



Introducing *Ollie's Field Journal: A 9/10^{ths} Happy Story from Africa*
Story By Patti McIntosh
Illustrated By Tara Langlois
Featuring Photography By Dustin Delfs

10-year old Ollie is on a mission!

Her mother has gone away to help children in far away Niger, Africa during the “hunger season,” a time when many children are hurt because they don’t have enough food – or enough good, nutritious food – to eat. Ollie’s mother tells her the children are suffering from malnutrition.

Ollie is happy her mother can help the children – but when Ollie receives a letter and photos from her mother she becomes inspired!

She decides she wants to tell the story about the children hurt by the hunger season and how they are being helped.

She sets out on a journey through four countries with her fact-finding equipment, 100 questions and three things she really wants to know:

1. What is malnutrition and why does it happen?
2. How can children suffering from malnutrition be helped (!)?
3. Why mothers make the best doctors.

Ollie interviews many people along her journey. And while in Niger, Ollie visits two types of hospitals and sees for herself how the children are being helped.

She is happy to report that the findings from her journey are 9/10^{ths} happy.

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Speaking about the catalyst for *Ollie's Field Journal*, author Patti McIntosh said: "The project was really inspired by two articles I read in Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Activity Reports. The first article described MSF's work with children and malnutrition during the crisis in Niger 2005 – and the success of their treatment protocol that Ollie calls the 'Peanut Paste Prescription' (which leads to a 9/10^{ths} success rate when given to children suffering from severe malnutrition). That gave us the idea for 9/10^{ths} happy story from Africa!

The second article talked about the influence of témoignage – the importance of speaking out or bearing witness – on MSF's work. Our approach to making *Ollie* was really influenced by that. We were always mindful of looking at the problem of malnutrition and children through the eyes of a 10-year old who is directly bearing witness to a huge problem.

The unique design of the special edition for *Ollie* builds on this idea témoignage. Says illustrator Tara Langlois: "The book is designed to reflect how a child might bear witness. It is a journal complete with photos and keepsakes and 'notes to self.' And the special edition invites other young activists to become involved in Ollie's campaign to spread the news of the Peanut Paste Prescription."

Ollie's Field Journal: A 9/10^{ths} Happy Story from Africa is the second book by Tara Langlois and Patti McIntosh focused on international children's issues.

Their first book, *The Remarkable Maria*, won Children's Book of the Year at the 2006 Alberta Book Awards, was named Best of the Best by the Edmonton Public School Board and was short-listed for the Ontario Library Association's 2007 Silver Birch Awards.

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