

# ***The Summer I Saved the World in 65 Days***

By Michele Weber Hurwitz

## **Annotation**

- Thirteen-year-old Nina starts her summer vacation by doing a random act of kindness for a neighbor. When she sees how well received this kind gesture is, she decides to spend her summer vacation secretly doing 64 more good deeds for her neighbors, friends and family (one good deed for every day of vacation). Will her random acts of kindness change the world or backfire?

## **Book Talk**

- Have you ever performed a random act of kindness for someone? The summer before her freshman year of high school, Nina is bored, feeling a little lost, and is drifting apart from her best friend. On the first day of summer vacation, she does a secret random act of kindness for a neighbor that is so well received, she decides to do more. Nina plans to do 65 secret acts of kindness - one for each day of the summer break - to see what happens. Will her kindness change the world or backfire?

## **Book Trailers**

- From Random House:  
<http://www.randomhousekids.com/videos/cpueztolfzg-the-summer-i-saved-the-world-in-65-days-book-trailer>

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://micheleweberhurwitz.com/>
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- Author's Mailing List: <http://micheleweberhurwitz.com/contact.php>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MicheleWHurwitz>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/micheleweberhurwitz>
- Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/michelehurwitz>

## **Items to use in a library display**

- Marigolds, Forget-Me-Nots, playing cards, a child's superhero cape, frogs, dog bone, baseball

## **Food**

- Hershey's Kiss, Brownies, Banana Bread, Spaghetti

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- Have you ever done a secret good deed for someone else? How did it make you feel?

- Did you think that Nina would be able to accomplish her goal of doing 65 good deeds before the end of the summer?
- Nina's grandmother believed in what she called STs - Simple Truths - such as "Things happen when they're meant to happen, and the sooner people realize that, the more content they'll be." (p. 1). What is a Simple Truth in which you believe?
- Which of Nina's secret good deeds was your favorite?

### **First Line of the Book:**

- "It starts with Mrs. Chung. And flowers. Marigolds."

### **What to Read Next**

- *Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel* by Diana Lopez

### **Other Books by this Author:**

- *Calli Be Gold* (Wendy Lamb Books, 2011).

### **Additional Resources**

- Interview with the author from Bookish:  
<http://evie-bookish.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/exclusive-trailer-reveal-giveaway.html>
- Interview with the author from Smack Dab in the Middle Blog:  
<http://smack-dab-in-the-middle.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/giveaway-interview-with-michele-weber.html>
- Guest post by the author on Unleashing Readers:  
<http://www.unleashingreaders.com/?p=3168>
- Interactive Map of Nina's Neighborhood:  
<http://micheleweberhurwitz.com/fun-stuff.php>
- Blog Post by the Author, "The Power of Small":  
<http://www.randomhousekids.com/blog/power-small#.Vtti1tAVVGg>
- Activity Idea: Celebrate Random Act of Kindness Day (February 17) by having students do kind deeds for other students and teachers at school.