

About the Authors



Debbie Silver, retired teacher, speaker, author, and humorist, is an advocate for teachers and for students. She taught for over 30 years as a classroom teacher, teacher leader, and university professor. Along the way, she taught nearly every grade level and nearly every kind of student. She wrote the best-selling books *Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers* and *Fall Down 7 Times, Get Up 8: Teaching Kids to Succeed*. This award-winning former Louisiana State Teacher of the Year now lives in Texas and travels throughout the United States and abroad working with those who want to improve education.



Jack C. Berckemeyer, author, presenter, consultant, and humorist, is from Denver, Colorado. He was a classroom teacher and worked for the National Middle School Association (currently AMLE) as the assistant executive director for 13 years and now is the owner of Berckemeyer Consulting Group. He runs the Nuts and Bolts Ready to Lead, Teach and Learn Symposiums and works with schools all over the world. He is the author of *Managing the Madness* and *Taming of the Team* and coauthor of *H.E.L.P. for Teachers* with Judith Baenen.



Judith Baenen is an international speaker and consultant focusing on the middle grades. She was a classroom teacher, headmaster of an independent school, and former director of member services for the National Middle School Association (AMLE). She is the author of AMLE's best-selling pamphlets, *H.E.L.P.* and *More H.E.L.P.*, and she coauthored *H.E.L.P. for Teachers* with Jack Berckemeyer. For several years, she was editor of AMLE's *Family Connection*. Her humorous presentations and workshops centering on young adolescent development and engaging families with schools have made her a popular speaker throughout the United States and on almost every continent. (She's still waiting for a call from Antarctica.)