

A delightful and distinctive picture book about Dr. Virginia Apgar, who invented the eponymous test for evaluating newborn health used worldwide every day.

The Apgar Score is known worldwide as a test given to babies to determine their health moments after birth. Less well-known is the story of the brilliant, pioneering woman who invented it.

Born at the turn of the twentieth century, Virginia “Ginny” Apgar soared above what girls were expected to do—or not do. She wasn’t quiet, wore all sorts of outfits, played the sports she wanted to, and pursued her chosen career, graduating near the top of her class at Columbia University and becoming only the second board-certified female anesthesiologist in the United States. The simple five-step test she created—scribbled on the back of a piece of paper to answer a trainee’s question—became the medical standard and continues to impact countless newborn babies’ lives today.

Ginny adored science, hated cooking, drove fast, made her own violins, earned a pilot’s license, and traveled the world. Here, Carrie Pearson’s jaunty storytelling and Nancy Carpenter’s playful illustrations capture the energy and independence of a woman who didn’t slow down for anything—and changed newborn care forever.