



To all of my friends in ILLINOIS,

THANK YOU SO MUCH for making "If I Built a Car" the 2008 Monarch Award winner! I can't tell you how thrilled I am that you voted for my book. The thing that makes this award so special is that you, the students, pick the winner, not some businessman who decides what kids like. After all, I wrote and illustrated the book for YOU and I am so honored by your choice!

"If I Built a Car" is all about the power of imagination and young people have the BEST imaginations. What would you add to Jack's car? Or what would you build? A tree house? A speedboat? A rocket? It's endless! So DREAM BIG my friends! It's all up to you.

THANK YOU again and keep reading!

Best wishes, Chris Van Dusen