

Kiddliomag

A Kids Magazine

Janine Iannelli

Cover Story

Saturday My Favorite Day!

Tasha Michelle

Mommy,
What Is Lupus?

Nadria Givens

Jasper The Island Hopper

Audrey Lavigne

We Can All Be Friends

Kacey E. Peterkin

A Christmas Love Story

Maureen McCabe

No Ducking Discipline

Toni J Hammond

Lizzie B. Hayes and
the Great Camp Caper

KP Carter

The Holly-Day After

Danielle Marietta

Chefboyprince Travels

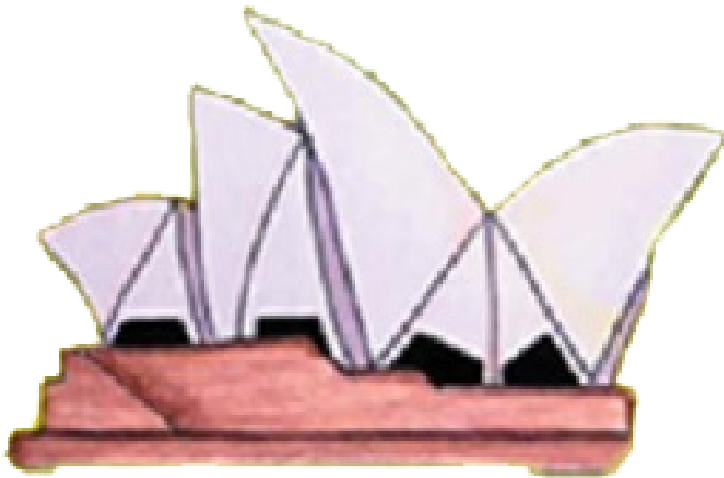
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Editor's Note

Hello Readers,

Diwali is one festival that harmoniously binds all of us through a common emotion of immense bliss. In this edition, we've put together some amazing books for you to cheer through this Festival season. To fill lights in your festival moods, we have interesting activities like Thanksgiving Maths Fun, Dinosaurs Spot, Diwali sweets, and so much more to explore in this edition. I hope you will like it, and please do not forget to share your feedback. We are looking for writers and artists like you, so please send us your stories and drawings at kidliomag@gmail.com.

Happy Diwali
Happy Thanksgiving and
Happy Reading!

Dhruvin Dharmendra

**DHRUVIN
DHARMENDRA**



Little James' Big Adventures

AUTHOR INTERVIEW



Janine Iannelli
Michelle Iannelli



Q: First tell us something about yourself ?

I love to travel and I lived overseas for a number of years. My journalism degree is from the University of Tasmania. I believe travel expands our worldview and makes us more open minded individuals. I'm so grateful for my experiences and I would love to make these experiences possible for all children. I always had the interest to travel when I was a child but it wasn't something my family did. Finally traveling as an adult I see it as something that would be so powerful and positive for children in so many ways. That's why I created this series. I added the fantasy aspect with the magic globe because my favorite books and movies as a kid had some type of magical element to them.

Q: How and when did your journey start as a writer?

As soon as I could hold a pencil. I had a pink marble notebook that I would write short poems in. I might have been in kindergarten when it started.

Q: When did you write your first story? Is it published or not?

I don't remember my very first story. I used to write so much when I was very young that I don't recall a specific first story.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

I love writing these books with all my heart. I myself learn so much writing them and I get to meet such lovely people in the process.

Q: Why do you choose kids as your reader ? Is there any specific reason?

I believe children are the future and if we want to create more open minded and globally aware adults we have to start with the children.

Q: How did these stories and characters come to your mind?

I thought of the story over dinner one night while talking with my family about my travels. I was telling them how it's changed my perspective on so many things and how I was so grateful for the impact travel had on me. Then I just came out with a quick idea for a kids book series that took kids to a different country in each book. I hadn't thought about it before I said it out loud and now it's such a large part of my life.

Q: Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

Appreciate all cultures and enjoy what makes each place and people unique.



Little James and his younger sister Susie go on Big adventures together around the world using their magic snow globe. In each book they pick a different country to explore. They learn new phrases, see famous landmarks and cities, taste new foods and sometimes even make friends.

This fun and exciting story takes each child on an educational adventure with characters they grow to love.

There are currently 5 books out. Australia, Italy, Japan, Tanzania and our Christmas special/Prequel, 'The Globe.' And we are passionately working to put out 3-4 books a year. When I say we I mean my sister and I. She illustrates and I write.

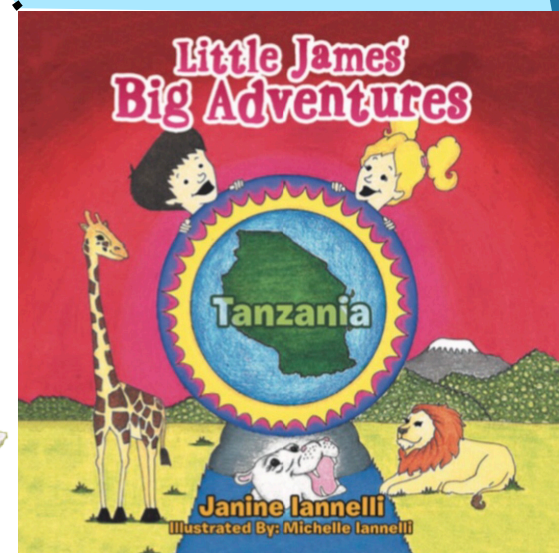


amazon



TANZANIA

In this title, Little James and Susie visit the country of Tanzania! While in Tanzania they go on a safari through the Serengeti where they see amazing animals like giraffes, rhinos, hippos, elephants, lions and much more! They also visit hot springs, try new and delicious foods and make friends with a boy from the Maasai tribe. This little boy is welcoming and kind and shows James and Susie how he and his family live off the land. Little James also speaks some phrases in Swahili to be a respectful tourist.



Author Interview

Q First tell us something about yourself?

My name is Audrey Lavigne (married Lepair), and I was born and raised in the Seychelles. I am a mother to an amazing daughter Alyssa Testa, and together with my husband James Lepair, we live at Anse Lazio, Praslin. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Business Leadership, both from the University of London. I enjoy writing, cooking, travelling, and spending time with my family and my adorable dog Jasper, who is like a second child to me.

I grew up with my wonderful mother Marylene who has been my pillar all throughout whenever things got tough for me, my 2 sisters, Roseline and Juliette, and a brother, Olivier.

Q How and when did your journey start as a writer?

From an early age, I have always been a vivid bookworm, and my favourite author as a child was Enid Blyton with her well-known series of The Famous Five. When I was a teenager, I used to write short stories and poems, and one of my stories was told out loud on the Seychelles radio when I was 12, and from that moment I knew that one day I would be an author.

Q When did you write your first story? Is it published or not?

My first book was published last October 2020, and I have published 7 books so far:

Jasper the Island Hopper; A Day On Mahe, Jasper the Island Hopper; An Adventure On Praslin, Jasper the Island Hopper; A Trip to La Digue, Jasper the Island Hopper; A Boat Ride , Christmas Countdown with Jasper the Island Hopper, An Only Child's Diary; A New Life, which is also another series but more for girls 8 to 12 years. It is about the life of a 12 year-old girl living in Seychelles and she shares it all in diaries

An Only Child's Diary; A Sunny Christmas.



Audrey Lavigne

Q Tell us something more about your books?

As a proud Seychellois who feels so blessed to live in the most beautiful country in the world, I hope that my books promote Seychelles, as most of them contain interesting facts about these spectacular islands of ours. They also promote good behaviours in children.

Q Why do you choose kids as your reader ? is there any specific reason?

I strongly believe that reading should be encouraged from a very early age, and that is why I chose kids as my readers, However, as most children's books are read by parents and teachers, too, I wish to share my books' content to both adults and children. Hence, I have donated some of my books to schools here locally and I plan to continue to do so in the future.



Jasper is an adventurous dog who adores island hopping, hence the name. In each book, Jasper visits one island with the help of a tour guide(a different animal in each story). While discovering and learning new facts about each island, Jasper also helps a child in danger in each book.

A great collection of travel books for kids 4 to 10. With its candid illustrations this educational travel series bring the islands of Seychelles to life.



Q How did these stories and characters come to your mind?

Jasper is my lovely dog in real life. He is now 3 years old and I treat him like my own child. I chose Jasper to be the main character in my picture book series 'Jasper the Island Hopper', because children in general, adore animals and more so if they bring an adventurous story for them to follow. And Jasper does that very much. In this series, Jasper goes island hopping, hence the name, and in each book, he visits a different island of Seychelles, whereby he is greeted by a tour guide, another animal character, and together they explore the island. Written in rhymes with their candid illustrations, these educational books allow children to Travel to Seychelles without being there physically. My other series, An Only Child's Diary is based on a real life story about my one and only daughter, Alyssa. It is in a diary format whereby Alyssa shares her life on an island of one of the smallest countries in the world. She writes about how she deals with her issues as a girl growing up and also a lot of interesting facts about Seychelles. Hence it is also a series where kids can learn a lot from.

An Only Child's Diary

Despite being the only child in the family, Alyssa, an 11 year old girl, has an imaginary sister, Hope, to whom she writes about her daily life, all in her diaries. Enjoy the stories of this beautiful girl and learn how she deals with different issues of growing up such as building self esteem and other social issues such as peer pressure and bullying. Moreover, Alyssa shares great facts about her country, the Seychelles. Not only will you be inspired by her courage, but you will fall in love with her wonderful personality.

Jasper The Island Hopper



Q Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

I am currently working on a lot more books. My plan is to publish my children's books first, then concentrate on my adults' books next year.

I hope that at least one of my books will touch your heart, and if they make you smile, then this makes me the richest author on earth.

All I want to be known and remembered as is simply: "A proud Seychellois author who promotes our stunning country."

Website: www.audreylavigneauthor.com





amazon

A Christmas Love Story

Nicholas Nutcracker & Brittany Ballerina

The story of two engaging Christmas tree ornaments: Nicholas Nutcracker, a retired toy-soldier from a small village in Germany, and Brittany Ballerina, a world-renowned ornament ballet dancer, are both in search of their true love. "I will find my true love with 'word-of-mouth marketing!'" exclaims Nicholas determined to find his true love this Christmas. Or, maybe they will meet at the annual "Meet and Mingle of the Christmas Ornaments?" Nicholas and Brittany are both more than ready to find their true love before they go back into their boxes in the attic for another year.



Maureen McCabe

Q: First tell us something about yourself?

Well, I'm a baby boomer, which means I've been around quite a long time. In fact, my year of birth was 1951 in a whole different century. In other words, by some kid's standards, I would be considered ancient.

Q: How and when did your journey start as a writer?

I've always liked writing short stories, newsletter articles, and marketing materials. So, it was something I enjoyed doing at a fairly young age.

Q: When did you write your first story? Is it published or not?

My first book "Moon Over Vaudeville" was a story about my father who tap danced across the United States as a young man in something called "Vaudeville" which was a form of entertainment with lots of different acts held at local theaters back in the 1930s. There were so many different types of acts: singers, dancers, magicians, comedians, clowns, trained animals to name a few. I self-published it in 2011.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

My writing is eclectic like me. I'm working on a historical biography about a famous NYC photographer with another writer. It's been a labor of love, but it's been rather slow-moving a bit like a turtle. Some day we will finish it up.

Q: Why do you choose kids as your reader? Is there any specific reason?

Honestly, I had no idea I was going to write a children's Christmas story. After watching a multitude of Hallmark Christmas movies, the story came to me while I put away our Christmas ornaments. It was the start of the pandemic and it kept me busy for months and months. And, just so you know, even though "Christmas" is a religious holiday to many, my book is not religious. It's about two Christmas ornaments searching for true love. I think little girls will especially like it from the ages of about 4-8. My husband told me, although he thought my story was "cute," he thought little boys might be more interested in stories about cars, trucks, and trains.

Q: How did these stories and characters come to your mind?

The story of Nicholas Nutcracker & Brittany Ballerina was inspired by clip art featuring a nutcracker & ballerina hanging on the same branch. I imagined what might be going on for the nutcracker & ballerina between Christmases after they went back into storage until the following Christmas. And, it seemed like it might be kind of lonely. And, my Hallmark movie viewing led me to a story about these two ornaments searching for their true love! It was such fun being completely in the moment with my characters while I was writing and tweaking the story.

Q: Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

After a tumultuous couple of years in the world, my message for children and their parents is to strive for world peace, and let it begin with all of us in our daily lives. Start small at home by being nice to your family. Then try being nice to your teachers, neighbors and strangers. There's a quote I wrote on the Christmas Choir page: "Spread kindness. Embrace diversity. Fight for peace." And, it's up to all of us to make things better for all people, all over the world. Whatever holiday you celebrate, may it bring you peace, love, and joy!



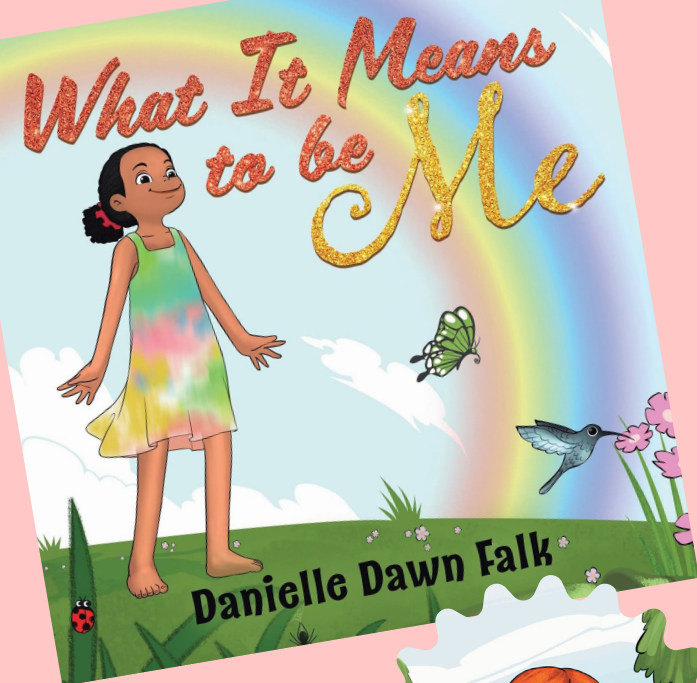
What It Means To Be Me

"I am me as can be..."

Encouraging and heartfelt, "What It Means to Be Me" takes readers on an inspiring journey of self-discovery and self-worth. Written in rhyme, this is an engaging read about learning, dreaming and growing, and is meant for absolutely anyone to connect with the message of this sweet story.

Read along and celebrate everything it means to be your own true self.

amazon



I Was born to be me, my own true self.
I am me as can be. I am like no one else.



My Life has a special purpose
I am on a Unique journey.



I Am A Book



I am a book,
Just take a look!

I am what you think,
I transform your imagination at a wink!

I see what you like,
From Monuments till people alike!

I am your Learning light,
To seek wondrous worlds of delight!

I make you feel majestic,
with magicians and work artistic!

I show you the world,
From skies to the sea swirled!

I am a book, just take a look!
The experience i share,
Will forever keep you on the hook!

-Neha Sama



KP CARTER

Q: First tell us something about yourself?

My name is KP Carter, children's book author, speaker and educational consultant. I am a lifelong educator with 35 years of experience in the field of public education. Although teaching 4th grade was my "sweet spot," I also had the awesome privilege to teach students in grades 5 through 8. I spent the last few years before retirement as the Director of Language Arts and Testing in a school district of 7,000 students. I am also known as The Literacy Whisperer because my goal is to ignite, elevate and energize children's literacy skills.

Through my company KP Carter Writes LLC, I provide a parent workshop series, Ten Steps to Reading Success Progressive Parents Promoting Literacy. I share helpful practices that equip parents with tools to support their children on the journey to become competent confident readers.

I earned a B.A in elementary education and studied to become a reading specialist to earn my M.Ed. degree.

Q: How and when did your journey start as a writer?

I have actually been writing all my life. As a little girl, writing in my diary was my way of processing life. A typical after school activity was spent writing "lessons" to "teach" my dolls and toys how to "read," just for the fun of it.

Q: When did you write your first story? Is it published or not?

My debut children's book, Summertime with Lizzie B. Hayes, was independently published in 2014.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

The coming of age Lizzie B. Hayes middle grade series is about family love, perseverance, bullying prevention, social issues, and courage.

When readers first meet Lizzie, she is a precocious accident-prone 8-year-old girl with a quirky sense of humor.

Book one, Summertime with Lizzie B. Hayes, is set in the summer of 1967 in Newark, NJ. The infamous summer of unrest is told through the innocent eyes of a child. A child who just wants to experience the usual joys of the summer.

Book two, Lizzie B. Hayes and the Great Camp Caper, picks up two years later and chronicles Lizzie's adventures at sleep away camp.

I plan to release book three, Lizzie B. Hayes and the 7th Grade Secret in 2022.

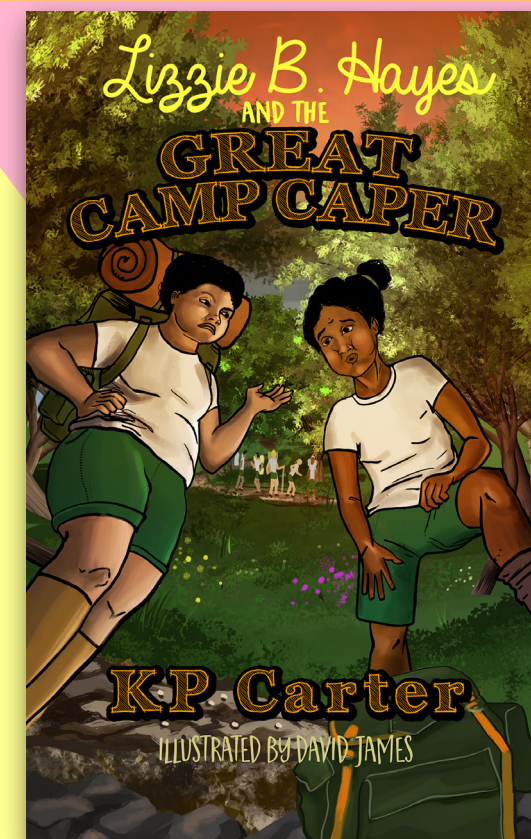


Summertime with Lizzie B. Hayes chronicles the adventures of an 8-year-old, 3 generations of her colorful family, and the eventful summer of 1967. Lizzie can't wait to kick off her summer vacation of nonstop fun with her cousins Shu Shu, Mookie, and all the kids in her beloved Newark, NJ neighborhood. Always wanting to be the center of attention, Lizzie is up to her sleeves to guarantee that all eyes are on her. But this summer, Lizzie's life and the lives of everyone in the neighborhood are changed forever.

The book transports readers to a simpler time when kids played outdoors until the street lights came on and most families gathered around the table for dinner. But the 1960's was one of the most turbulent times in the United States.

Young readers gain a historical perspective of the 1960's through the innocent eyes of a child. Adults enjoy a walk down memory lane and use the book as a resource to help children process life's challenges and the events of the summer of 1967 in Newark, NJ.

amazon



Q: Why do you choose kids as your reader? Is there any specific reason?

I spent my entire professional career helping children to discover the joy of literacy and tutoring children who required literacy support. Many of the children I encountered over the years read exceptionally well. Yet, there were others with significant literacy challenges. I know that all children, in spite of their ability level, deserve to read great stories. All children need stories that they can relate to, get lost in, find joy, and be inspired to be their best selves.

Q: How did these stories and characters come to your mind?

The characters are based on many of the experiences I had as a child and students I had the privilege to teach over the years in the classroom.

Q: Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

I hope you find joy between the pages of the Lizzie B. Hayes series. Also, do your best to make reading for pleasure a regular habit. Don't just settle for the required reading assignments from your teacher or parent. Lastly, toss out the belief that you don't like reading and just keep searching until you find the right book!

LIZZIE B. HAYES AND THE GREAT CAMP CAPER

Lizzie B. Hayes and the Great Camp Caper, picks up two years after the 1967 Newark, NJ rebellion. Thanks to her mother's tenacity, Lizzie wins a Girl Scout Cookie contest. The prize is an all-expense paid two-week camping trip. For the first time, Lizzie must learn to care for herself without the protection of her loving family.

Filled with mixed emotions, Lizzie begins another two-week summer adventure. While waiting for the bus to Camp Chicktawanga, Lizzie encounters one of the grouchiest girls she has ever met. From the moment Lizzie and "the sour-lemon sucking face" girl meet, she decides to stay out of her way. Trouble begins the moment Lizzie, Coco, and the other two cabin mates head up the dusty trail to the last cabin on the left. To top it off, an overnight hike takes a turn for the worse when Lizzie and Coco become separated from the rest of the campers. Will they learn to rely on each other to survive in the woods? What is the real reason Coco bullies everyone?

Ingredients

1/2 Cup Ragi flour
 1cup Oats flour
 20 Dates (ripe)
 1/4 cup Milk
 1/2 cup Honey
 3 tbsp Ghee
 1 tsp Green cardamom powder
 1/4 cup White sesame seeds
 1/4 cup Coconut powder
 12 Cashew nuts

RAGI OATS LADDO RECIPE



1. Take 1 tbsp of **ghee** in a pan and roast the **OATS FLOUR** on low flame for a few minutes.
2. Now take another pan and heat the remaining ghee and roast ragi flour until the rawness is removed on low flame.
3. Now mix the oats flour in the **ragi flour** and mix well keeping on low flame.
4. Now add the dates, paste into it and mix well.
5. Then add half of the **honey** and mix.
6. Now add **CARDAMOM POWDER** and mix well. Keep on low flame for few minutes and off the stove.
7. Take the mixture out of the stove and let it cool for some time.
8. Now add the pieces of dates.
9. Now add the remaining honey and mix well into the dough.
10. Now take some dough into hand and put a cashew and make it in the form of laddo.
11. Mix the sesame seeds into coconut powder.
12. Now roll the laddo in this mixture and coat it.
13. Do the same with remaining dough and serve them.

Enjoy!



STORY



Story Behind DIWALI



Diwali is India's most important festival of the year—a time to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. Widely observed among more than a billion people from a variety of faiths across India and its diaspora, the five days of Diwali are marked by prayer, feasts, fireworks, family gatherings, and charitable giving.

When Lord Rama his brother Lakshmana and Rama's wife Sita were in exile Demon king Ravana abducted Sita and took her to his island Lanka. Then Lord Rama along with his brother Lakshman and an amazing monkey God holding unparalleled powers- Hanuman ranged a war against Lanka King Ravana and defeated him.

On return of Lord Rama after fourteen year exile to his kingdom earthen lamps were lit throughout the kingdom and was celebrated as Diwali for the first time.

During Diwali, people wear their finest clothes, illuminate the interior and exterior of their homes with diyas and rangoli, perform worship ceremonies of Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity and wealth, light fireworks, and partake in family feasts, where mithai (sweets) and gifts are shared.

Festival Of
Lights





AUTHOR INTERVIEW

THE HOLLY-DAY AFTER

Q: First tell us something about yourself?

I have 3 beautiful children who I have grown closer with over the last year plus of lockdown. It's been a blessing to be there for moments I would have otherwise missed. In fact, my writing picked up while homeschooling my 3rd grader and telling him to constantly think outside of the box and then go one step further when doing his writing assignments.

Q: How and when did your journey start as a writer?

I have enjoyed writing for as long as I can remember. When I was in junior high and high school, I'd journal, write songs and other little skits. Writing became more serious when I entered college at Howard University and decided to major in journalism. While attending, I wrote for the university newspaper and the radio station, but was often told my writing was "too creative" for news reporting. That should have been my sign right there!

Q: When did you write your first story? Is it published or not?

A few years ago I began putting together a story of a little girl and her doll. One story turned into two and now we are going on four. When I finally spoke the words out loud that I wanted to become a published author, that was the book I thought would be my first. While editing those stories, another blossomed and quickly took center stage. I am currently celebrating Christmas in July and the official launch of my debut children's book The Holly-day After!

But don't worry, the illustrations for the series will begin in 2022 to accommodate the very busy and talented illustrator, Masha Klot. Masha also happens to be the illustrator of The Holly-day After and I knew without a doubt, it would be worth the wait to work together again!

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

My book, The Holly-day After, is a new holiday tale. Where most Christmas books focus on the days leading up to Christmas and the night itself, this story begins after Santa has delivered the last package. Readers will be able to explore the idea of what Santa's family does to celebrate and some of their traditions in the North Pole. It's a new story that not only children will enjoy, but the older readers, too.



Q: Why do you choose kids as your reader? is there any specific reason?

Writing for children brings me joy because they feel emotions so strongly. When they like something, they love it! They are also so open to new ideas and worlds, where not all adults are as free thinking. Seeing the joy on my children's faces when I make up a silly bedtime story is the fuel for me to keep writing. I long for the next glimmer of excitement in their eyes.

Q: How did these stories and characters come to your mind?

When reality hit early last year that we wouldn't be seeing our family for quite some time, the story began to develop. I started thinking more about the holidays and how it was important the kids knew it wasn't just about presents and physically being together. I thought a lot about the things I value doing with my children and something new I've been wanting to do, plant trees each year. Everything came together so smoothly and before I knew it, the children in this book seemed a lot like mine. From their ages, sense of style, looks and even cleanliness levels during a pancake competition, it's pretty similar. And they get a kick out of it, too!

Q: Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

I hope anyone who reads this story is filled with the joy of the holiday season, no matter the time of year. I hope this book helps remind children, and adults, what is important most is time spent together and time giving back. That may look different for each person or family, but I do hope that this story becomes a Christmas tradition for all. If pancakes the day after Christmas become a tradition too, that's icing on the cake...pancake that is!



amazon



Danielle Marietta

CHEFBOYPRINCE TRAVELS

series 1 Jamaica

By Glenroy Brown
and Marcus ColeIllustrated by
Natia Goglashvili

Chef Boy Prince Travels' follows our young ambitious chef, as he embarks on amazing culinary adventures in the most beautiful countries in the world. With each visit, Chef Boy Prince meets extraordinary Master Chefs and other fantastical characters, preparing a delicious version of that country's famous dishes. During Chef Boy Prince's travels adventures, readers will learn lessons that can be applied in everyday life and any profession, but, most importantly, in the kitchen. Each adventure will find our hero inspiring kids to learn about food, different cultures, and basic cooking skills that they can use for a lifetime! Chef Boy Prince's goal is for every boy and girl to understand the importance of working together and believing in themselves regardless of their differences. Plus, making yummy-licious dishes!

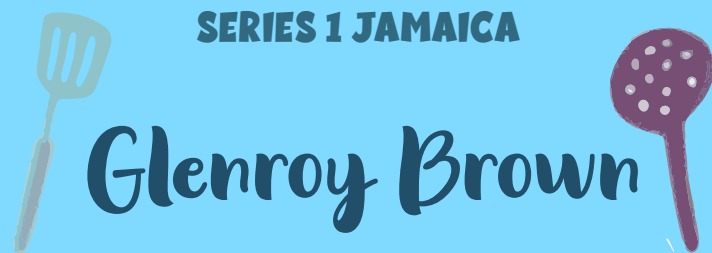
amazon

Marcus Cole

Marcus Cole grew up an only child and "military-brat" in Fayetteville, North Carolina. As a youth, he enjoyed writing and like many young boys became fascinated with the game of football. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, where he also spent countless hours in the School of Journalism. Marcus has spent the past 10 years working in technology and considers his faith and family to be the most important aspects in his life. He and his beautiful wife, Machiko, have two amazing daughters, McKenzie and Mina, a dancer and a chef, respectively. Marcus enjoys sports, cooking, and traveling with family. Chefboyprince Travels is his first project.

CHEFBOYPRINCE TRAVELS

SERIES 1 JAMAICA



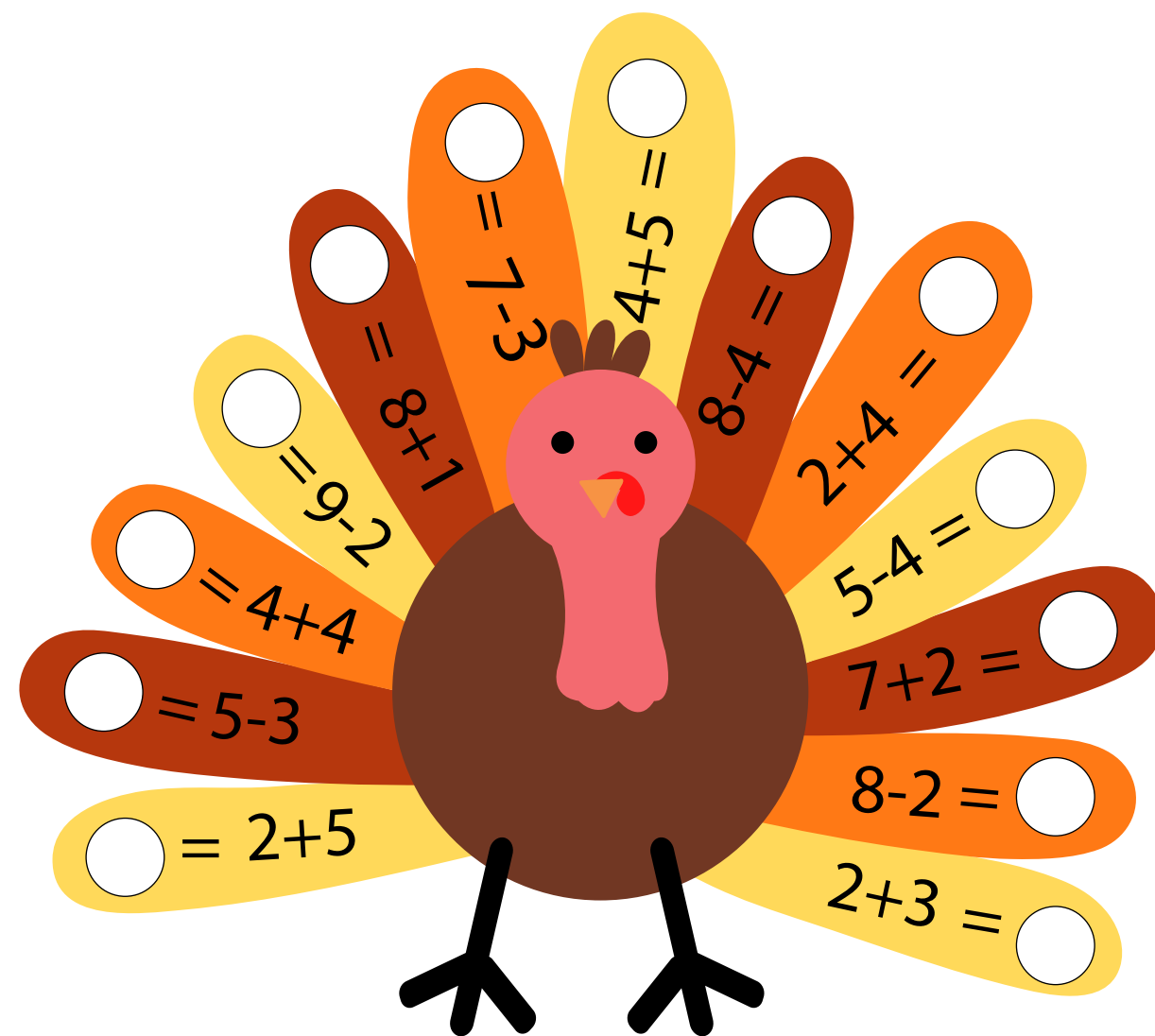
Glenroy Brown was born and raised in Kingston Jamaica in 1988. When he was 12 years old, he came to the US with his mother and settled in New York. There he began to experiment with seasonal foods of the North East with his traditional West Indian style of cooking he learned from his grandmother. During the suspension of service and closures of the Covid-19 Pandemic, after 11 years in the restaurant industry, Glenroy made the decision to pursue his own venture, established ChefBoyPrince Catering & consulting Co. The company has gotten off to a fast start, catering to the NBA in Orlando during the time they spent in the bubble, and recently traveled to Costa Rica. Glenroy is a first time author 'chefboyprince travels series1 Jamaica' which is the first of a 7 part series, highlighting traveling and cooking with kids, things that Glenroy loves to do! "Hard work is definitely paying off and it's only the start of something I want to share with world and the next generation" - Glenroy Brown



THANKSGIVING

MATH FUN

Add And Subtract The Given Numbers
And Write The Answer In The Circle



We Can All Be Friends

Kacey E. Peterkin



Q: First tell us something about yourself?

My name is Kacey Peterkin and I am five years old. I am a Kindergartener living in Columbia, South Carolina. I am an author and also the co-founder of the #we-needtobettercampaign. I love everything about unicorns and rainbows. I also like making videos for my Youtube channel.

Q: How and when did your journey start as a writer?

I started writing this year after I experienced a bad incident. During Spring Break this year, I was at a local playground when I experienced prejudice from another small child who refused to play with me. The young child also told another little girl that I was playing with, not to be my friend and I was left alone on the playground to play by myself.

Q: When did you write your first story? Is it published or not?

I wrote my first story with the help of my parents in March 2021. It was published on June 15, 2021.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

I am working on other stories, but those are currently in the draft stage. However, my published book is called We Can All Be Friends and it is on Amazon. It is about Cassidy, a young girl who moved to a new city and a new school. On her first day she encountered one little girl not wanting to play with her because she was seen as different. My book was written to teach acceptance of differences as well as tolerance and just kindness.

Q: Why do you choose kids as your reader? Is there any specific reason?

Well I am a kid so I write for kids like me. I think it is important to teach children to love and be kind from an early age. They will grow up to be good adults that way.

Q: How did these stories and characters come to your mind?

I was sad about what happened at the park so my mom told me to write about it. I began drawing pictures and would tell my mom about what I drew and we had a story. She helped me put my drawings into words. The story and characters were based on my own story so it was not hard coming up with it.

Q: Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

I want people who read my story to know that just because we are different doesn't mean we have to be treated differently. We can still be kind and loving. I hope young children can learn from my story.

WE CAN ALL BE FRIENDS



by
Kacey E. Peterkin

After moving to the city of Kensington, Cassidy was excited for her first day at her new school. However her day did not go as planned as one girl was not as welcoming as Cassidy had hoped and she went home crying.

Cassidy and her parents actions quickly set into motion a series of events that led to the girls to better understand each other and eventually becoming friends.

Find out what will happen in this book that teaches us about tolerance and acceptance of our differences. This book is perfect for those who believe that we are more alike than we are different and can see the uniqueness in each and everyone of us.

amazon



SATURDAY

MY FAVORITE DAY!

Q: First tell us something about yourself?

Let's see! I am a Pittsburgh Native, and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. I graduated with a BA in Performing Arts. I am a singer, songwriter, actress and now AUTHOR! I still get butterflies a little when I say that. Actually A LOT of butterflies, ha ha ha! Now I live in New York, and tour often as a background vocalist for different Artists. When I'm not touring I am creating programming for youth and young adults, advocating for after-school programming and fighting to put the arts back into public schools. I love mentoring youth!

Q: How and when did your journey start as a writer?

LATE! Okay, I guess as long as you're alive it's never too late, but I honestly just started to seriously sit down and make this dream happen to write children's books during the pandemic. I've always written songs and music but with all of the performing arts shows and touring shut down I finally had time to sit down long enough and really see MY OWN vision through in writing books that I have had since I was a child. I've had so many stories and characters swimming in my head for so many years. Even with all the wonderful things that were going on in my life, I often remember walking down the Children's Books isle in various stores and I would start to feel so sad. I know it was because deep down I knew I had something to contribute to that world. There was a part of my calling, as we say in the church, that I was not fulfilling yet and the passion to do it was bubbling inside me for many years!

Q: When did you write your first story? Is it published or not?

I started to write my first story around 2017, and I put it down, due to all the performing arts commitments then in 2019 I felt that writing tug again heavy. In many ways Lyric, my main character, helped me through the rough part of quarantine. I felt as if in the middle of so much sadness and devastation, she kept reminding me to remember and hold on to the foundation of my joy and that was family, tradition, and culture. On the worst days of the pandemic I would, at times, have sudden floods of memories of my childhood. What I did and who was around me. Because Social media was the one thing we could all still have access to that made us all feel connected to each other while we were all tucked away in our homes, I would watch a lot of videos of children and how they made us laugh being curious and just enjoying their childhood experiences. Here we are now, a whole 2 years later, and "Saturday My Favorite Day" and Lyric are now published!



amazon



TASHA MICHELLE

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

"Saturday My Favorite Day" is a simple story that celebrates family, culture, and tradition! This book is a celebration specifically looking at a black family and Lyric's love of spending time with her family. It's a celebration of being able to share a little of our childhood with every family in the classroom, in the library, and in all spaces in which we swap stories! Storytelling is a universal culture!

Q: Why do you choose kids as your reader? Is there any specific reason?

Wow, I love this question. Because kids keep you authentic. Kids know, no matter what topic you write about, if it's truly coming from the center of you! And I want to be held accountable for what I put in a book and say this is for you! They will tell you if they love it or if you should never write like that again. ha ha ha! Kids allow you to be free, and take them on a crazy ride on the imagination train as long as it's coming from an authentic place in YOUR OWN storytelling as an author. Kids teach me so much when I observe them day by day. It's only fair that I recycle that Joy and teaching back into them!

Q: How did these stories and characters come to your mind?

Honestly, when I am not adulting, which I often try not to as much as I can, ha ha ha, I think Lyric is the little girl in me that is often reminding me to have fun. People who know me know I love to color, watch Disney and Pixar movies, cartoons are ALWAYS on in my house and I am ALWAYS down to watch Sesame Street at any given moment! I had a really exciting childhood. It wasn't perfect without ups and downs but my parents made the smallest things a big deal! My sisters and I had adventure after adventure that were created solely from imagination. So many of these stories are just me finally putting the little girl inside me who loves family, friends, and making people smile on paper. As a child I just wanted everyone to be ok, no matter what, if there was something I could do or say to just make everything ok for anyone, for the moment, that's all I wanted. In some ways I'm still that way. Lyric is bubbly, fun, and changes the energy in the room. The room suddenly seems brighter, warmer, and funnier with Lyric's presence! And especially right now we need those people/children who can walk into a room and lift up everyone's spirits!

Q: Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

Never forget to celebrate YOU! Celebrate all of the things that make you smile until your cheeks hurt, and that make you laugh hard from the center of your belly! Celebrate all of the joy that surrounds you everyday! Hold on to it and never let it go! And on your tough, maybe even sad days, close your eyes and remember the last time you laughed good and hard and feel all of the moments you have celebrated flood your mind and bring you all the joy you need!

NEW RELEASE

MOMMY, WHAT IS LUPUS?



Nadria Givens

I'm a married with two kids. I've been teaching for 15 years. What inspired me to write this book was my daughter. She has seen me go through a lot dealing with Lupus and she had no idea what was going on, just that her mom wasn't home. So I wrote this book to help her understand and any mother with a child wondering what is Lupus.

MOMMY, WHAT IS LUPUS?

A young girl struggles to understand why her mommy gets sick. She finally gets the courage to ask her mom, what is lupus?

In a kid-friendly way, Mom explains the disease that affects at least 5,000,000 people globally.

amazon

POEM

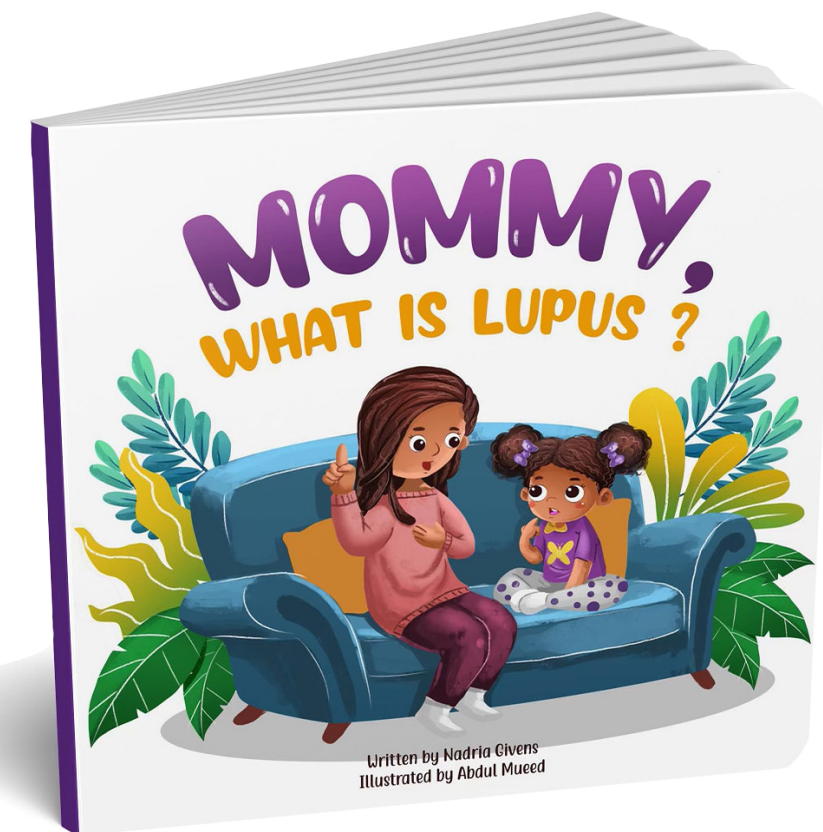
I Want

To Be

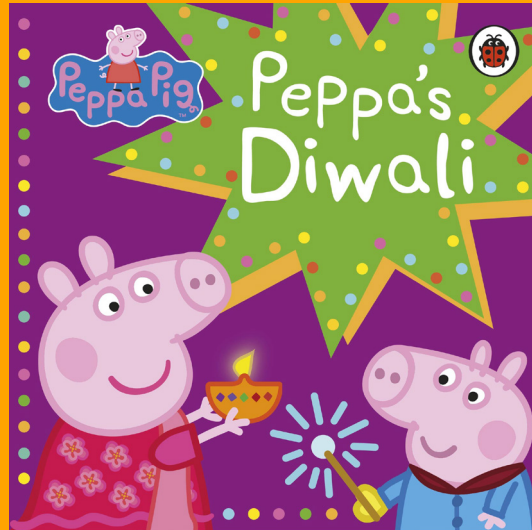
I want to be a Wizard
I'd love to be a queen
could I be a tiger
or maybe a baked bean
I'd really like to be a frog
I think I'll be a house
I could be a spaceship
What about a mouse

I love to play pretend
I think of all the things I'd want to be
If Sometimes
I get a little bored
of just being me

by Sarah L. Jordan



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

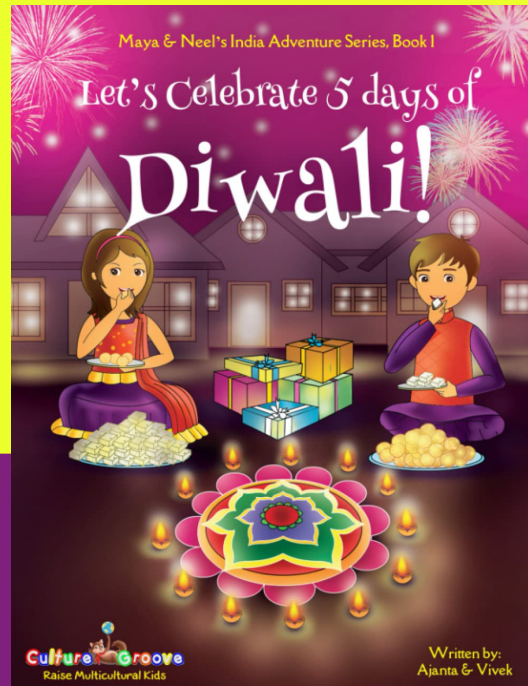


Name: Peppa's Diwali

Publisher: Ladybird

Pages: 16

Description: It is Diwali and Peppa and her family are learning all about this very special celebration. Mummy and Daddy Pig are cooking a feast, and Granny and Grandpa Pig bring everyone special clothes to wear. Then it's time for the party to begin!



Name: Let's Celebrate 5 days of Diwali!

Author: Ajanta Chakraborty & Vivek Kumar

Publisher: Bollywood Groove

Pages: 38

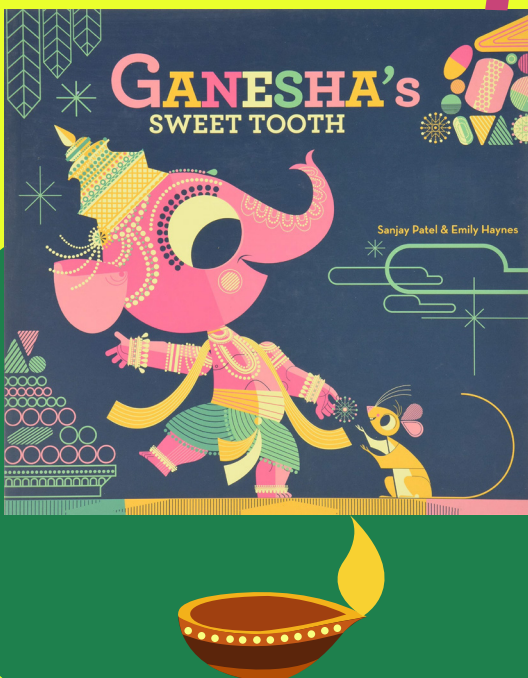
Description: 5 days of Diwali — India's Festival of Lights! In this multicultural and educational series from Bollywood Groove, join Maya, Neel and their pet squirrel, Chintu, as they visit their Aunty Eesha in India to celebrate 5 Days of Diwali. Kids will learn about Dhanteras (day 1), Choti Diwali (day 2), Diwali (day 3), Saal Mubarak (day 4) and Bhai Dooj (day 5) through this fun and beautifully illustrated story. Kids will also learn about food, language and cultural elements of India... all while making two new best friends!

Name: Ganesha's Sweet Tooth

Author: Sanjay Patel & Emily Haynes

Publisher: Chronicle Books

Description: The bold, bright colors of India leap off the page in this fresh and funny picture book retelling of how Ganesha came to help write the epic poem of Hindu literature, the Mahabharata. Ganesha is just like any other kid, except that he has the head of an elephant and rides around on a magical mouse. And he loves sweets, but when Ganesha insists on biting into a super jumbo jawbreaker laddoo, his tusk breaks off! With the help of the wise poet Vyasa, and his friend Mr. Mouse, Ganesha learns that what seems broken can be quite useful after all. With vibrant, graphic illustrations, expressive characters, and offbeat humor, this is a wonderfully inventive rendition of a classic tale.



CREATIVE CORNER



Anvi Saini



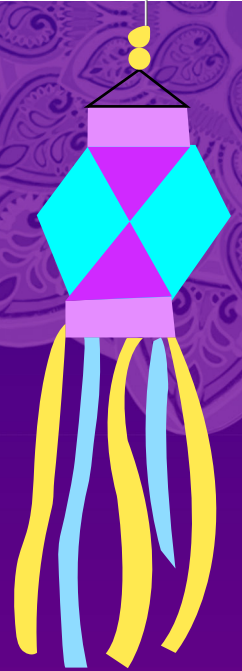
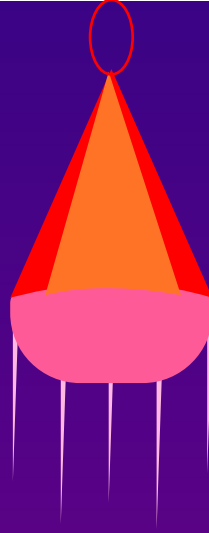
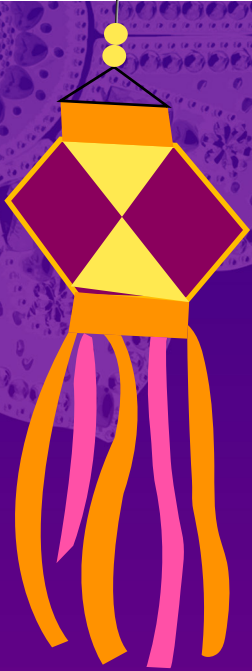
Kavya Sharma
4th b



Animesh Parashari
4th b



Name: Pranshi Bansal
Age: 5.5 years



Happy Diwali



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