

*A conversation with Caldecott Medalist*  
**Emily Arnold McCully**



*Pete, a charming but absentminded pig, forgets an important favor for his sister in PETE MAKES A MISTAKE, a charming easy reader about forgiveness in our I Like to Read® series. Pete's creator, award winner Emily Arnold McCully, discusses the inspiration behind the story.*

**Emily, this is the second story you've written about Pete. Please tell us about his new adventure in PETE MAKES A MISTAKE.**

This is a story about a mix-up—in other words, it's a farce. Pete means well, but he is careless. This causes a misunderstanding between his sister and her friends. But Pete manages to fix everything. I hope readers will laugh.

**Where did you get your inspiration for this story?**

Who knows? It just popped into my head. But parties always make me a little nervous: will people come? Will I have a good time?

**Readers will recognize Pete from PETE WON'T EAT, the first story about Pete in the I Like to Read® series. What made you decide to bring Pete back for this story?**

I love him. Drawing him and imagining his experiences frees me.

**What do you hope readers will learn from PETE MAKES A MISTAKE?**

First of all, I hope they learn to read a story with pleasure. I'm not sure there is another lesson, but learning to correct a "mistake" is a good thing.

**When did you know you wanted to be an author and illustrator?**

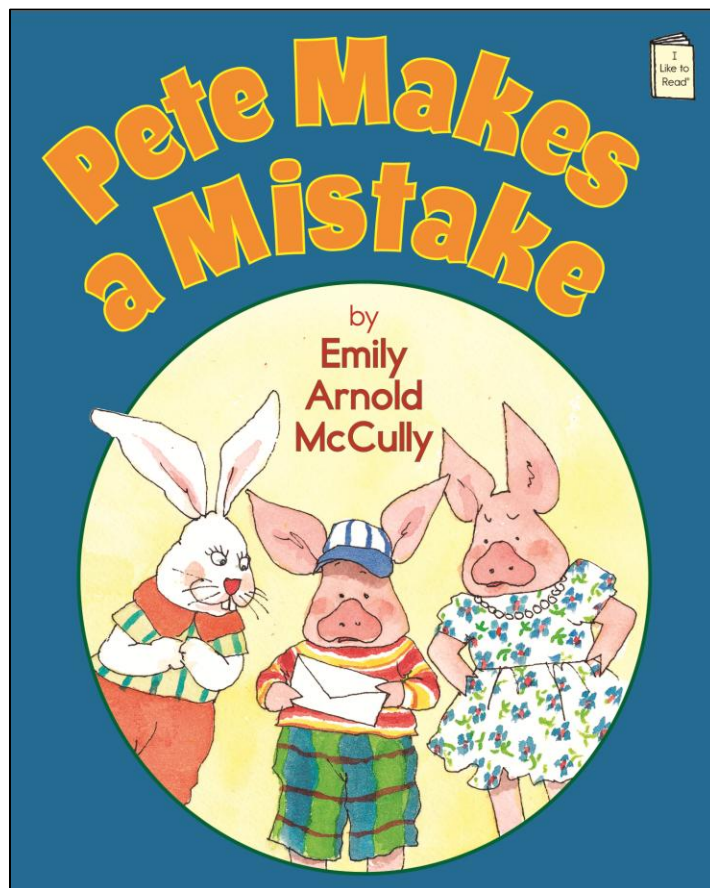
When I was pretty young—maybe second grade. I loved reading and drawing more than anything and began to dream of creating books for other people to read.

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If you could give any advice to young authors and illustrators, what would it be?

Do what you love. We live in a world with all kinds of pressures and temptations. It can seem that only the most popular things succeed. But trying to be popular doesn't really work. We can only do our best, with conviction.



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