

My Dad is An Alcoholic – Author & Illustrator Q&A

Bennett Treitler

How aware – or unaware – were you of your dad’s drinking problem?

Not too aware. I was too young.

Your artwork is a major contribution to the book. How did you get the ideas for the drawings?

Each of the chapters corresponds with the drawings. Since the potato represents vodka, it is good to have it fighting with the peanut to show the battles in the family and the genes. The chapter names peanut vs. potato represents a battle for attention, so I thought a fight in the ring made sense.

What advice would you personally give to kids who might have the ‘addiction gene’?

I would tell them to avoid alcohol. Never even start it. It’s all up to you and your choices. If your friends are pressuring you, tell them you are different than them. If they cannot understand it, they should not be your friends.

What do you hope kids – and their parents – take away from the book?

I hope that they take away that this gene is actually very serious that they should never activate it.