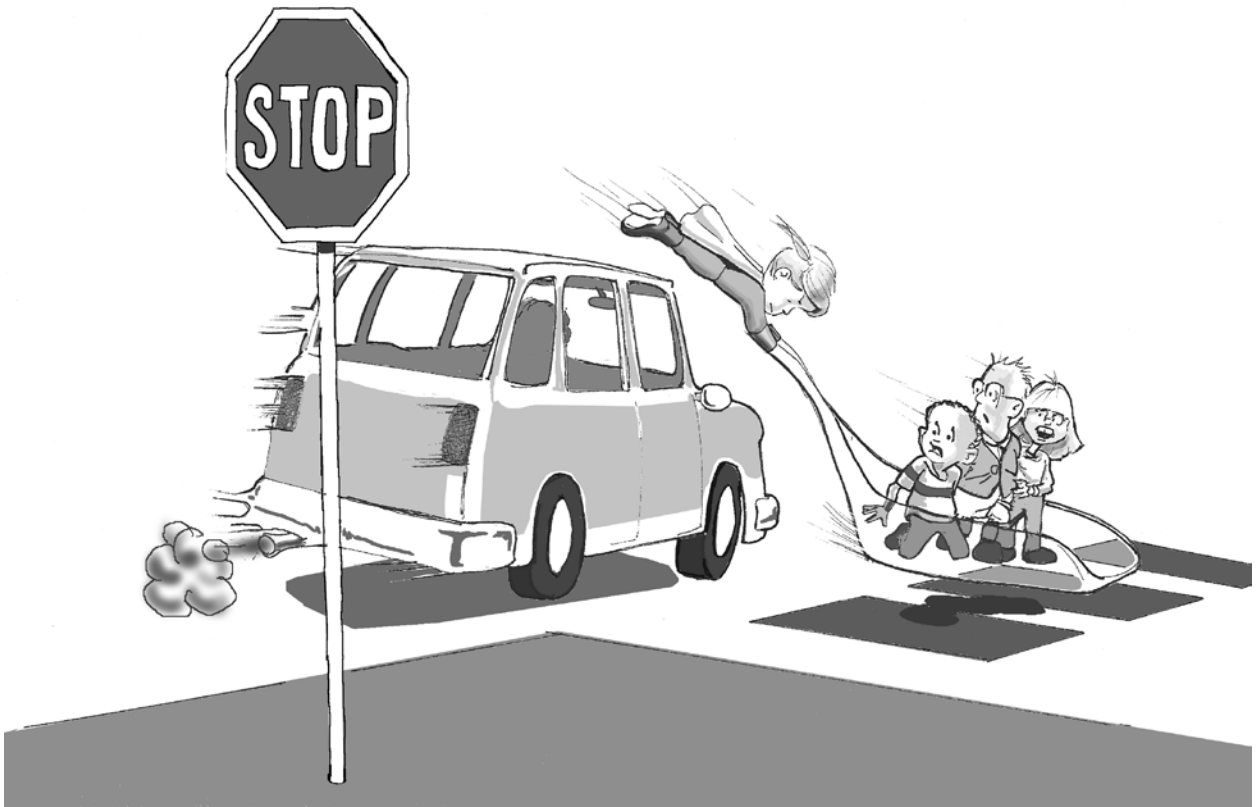
GET SMART, SLOW DOWN – Street Smarts Marin



Don't misunderstand me. My mom does care. She makes us wear helmets when we do just about anything. I'm surprised she doesn't make us wear helmets whenever Wilder is in sight. But, more importantly, if she keeps up her crazy driving, we just might begin wearing them in the car.



I know my mom is a busy woman. She misses a lot on Vine Street when she is talking on the phone and reading her stack of papers while driving. But, I just think she's missing something much more important.....



I don't know how they taught driving a hundred years ago when mom was in school. But I know that stop signs mean STOP.

STOPPING IS PART OF DRIVING – Street Smarts Marin



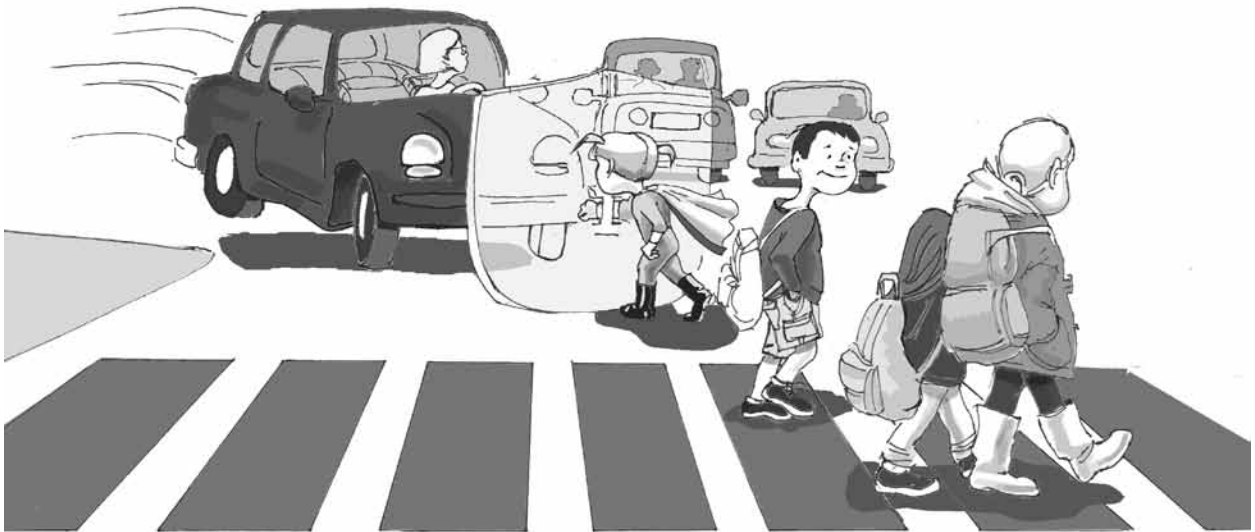
This morning, my mom almost hit Kaitlin's daddy. I know that Kaitlin's daddy should use the cross walk. BUT – what's the real difference for him if the drivers all drive like my mom?

ADD YEARS TO YOUR LIFE, USE THE CROSSWALK

– Street Smarts Marin



This year, Mr. Rodriguez the crossing guard is my “special project.” I’m going to spend a lot of my special powers assisting him in insisting on a safe environment. What would Vine Elementary do without Mr. Rodriguez?



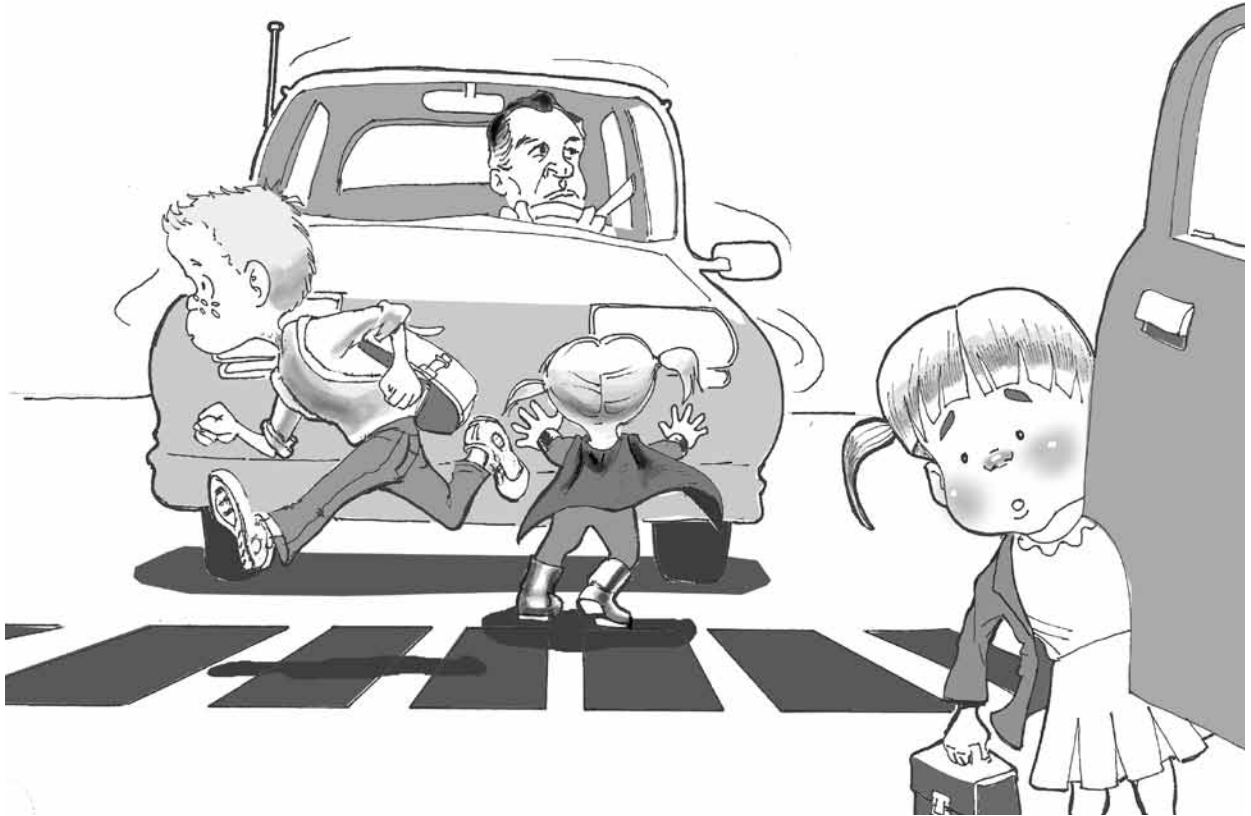
When we are taught to cross the street, we learn to look, left, right and then left again. I think that Mom forgets about looking right. And, sometimes left. And sometimes at all.....”

LET PEDESTRIANS CROSS, THEN TAKE YOUR TURN
– Street Smarts Marin

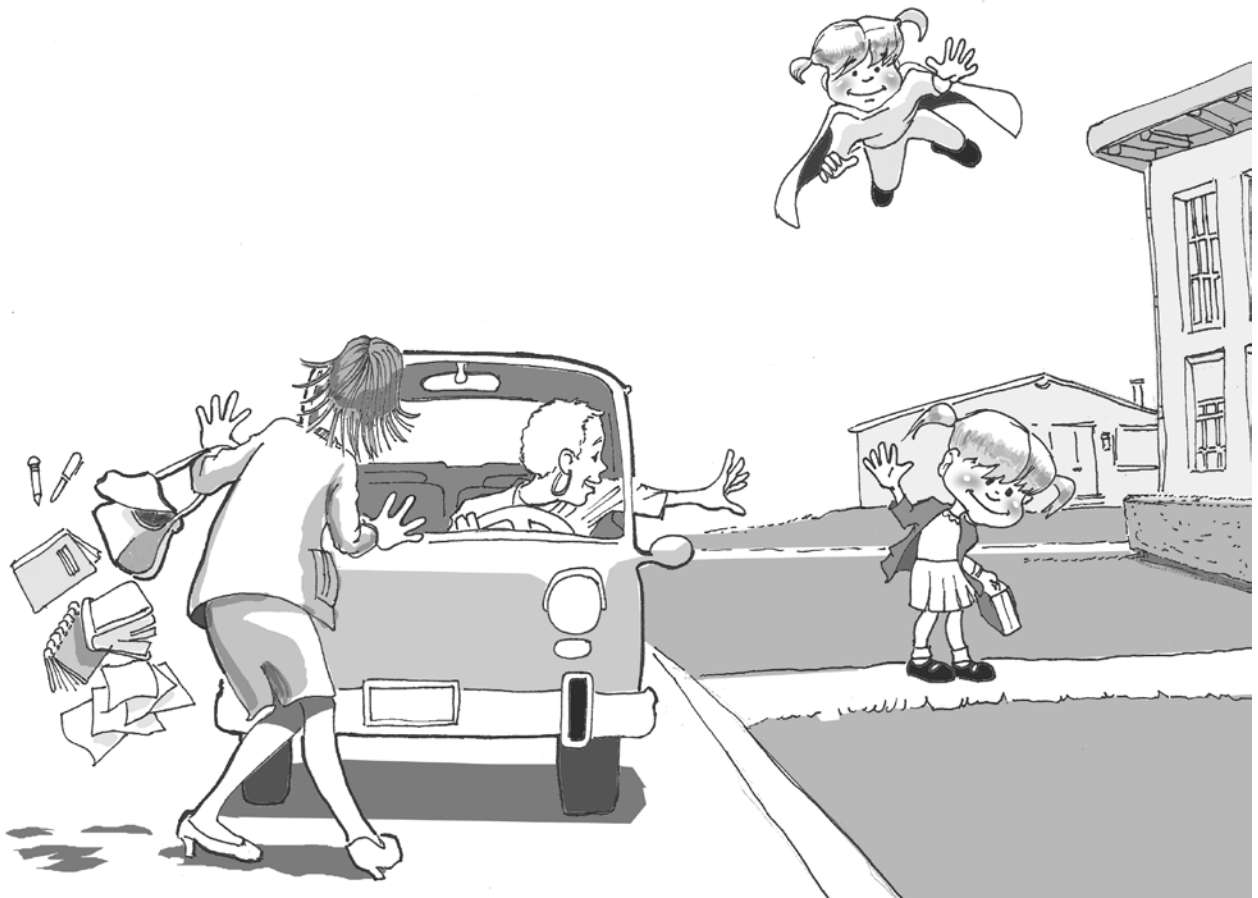


Mom usually gets off the phone for the last bit of the drive to brief me on the day.

“Don’t talk to strangers. Listen to your teachers. Eat your vegetables. Walk, don’t run. Blah. Blah. Blah.”



“...You’re my baby Faith. You know I’d do anything to protect you.”



“Most important Faith. Be careful crossing the street. There are some crazy drivers on these streets!”



Whew! I'm glad we made it to school! I don't know what we'd do without Fantasia to protect everyone from my mom and the other people who don't pay attention. Maybe if everyone were a little more careful a lot more kids would be safe walking to school.

Quiz:

Parents:

Do you make sure kids are safe walking to school when you drive?

We can't always count on Fantasia to keep kids safe. It's up to you!.

Your child will help you take the following quiz.

1. When driving a car, clear visibility is:

- a. Very important.
- b. Somewhat important.
- c. Not very important.

2. Which activities are safe while driving?

- a. Talking on the phone
- b. Drinking coffee
- c. Reading the paper
- d. None of the above

3. Speeding is acceptable when:

- a. You are running late.
- b. Everyone else is doing it.
- c. You know you are a good driver.
- d. Never

Quiz continues on next page

3. **When coming to a stop sign:**
 - a. Slow down and proceed if no other cars are present.
 - b. Only stop if other cars are present.
 - c. Always stop.
4. **When approaching a crosswalk:**
 - a. Always obey the crossing guard.
 - b. Yield to pedestrians.
 - c. Pay attention to children preparing to cross.
 - d. All of the above
6. **When crossing the street:**
 - a. Always cross at the crosswalk when available.
 - b. Look left, right, and left again.
 - c. Make sure that the drivers see you.
 - d. All of the above
7. **When turning right at an intersection with a traffic light, what do drivers often forget?**
 - a. Look left for traffic and proceed.
 - b. Turn only if the light is green.
 - c. Always look right and check for pedestrians in the crosswalk.
8. **Where is it safe to drop off children?**
 - a. Anywhere it is convenient.
 - b. In the middle of the road
 - c. At designated drop off areas on the curb side of the car.

Faith's Mom worries that Faith is vulnerable to the threats of being small and only seven. But Faith worries more about her Mom's driving and her lack of awareness. However Faith has a secret weapon to protect everyone from her Mom's driving: her alter-ego super heroine, Fantasia, who always saves the day.

THEY THANK YOU FOR SLOWING DOWN.

Street  Smarts

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Street Smarts Marin and Safe Routes to Schools are projects of the Transportation Authority of Marin.