# Kids Don't Have to Become President to Become Deciders

**Finding picture books for kids old enough to appreciate them can be a daunting task.** There are, of course, the usual suspects—celebs, athletes, boy bands, girl bands, and so on, but not much of substance.

That's where David Janosz Jr. enters the picture. With his 2014 picture book release, *Engineers Decide,* an interactive iBook available free through March 31 in 51 countries and supported by iBooks, Janosz hopes to fill a void. Indeed, turns out he could find *no* books related to engineering when looking for his son. (Janosz, with 18 years' experience designing and delivering STEM education programs nationally and internationally, focuses on technology and engineering topics.)

"I wrote and published *Engineers Decide* because I want every young person to be able to envision him or herself doing engineering," Janosz says. "I know that most will not become engineers, but too many children never even see the possibility."

Backing up those words with deeds, Janosz and iBooks are making *Engineers Decide* available absolutely free through March 31.
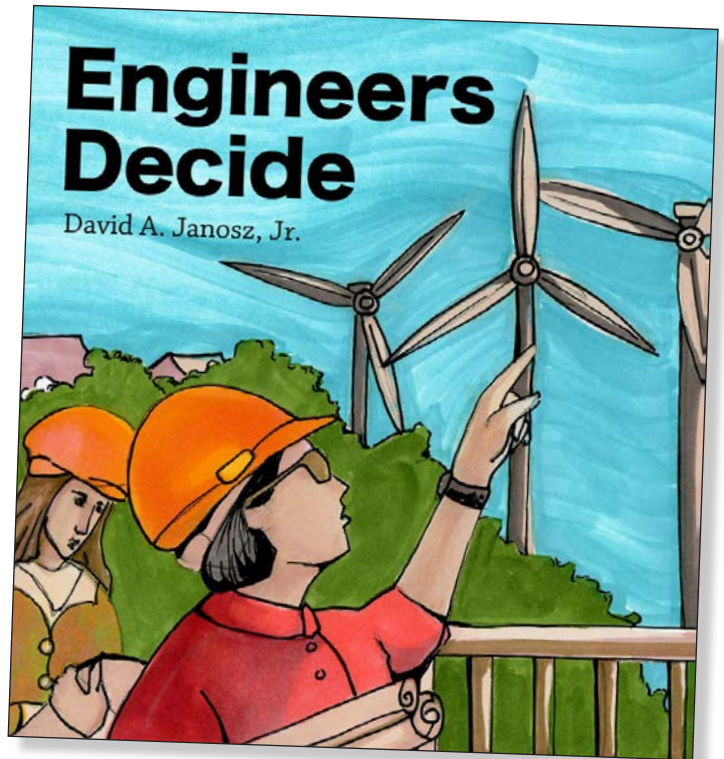
Curious? Here's a brief synopsis from the publisher:

Awaken the young engineer within your student or child. Ideal for ages five through ten, *Engineers Decide* explains that engineering isn't about "things" but about individuals, inspired to bring forth the discoveries that will change our world. By instilling the joy of designing the future – whether as part of a team or working solo – *Engineers Decide* ignites children's curiosity to the wonders of applying their imagination to meet fresh challenges. Engineers deciding upon solutions for product development, as well as all sorts of inventions familiar to children, are described simply and depicted with colorful artwork. And photos show children actively participating in the adventure of discovering next-generation technology. Filled with interactive graphics and videos, *Engineers Decide* stirs tomorrow's engineers to realize their potential by exploring this exciting field.

According the publisher's press release, "The book tackles subject matter that has, to date, never been published in an interactive, electronic format." And, it is loaded with interactive multimedia and multi-touch tools available through iBooks Author and is exclusively made for iBooks—Apple's leading eBook platform.

Janosz called upon his valuable years of experience as a teacher in creating a book that would look good and read well.

"We used colorful, vibrant artwork and simple, effective language," Janosz says. "Photos show children actively participating in the adventure of discovering next-generation technology. Further, the iBook is filled with interactive graphics, videos and a drawing scratchpad. It's truly about exploration, not just teaching."



But perhaps the flavor of the book is best captured in a blog (*kjwwblog.com*) by Kelly Altes, an engineer and mother of two boys:

"The book is published electronically, so it can be downloaded to an iPad or a Mac. The best part about digital books is the ability for the author to create interactive opportunities. No longer is book reading just about just reading the words on the page. When reading *Engineers Decide*, children can touch/click on the interactive window on each page and see more pictures, draw a picture of their own, or watch a video.

"I scanned through the book and thought it was pretty good, but I decided to give it the true test by reading it to my boys, and letting them interact. My husband and I are both engineers, and are always looking for educational books the boys will enjoy. My boys are 4 and 2, so they are a little younger than the recommended 5-to-10 age, but no matter. They sat quietly and listened to me read, then anxiously touched the pictures to see what would happen. I asked my oldest boy at the end of the book, 'Alexander, what do engineers do?'

"He replied, 'Mommy, *engineers decide*!'" **PTE**

*(Engineers Decide* is available now (free until March 31) and can be downloaded from the iBooks Store on an iPad or *OSX Mavericks*. To download the iBook, visit *http://tinyurl.com/engineersdecide.)*