



Kiddliomag

A Kids Magazine

Karen Mcmillan

Cover Story

Give A Little Snuggle
Regina Noel Downing

**Little Lizzy And
The Big Blue Parade**
Dr. Lisette Caesar

**Absolute Animal
Alliteration**
Tim Kopperud

Welcome Home!
Monika Strand

Belle Meets Henry
Kathleen Siekman

**Clara & Mr. Milo's
Adventures**
Clara Donis-Girma

Happy Laces
Silvia Autorino
Galombik

**This Kid Can
Hyperfocus**
Patty Dedurr

**The Superheroes
On Your Plate**
Tansy Boggon

Mia's Mask
Monica L. Woodard



Contents



Sweet & Sour

Creative Corner

Shoe's Shooz

Revolutionary Decision

Magic Pen

Easter Egg Hunt!

Do You Know?

Book Recommendation

Elastic Island Adventures
by Karen Mcmillan

1

Belle Meets Henry
Kathleen Siekman

3

Mia's Mask
Monica L. Woodard

5

Give A Little Snuggle
Regina Noel Downing

7

The Superheroes
On Your Plate
Tansy Boggon

9

Little Lizzy And
The Big Blue Parade
Dr. Lisette Caesar

11

Absolute Animal
Alliteration
Tim Kopperud

15

This Kid Can
Hyperfocus
Patty Dedurr

17

Welcome Home!
Monika Strand

19

Clara & Mr. Milo's Adventures
Clara Donis-girma

21

Happy Laces
Silvia Autorino Galombik

23

Editor's Note

Dear Friends,
April is full of festivities this year, from the beginning of the Hindu new year to the auspicious month of Ramadan, Easter to April fools' day, and so many other holidays and festivals that bring several excuses to appreciate life's best things.

We dedicated this month's edition to Religious harmony, and it is important to teach kids that all religions are equal and we should love and respect different cultures and religions.

In this edition, we incorporated books, articles, games, and activities that promote love, peace, diversity, and inclusion. I hope you all will like it, and please share your feedback at kidliomag@gmail.com.

Love & Peace
Happy Reading!

Dhruvin Dharmendra

**DHRUVIN
DHARMENDRA**



ELASTIC ISLAND ADVENTURES

Karen Mcmillan



Q: First, tell us something about yourself?

I'm a writer living in New Zealand, and I've written fiction, non-fiction and children's books. I'm crazy about books and think they are so important in people's lives. They inspire, educate and can be a lot of fun. I've written 19 books published in nine countries, and I get many cool invitations to speak at festivals and other events. I also review books and have fun appearing on radio and TV. Being an author is an adventure and is a career I can heartily recommend.

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

I've always loved reading and writing for as long as I can remember. By the age of ten, my short stories were being published in a national Sunday newspaper on the kids' page, so I was very fortunate to have an early start with being published.

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

As mentioned, I wrote many stories when I was a child that were published. My first book as an adult was published in 2003, and my first book in the Elastic Island Adventures series for children was published in 2018.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

Elastic Island Adventures is a fantasy action-adventure book series set in the South Pacific. Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan discover an 'elastic' island that sends them ping-pong across the ocean to a variety of destinations.

The books can be read in any order. In the latest adventure, *Flip Flop Bay*, Bob the Blue-Footed Booby is running a flying school, which sounded like fun until the children discover this means dressing in weird costumes and launching themselves off the end of the wharf. It's the latest silly idea in a series of doomed ventures from Bob the Blue-Footed Booby, who is trying to save their small fishing village from closure. Can the children come up with an idea that will save the island and its kooky inhabitants? And what about the complication of The Dastardly Captain Crook?

In each story, to survive, the children must work together, strengthening friendships and trust, learning resilience, confidence and new skills. The books are all about encouraging literacy in children too, and many reluctant readers have enjoyed the books.

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

I was inspired by Milla, the then 10-year-old in our family, who kept asking me when I would write a children's book. I suddenly realised I only had a small window to do this for her before she became a teenager. Our fun, family-friendly project ended up being a multi-book deal, and the movie rights have been optioned, so you just never know what might happen when you write a book! Since then, I've communicated with thousands of children, and I love engaging with them and hearing about their own creative endeavours.

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

I came up with the idea of an elastic island that could transport people to exciting tropical destinations, and soon I had my four plucky children to go on the adventures. There is Kiri, who loves swimming and is a fabulous singer. She's outgoing and outspoken and tends to act before she thinks. Emma is her best friend, and she is shy, bookish and dreamy. She is kind and intelligent, but she doesn't want to go mountain climbing or anything dangerous. Emma has a twin brother, Ethan, who is very clever and he loves inventing things, although he can be a bit selfish. Jed is the new kid in town, and he loves sports, but he finds their adventures are stressful when things don't go to plan. Added into the mix from book two is Blong the Cat, a talking, dancing, very affectionate cat who can do 'Blong-a-Grams.' From book five, we meet Heathcliff the Dog, a wise philosopher who is loyal and kind.

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

Not sure which Elastic Island Adventures book to read first? They can be read in any order, so read *Jewel Lagoon* if you like lots of danger and action-adventure. Like the idea of becoming invisible? Read *Port Mugaloo*. If you love art and colour, read *Rainbow Cove*. Prefer a bit of romance and like the idea of going to a wedding? *Alphabet Resort* is the book for you. Love cats? Well, there is an entire kingdom of them in *Kingdom of Blong*. Like the idea of flying or being a pirate? Then you will enjoy *Flip Flop Bay*. And for younger brothers and sisters, they will enjoy *Blong the Cat's Costume Caper*. There are costumes and dancing and also a counting element.

Go to www.elasticisland.com for info about my books. There are loads of fun activities, videos and competitions. I love to hear from my readers, so feel free to contact me!





Kathleen Siekman

Belle Meets Henry



Q: First tell us something about yourself?

My name is Kathleen Siekman and I currently live in Charlotte, NC with my husband and 2 beautiful daughters who have almost flown the coop. Writing was not something I ever thought about doing but when my daughters were little, I realized I had stories to tell.

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

Writing wasn't something that I ever considered pursuing but when I had my two beautiful daughters, I realized I had some stories to tell and I started writing. 'Ew,Goo!' and 'Belle meets Henry' are my first two books.

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

'Belle Meets Henry' is actually the first book I wrote from start to finish. I completed the initial draft about 6 years ago but was unsure of how to move on to the next step. Then I was introduced to FoxPointe Publishing in early 2021 and the rest is history. While that story was in the review process, I wrote 'Ew, Goo!' Both of these books are scheduled for release this year, 'Ew, Goo!' in May and 'Belle Meets Henry' in June.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

'Ew, Goo!' is about a little girl whose runny nose just won't stop running. It is a humorous, rhyming children's book that follows the curly haired hero in her attempt to stem the flow of her goo! 'Belle Meets Henry' follows Belle the dog on her adventures in her neighborhood. In her first adventure, Belle meets Henry who is a heron. Henry wants to show Belle what the neighborhood is like from his perspective. They have to work together to figure out how to get Belle into the air. It is a story about working together to solve a problem and to learn about other people and their experiences.

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

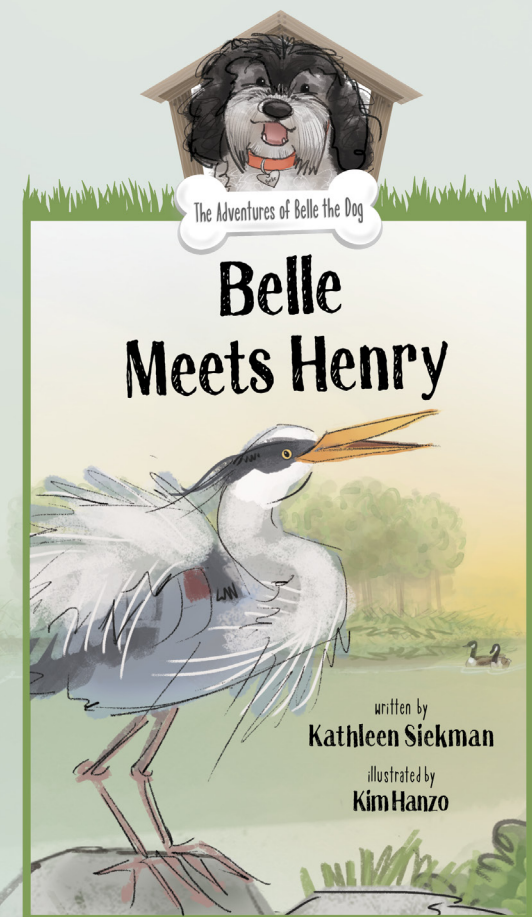
Seeing the world through my daughters' eyes when they were little was one of the most enjoyable memories I have. Their innocence and curiosity was amazing and you could see the gears in their brains spin as you read them stories. I hope that 'Ew,Goo' and 'Belle Meets Henry' will provide that same experience for other parents.

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

'Belle Meets Henry' is about my dog Belle and her adventures in our neighborhood, Cady Lake. We have a beautiful lake that we can walk around that is filled with amazing creatures. 'Ew, Goo!' is about any child and the endless amount of runny noses they seem to have!!

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

I hope you enjoy reading the humorous 'Ew,Goo' to your children as well as learning a little bit about Belle's world in 'Belle Meets Henry.' I look forward to bringing you more stories.



It's all a matter of perspective...

On an adventure in her neighborhood of Cady Lake, Belle the Dog meets Henry the Heron. Henry wants to show Belle what the neighborhood looks like from his perspective, but how is that possible? Belle can't fly! She's a dog. Will Henry and Belle be able to work together to show Belle a bird's eye view of the world?

Join Belle the Dog on her first of many adventures as she makes new friends and helps build her community through learning about and understanding her neighbors.

Suitable for Early Readers, ages 5 to 8 years.

<https://www.foxpointepublishing.com/belle-meets-henry>

Mia's Mask



By Monica L. Woodard
Illustrated by Abira Das

Mia's Mask is a rhyming story about a young girl adjusting to wearing a face mask. Mia started wearing a mask due to the global pandemic, COVID-19. She had to learn to wear it properly and there is no in-between. Where does she go? What does she do? No matter what, she wears her mask for her safety and for your protection too!

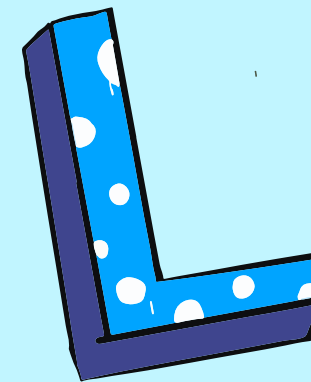
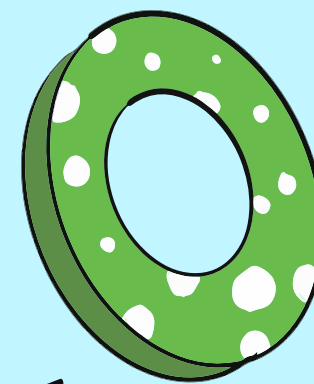
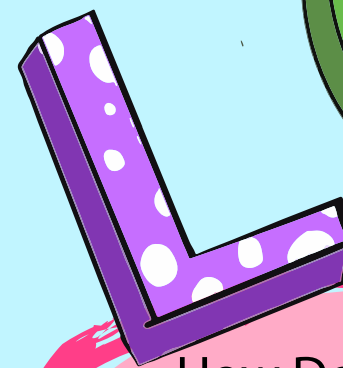
miasmask.com

available at
amazon



Monica L. Woodard

Monica L. Woodard is a Clinical Social Worker in the Washington, D.C area. She attended Howard University where she received both her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. Monica believes in supporting community service and social justice activities. She enjoys listening to live music, trying new recipes, and spending time with her family and friends.



How Do Bunnies
stay Healthy?

Eggs-ercise



What day do eggs hate
the Most?

Fry-Day



What kind of books does
a rabbit like?

*One with
hoppy endings*



A city with 20 million Eggs

NEW YOLK CITY



What's an egg's favourite
type of coffe

AN EEGS-PRESSO



An egg who loves
to go on Safari

EGGS-PLORER

Regina Noel Downing

Author Interview



GIVE A LITTLE SNUGGLE

Q: First tell us something about yourself?

I live in Iowa with my husband, 2 kids, and 3 dogs. I own a small, private music studio where I teach piano, voice, and ukulele. I'm also a health and life coach "on the side." I love to exercise, dark chocolate, and Mister Rogers. Above all else, my family is the most important thing in my life.

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

I started writing when I was about 8. I lived in a couple of group homes and a foster home that year. Our counselors taught us to keep a journal, to connect with our emotions. I'm in my 40s now and have kept one ever since.

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

Oh, I don't remember, honestly. I think the "real" first "story" was my first book with Fox Pointe Publishing, Give a Little Snuggle. I was as shocked as anyone that they picked it up...first real attempt out of the gate!

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

Well, to be honest, my books aren't just for kids. They really aren't meant for kids to go and read alone. They are meant for families to read together. Kids need support. But parents need it too. They need all the tools and support they can get, to raise healthy, well-adjusted, someday adults. For a child, NOTHING is more important than being connected to their caregivers. Nothing matters more to a child than knowing they are fully loved and accepted for who they are, and that their caregivers will always be there for them, no matter what. I had a very traumatic childhood. My family life was disjointed. I grew up never really knowing if I was loved or accepted for who I was. It made adulting challenging. And that's really what drives me. I don't want ANY child to ever experience what I did. And, I fully recognize that parents absolutely need support, too. I want parents to know that I get it. I understand all the struggles that come with parenthood. Parenthood is really another opportunity to heal our own wounds while paving the way for the future at the same time.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

I'm all about family books that help families connect over a multitude of difficulties. I would suggest that I try to cover the "basics" through a variety of avenues: illustrations, poetry, music, connection... There are so many life lessons to be learned. I think when our children, and their families, have certain foundational topics solid, it makes everything else a bit easier.

For instance, Give a Little Snuggle is all about things you can do to help your littles when they are sad, scared, or just had a bad day. It is designed for a parent to help connect with their child, in that moment, when nothing else seems to work. A little song, a little tickle, a little giggle, and a snuggle. It's poetic, it's musical (and even includes sheet music), the illustrations are colorful and all-inclusive, and there is even a page for parents that talks about the significance of positive touch for a child.

The Bedtime Rhyme is about creating a safe space for families to share and connect at the end of the day. A little story, a little listening, and a sweet lullaby to end (it includes sheet music as well). It's about complete acceptance of our growing charges, just the way they are. It is the very bedtime routine I've used with my kids since they were babies. And we still follow some version of this today.

And coming soon, Dear Mom & Dad is designed to help parents remember a bit about their own childhood. It's more like a storybook for kids to read to their parents when they are having a hard time saying what they want to say to their parents. It's also a song. So it can be read, or sung...the perfect combination of words and music to help Mom and Dad remember their own childhood, and thus further their connection and understanding with their own children.

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

They are based on my experiences with my own children, students, and my own childhood. The books don't necessarily have specific characters. I asked my illustrator to be as inclusive as he could. I wanted to represent a multitude of children and families...different ethnicities, special needs, blended families. There's no one family in any book. Though, he does include my family in at least one or two pages in each book (my son is on the cover of Give a Little Snuggle, because it was really written for him, in the midst of a meltdown).

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

Parenting is challenging. But also rewarding. Take time to really connect with your littles. Listen, snuggle, remember... These are some of the most important parenting actions you could ever make. For you, and your children. Remember, we are always doing the best we can, with what we've got. Our kids are, too! And it is always okay to "look for the helpers," as Mister Rogers would say. It is my hope that I can be one of



Music soothes our souls, wiggles get the mad out, giggles lighten the load, and a snuggle brings a calm connectedness. Give a Little Snuggle is a story about your child. The delightful illustrations, text, and music, are created with all hearts in mind. It is a story about blue times and rough times, and the fear that comes with those times. It is a story that teaches children and adults alike, that though we may have blue times, rough times, and fearful times, there is always something we can do to ease our soul; connect with those we love and who love us.

When your child is sad or upset, you may find connecting difficult. Their "upsets" become yours, and soon you are at your wit's end. Nothing you try works to calm or connect. You may think your child wants to be left alone. But as a mother and educator, I can assure you what they really want and need, is connection.

This book helps you do just that: Connect when there is sadness, connect when it's been a bad day, connect when there is fear...

I wrote this as a song first, when my son was having a meltdown. No matter how hard I tried, he wouldn't "let me in." Out of desperation I just started singing. These are the words that came out. Suitable for ages 2 to 8.

<https://www.foxpointepublishing.com/give-a-little-snuggle>
<https://linktr.ee/AuthorRND>

THE SUPERHEROES ON YOUR PLATE

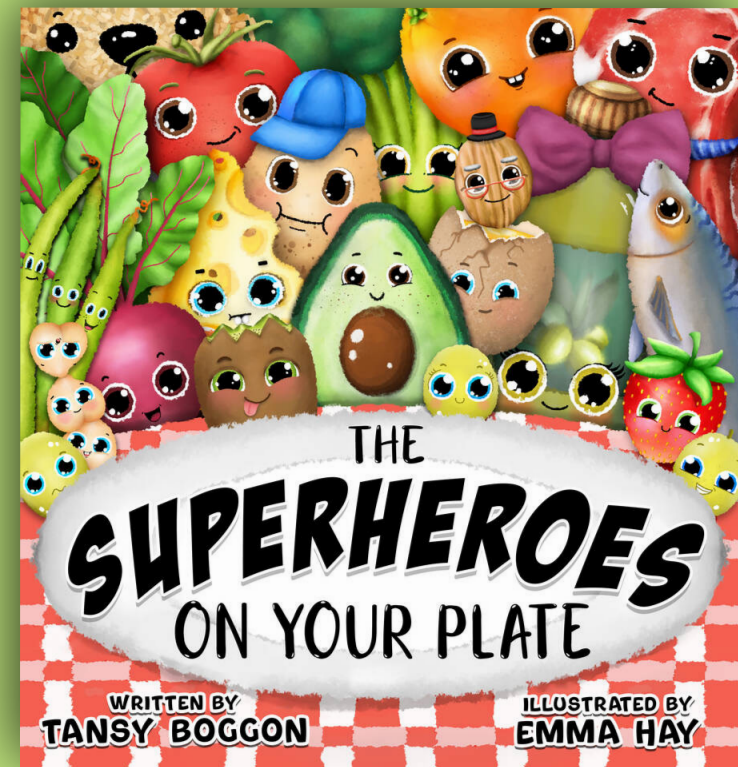
Every food at the dinner table competes for the title of superhero on your plate. Which food will claim the title? From avocado to kiwi and around to egg and look out for brown rice! Each food is on a mission to declare themselves the winner. It may be hard to digest at times, but some have an incredibly good reason for being a true champion. You will have to help them decide...

Combine story time with educating children about nutrition and inspiring them to eat a wider variety of wholefoods. This book aims to be a conversation starter as to what other foods children would bring to the plate as superheroes, either because they enjoy them or for health-promoting benefits. Who will be the plate superhero?

"A joy of a book that puts the fun into teaching kids about nutrition and getting them to love the healthy foods on their plate."

— Dr Joanna McMillan, Nutrition Scientist & Dietitian

www.joyfuleatingnutrition.com available at
amazon



Tansy Boggon

Tansy Boggon is a university-qualified nutritionist, food writer and recipe developer who incorporates mindful eating, eating psychology and a non-diet approach into her writing for children and adults. She is an Australian who calls Christchurch, New Zealand home, and enjoys, yoga, dancing, experimenting in the kitchen and outdoor adventures on foot and bike.

DO YOU KNOW?

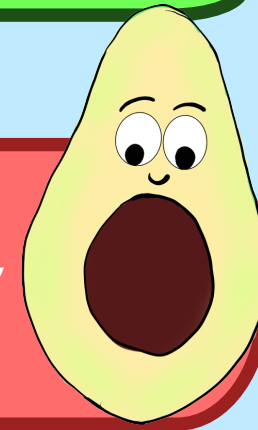


Broccoli Contains More Protein Than Steak

Bananas are berries... and strawberries aren't!



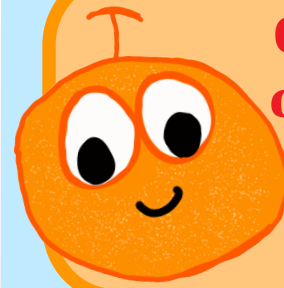
Avocados are rich in many nutrients, including fiber, healthy fats, vitamin C, vitamin E, vitamin B6, potassium, magnesium, and folate.



Strawberries are the only fruit with seeds on the outside.



Oranges are the largest citrus fruit in the world.



Red-coloured fruits keep your heart strong.



Orange -coloured fruits tend to keep your eyes healthy.



Yellow-coloured fruits prevent you from getting sick.



Dr. Lisette Caesar

Little Lizzy and the Big Blue Parade by Dr. Liz

Q: First tell us something about yourself?

I'm a New York City elementary school principal. I've been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. I'm a colon cancer warrior and do lots of speaking engagements on the importance of people age 45 and older to get a colonoscopy as it could save their lives.

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

I started writing my books during chemotherapy sessions. When you get chemo, you're literally sitting for hours. I need to do something that keeps my mind on something else. I didn't want to focus on cancer or the treatment.

I first started recording myself reading books and posting it on my YouTube channel, Reading with Dr. Liz, as a way to stay connected to my school community. I was on medical leave for fourteen months and I missed my heartbeats (my scholars).

Our reading engagement declined during my absence and I thought that telling my own story of going from non-reader in first to an educator today with four degrees, might be a motivator.

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

My first book, Little Lizzy Learns to Read, was written in 2019 but I didn't publish it until 2021. The writing process was my therapy to get through cancer. Once I was cancer free I forgot about it. My cancer came back and I went back to writing and self publishing.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

Both of my books are based on my real life. My second book is about my first cancer journey. It was written to give hope to anyone impacted by cancer.

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

I've been an educator for 27 years and I see first hand the importance of children having books with protagonists that look like them and that have similar life experiences. My story, my life is a true American story of triumph after struggle.

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

They are based on my life experiences. I have faced numerous obstacles and somehow have always made it to the other side. Each book will be about one of those struggles.

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

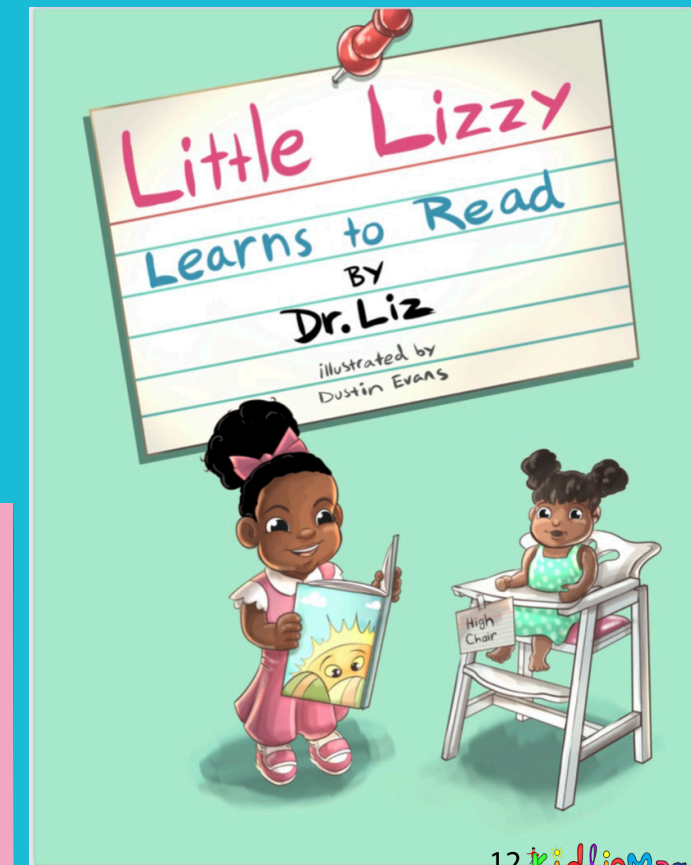
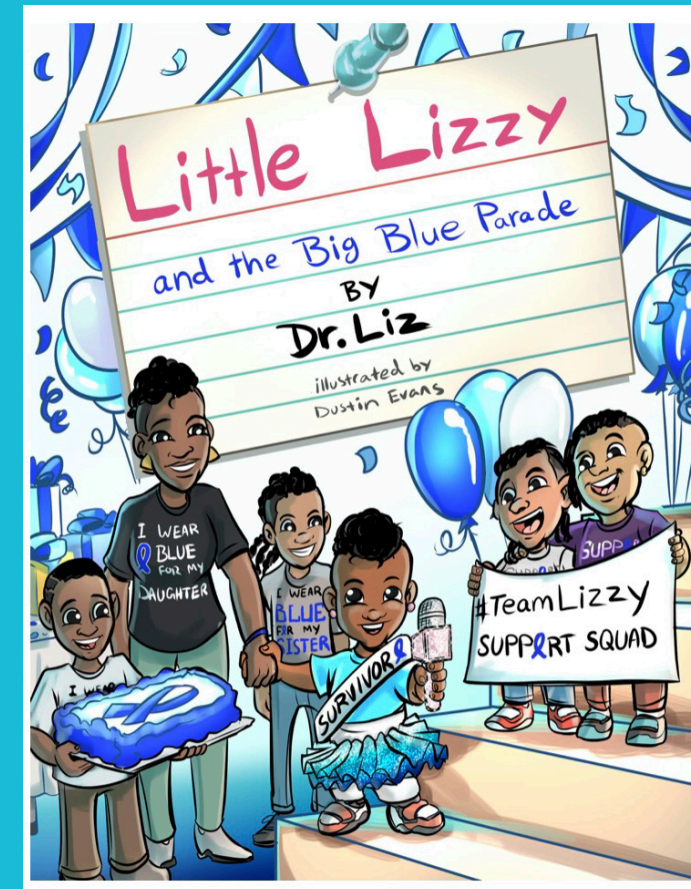
I want my readers to know that sometimes life gets hard, but there isn't anything in life they can't tackle. They have to roll up their sleeves and stick with it. With grit and perseverance, they will reach their goals.

In this second book in the Little Lizzy series, Lizzy is faced with another challenge in her life. With every challenge, Lizzy learns critical life skills. Lizzy learns how the power of being mentally strong and the power of love from family and community can help her persevere.

Read Little Lizzy and the Big Blue Parade is based on the author's real-life cancer journey. Dr. Liz was supported by her family, students, and community. She beat stage two colon cancer with strength and love.

available at

amazon

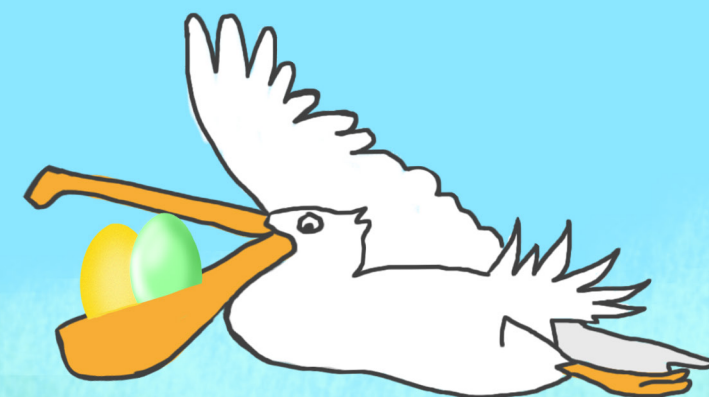


**BOOKS THAT TEACH KIDS
HOW TO PERSEVERE
THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES.**



Pirate Bunny!

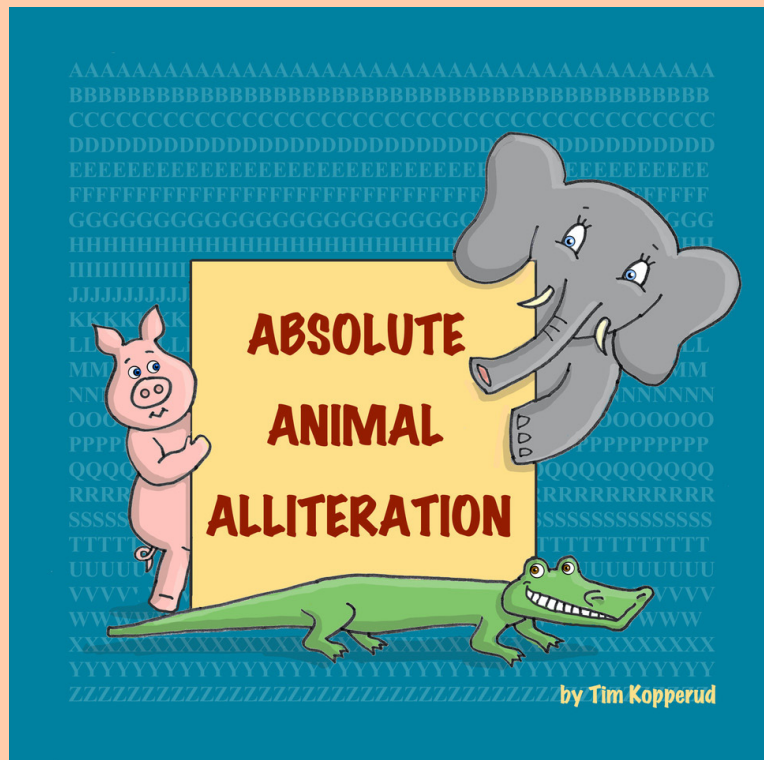
Pirate Bunnies Are Looking For Golden Eggs,
Help Them to Find!!!



Easter Egg Hunt!



Absolute Animal Alliteration



Children love word games. This delightful book uses bright pictures of kooky animals to introduce children to the power of the alphabet and the fun of alliteration.

Absolute Animal Alliteration takes every single letter of the alphabet (yes, even X!) and applies an animal subject, a verb, and descriptive words (adjectives and adverbs) to create phrases of authentic alliteration.

Both entertaining and educational, this book is sure to be a favorite for children as young as three and parents and grandparents of all ages. It's also a great tool for teachers to instruct elementary school age children to creatively develop their writing skills.

available at
amazon



Q: First tell us something about yourself?

I am an architect residing in Calgary, Alberta, Canada with my wife Nancy. I am a proud father of two, stepfather of two and grandfather of three.

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

I've been writing and illustrating stories since my childhood. I wrote a play in High School that included some musical numbers. My song writing has continued through the years, including some that I have posted on social media. I have always been creating. I just can't help myself!

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

I wrote quite a few silly stories and songs that remained unpublished. "Absolute Animal Alliteration" is my first published work (besides my Masters Degree Thesis for Architecture!). I created the book (wrote and illustrated) when my children were in Elementary School and presented to their classrooms. But it was another 20 years before I fine-tuned it and prepared it for publication (2021).

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

"Absolute Animal Alliteration" is intended to be visually appealing, entertaining and educational. It is all about animals and alliteration, which are things that seem to resonate well with children. The word play is fun and the animals bring it to life!

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

I have always enjoyed entertaining (and sure, educating) children. I think kids need to be more engaged in reading. This book catches their attention and teaches them about the power of the alphabet. I originally wrote it for my own children but it has now become a favorite of my grandchildren. And it is fun for parents, grandparents and teachers as well!

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

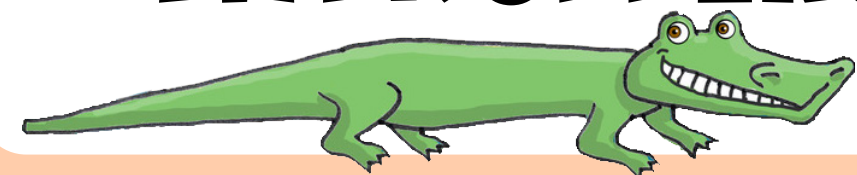
Animals are fascinating and quite fun to draw. I loved cartooning ever since my childhood. This book allowed me an outlet for my gift. The idea of presenting each character within an alliterative phrase was just icing on the cake!

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

It has been a very tumultuous couple of years in our world. I empathize with children who have had to adjust to the constraints of the Covid Pandemic. I am hoping that this book will add some enjoyment and whimsy back into the daily routine of families. It can provide a focus on something colorful, creative and engaging while also being an element of the art of learning.



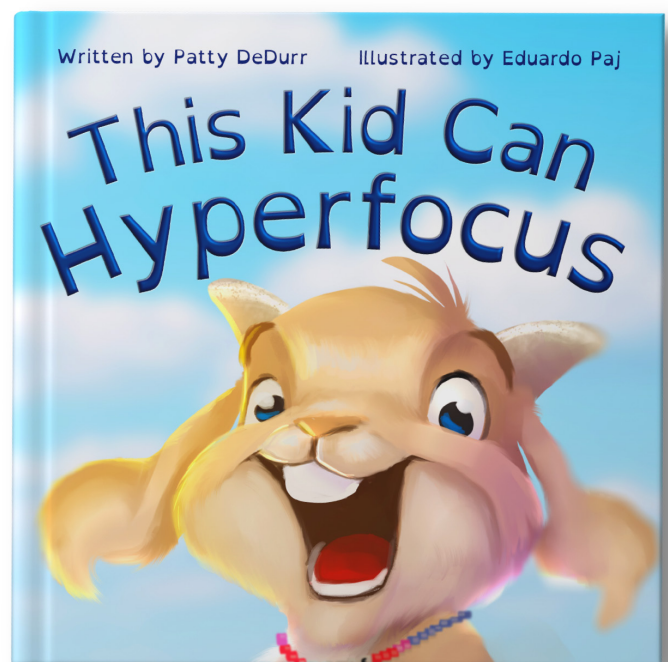
TIM KOPPERUD



This Kid Can Hyperfocus

Patty DeDurr

Patty is a Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant and a neurodivergent (ADHD/dysgraphia) author and who advocates, educates, and provides educational information and resources for individuals looking for guidance on an engaging platform.



Kid, the goat, begins his hyperfocus mission thinking about and getting ready for the day.

Throughout this book, This Kid Can Hyperfocus, Kid talks about his amazing brain and finds new and creative ways to bring some smiles to the farm. Will he complete his mission, to bring laughter back, while visiting all the farm animals?

This is an inclusive story of friendship and determination through the eyes of a main character with ADHD.

*Many characters in the book are based on real life hobby farm animals.

*This book is set in a dyslexia-friendly font.

*A portion of all book sales are donated to charity.



available at
amazon

Magic Pen

"Fajr Ali" was a well-known name in the field of **CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**. Fajr Ali's stories were published in almost every children's magazine.

Readers of all ages, young and old, eagerly awaited Fajr Ali's stories.

And Fajr Ali believed that all this was the perfection of his "magic pen" which was given to Fajr as a gift by his class teacher

Miss Nusrat. Fajr still remembers the words of his teacher when he gave the "**magic pen**":

"Dear Fajr, with the power of this pen you will rule the hearts. With its magic, your words will enchant people."

Then it really happened that when Fajr Ali wrote the first story with this pen, it was well received, and then as soon as he saw it, Fajr Ali's stories became popular among the young and old.

Fajr Ali attributed every **success** story to the magic pen.

Every word that came out of Fajr Ali's pen enchanted the readers.

But then suddenly the stories of Fajr Ali stopped being published. One month, two months and three months had passed. No story of Fajr Ali was published. How can it be published? When Fajr Ali had not written any story in those three months. Apart from the stories, an episode-wise novel was also being published in the children's magazine Roshan, the last episode of which was to be published three months ago, but Fajr Ali had not yet written the last episode of the novel.

Readers as well as editors were very upset by this situation.

.....

Fajr Ali was holding his head in front of a pile of papers when suddenly the door of his room opened, Fajr Ali looked up, Fajr's father was at the door, "Abu Ji, you?" Fajr said looking at his father.

"Son, now you tell me your problem, why haven't you written anything in the last three months?" Ali Sahib said while sitting on the chair.

"Abu Ji, I will never be able to write again." Fajr Ali said wiping his moist eyes.

"Why, son, what happened?" Ali Sahib asked anxiously.

"Actually, my 'magic pen' is lost, because of which I used to write, now I can't write with any other pen, as soon as I start writing something on the paper, my pen doesn't move, it seems like my All the words are lost like a magic pen. "

Fajr Ali told his father the real reason.

"Oh my dear daughter, your pen was not a magical pen, but the real magic is in you, in your thoughts. That pen was just a simple pen, but it was important that it was a gift from the teacher." Well done, now shake off the illusion that your pen was enchanted, recognize the magic inside you, believe in your ability, grab this new

pen and start writing with the **CONFIDENCE** that you will write your words with each pen. I can do magic. "

Ali Sahib explained to Fajr Ali.

.....

The last episode of Fajr Ali's series of novels had been published in the children's magazine "Roshan". It turned out that everything she wrote was due to a magic pen.

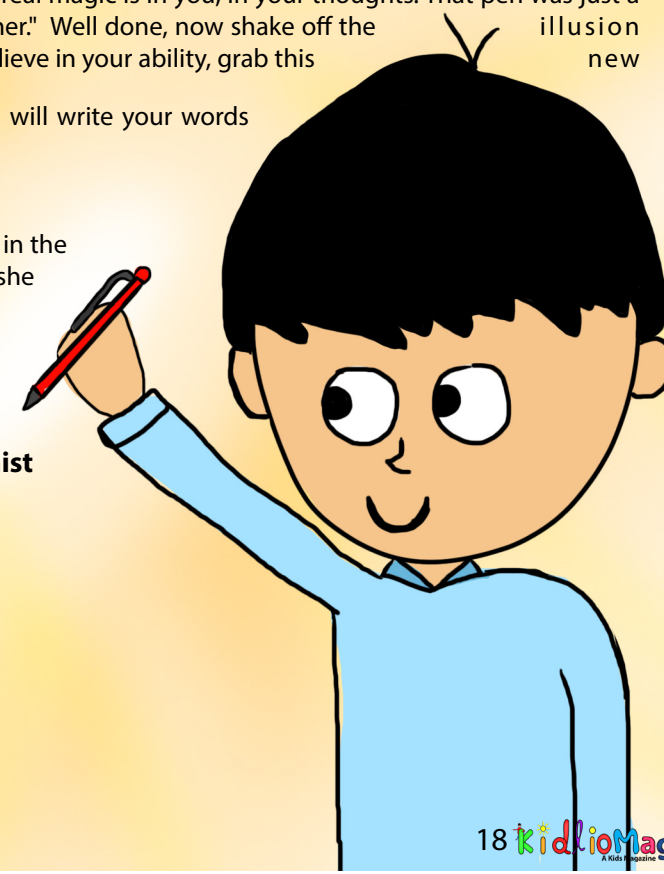
Today Fajr Ali had identified himself.

Name: Nahid Gul

Former school teacher

Poet / Storyteller / Fiction Writer / Essay Writer / Columnist

Toba Tek Singh Pakistan



Welcome Home!



Monika Strand

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

Beyond my 3rd grade book, in 2016, when I turned 52, I decided to take on a writing quest. I wrote a weekly story for 52 weeks, every week focusing on one person I was grateful for in my life. I published the stories on WordPress for my audience to enjoy. I had readers around the globe cheering me on my weekly journey. My hope was to inspire others to take on such a writing challenge. You can read some of those stories here: inspireyourzen.wordpress.com. I also have written for the National Women's Council of Realtor's monthly newsletters in 2017 and 2018. Those were my first published pieces. They were motivational articles for real estate agents. In 2021, the idea of Welcome Home! was born while sitting on my couch. The concept poured out of me. I got emotional when I wrote the last few words. I birthed my first real book. I just knew I needed to find a phenomenal illustrator and get this book out into the world for families moving with children. Janette Hill, my brilliant illustrator, (You can find her on Instagram @janettehillart), brought my book to life. She listened to every detail and feeling I wanted to portray on the pages. I can never thank her enough for partnering with me on this book journey. She even included dogs, birds and squirrels throughout the book-because I love them so much!

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

Welcome Home! is the first release under Storyteller's Publishing. My husband is also a writer, so we have started our own publishing company. I wrote Welcome Home! to help children who are moving. I wanted them to know everything will be okay. They should take a deep breath and let go of their anxiety. Adults purchasing a new home are typically excited, while the kids are a bit apprehensive. I noticed this as I sold homes to young families. I wanted to find the perfect gift that I could give the kids while handing over the keys to their family. It didn't exist. Now it does! Not only have I written a book to ease the minds of children moving, I've created a thoughtful gift for real estate agents to leave a long lasting impression. The last page of the book has a space for a family photo to be inserted, marking the momentous occasion for the family. I feel so strongly that real estate agents should consider stocking up on Welcome Home! for closing gifts, that I've created "bundle packs" for them to purchase the book in bulk to receive free books with their order. It's a smart way to be ready for upcoming closings. By showing the parents you care about their entire family, you build a stronger bond which generates referrals and repeat business for the Realtor.

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

I actually envision real estate agents taking a moment before handing the keys to a family that just bought a house to read Welcome Home! on the porch to the children. It could also be the parents if they bought the book and brought it with them when they get the keys to their new home. Can't you picture a real estate agent bending down and reading a sweet book of encouragement to a child ready to open the door to their new home? It is a precious moment that won't be forgotten by the child or the family. It's a great client relationship builder, with a very kind message for the child receiving the book. I imagine the child will read the book over and over once all moved into their new home. How fun to find their photo at the end of the book!

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

In early 2021, I was having a difficult time finding the perfect gift to give to my client's children when they were purchasing a home. I love giving closing gifts, and typically Realtors gift items for the adults. It finally dawned on me that I needed to create a gift for the kids. Something they would keep and cherish to remember the day their family bought a new home. My experience with my own clients, was the main inspiration for Welcome Home!. The main character is loosely based on a few of my client's very shy children.

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

If you know anyone making a move with kids, consider gifting Welcome Home! Share this book with your real estate friends. You can view the entire book and purchase it here: monikastrand.com. Let's get social on Instagram – @monikastrand, where I share my writing projects and real estate tips.



Q: First tell us something about yourself?

I've been an entrepreneur since I was 19. My business adventures have included owning a Dance Apparel Store, A Coffee House, a National Fundraising Company and the last 5 years I've been a Realtor in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2021, I became a Children's Writer, something I feel I was meant to be. I have a deep love for dogs, yoga, birds, ballet, squirrels, walks on the beach, and my growing family! This is the year I become a Grandma!

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

My writing journey started in 3rd grade. My teacher assigned a project to create a book. We had to come up with the concept, write, illustrate and design the cover. I titled my book Where is Rufus? It's a tiny tale about the importance of spending time with your dog, or they may run away! It was never published, however it did inspire me to write later in life, so I commend Mrs. Shewbridge, my favorite elementary school teacher, for giving her class such a meaningful assignment! While organizing our bookshelf last year, I found that book I wrote back in 1973. I kept it for 48 years! I just had to read Where is Rufus? for my Instagram audience in anticipation for my book, Welcome Home!

monikastrand.com

CLARA & Mr. MILO'S ADVENTURES

by

Clara Donis-Girma

Clara Donis-Girma was born in Guatemala. She was adopted as a child and is a cancer survivor. Clara graduated from Southern New Hampshire University with a business degree. She started her own translation business in 2017 but has always loved nature, children and pets.

In 2021, Clara and her husband Daniel adopted Mr. Milo from a shelter in Central Florida. Clara watched how her nieces and nephews enjoyed playing with Mr. Milo and watching his cute and funny videos. This inspired Clara and Mr. Milo's Adventures series. A heartwarming story that hopes to inspire pet adoption and educate children about the responsible caretaking of a pet.

Clara's favorite place is the beach. She also enjoys spending time with her family. You can find Clara, Mr. Milo and her husband Daniel enjoying a walk at the park or relaxing by the beach.



Clara Wanting a Pet

Clara wants a pet! Join her in her search and the process of adopting and caring for her pet. Clara & Mr. Milo's Adventures Series hopes to inspire shelter pet adoption and show you the importance of being patient, loving, and caring with your shelter pet.

available at
amazon



Going To The Pet Shelter

Clara is excited to find her first pet. What pet will she choose at the pet shelter? Follow Clara & Mr. Milo's Adventures Series to find out! This is a heartwarming personal story that hopes to inspire pet adoption and educate children about the responsible caretaking of a pet.

SWEET AND SOUR

They say, "Ah, living is hard"
Even having a life full of blessings

On the path of truth you have to walk **barefoot**
Because in this path you must be discreet with your kindness
Listen! not every way is your destination

So stop getting **curious** about rotten ways of life
If you love flying, then keep your courage high
As in struggling periods no support is sought
No matter what, Keep checking on your friends

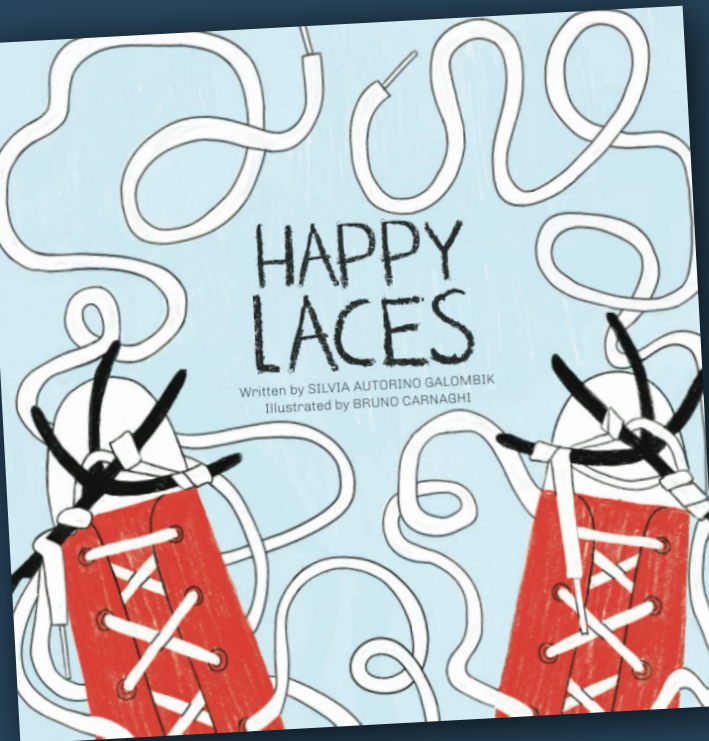
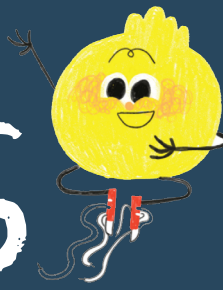
Because **Friendship** is not weighed in the balance
Life is a combination of bitter and sweet accents
If you take everything to heart, you will not live fully
What do you think has happened? What will happen now?

Not every stitch of life is sewn with **ILLUSIONS** like this
You diverted your happy moments into misgivings

Then why don't you drink the cup of **loneliness** now?...

By Raafia Shaheen
Pakistan

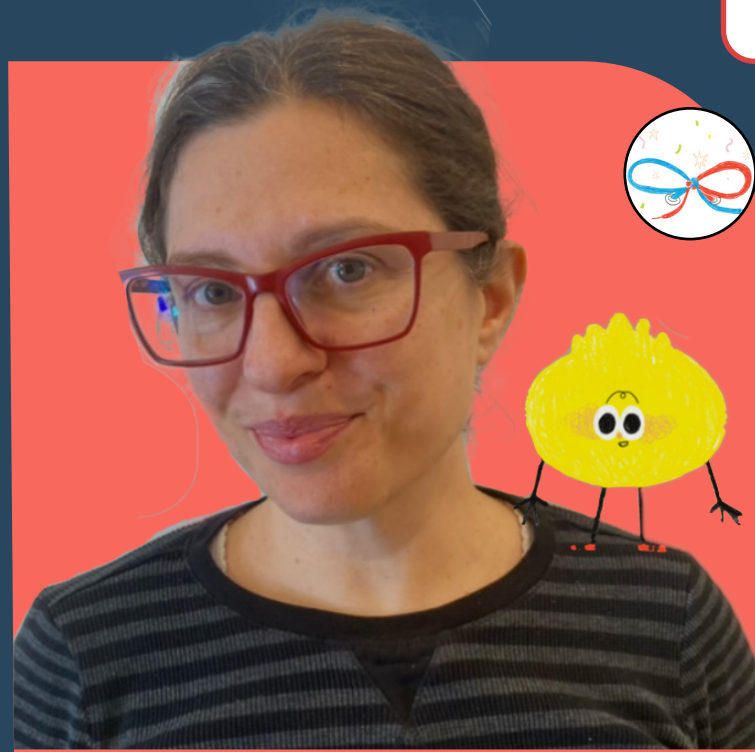
HAPPY LACES



Young Happy is good at so many things, but when it comes to tying his shoes, he's stumped. With some positive guidance from his big sister, Happy learns that anything is possible if he puts his mind to it. Happy Laces, by Silvia Autorino Galombik, is a delightful rhyming and informative picture book that tells readers, if at first you don't succeed, tie, tie again.

The story's colorful yellow character named Happy is sunny and upbeat, proud that he knows his alphabet and how to write his name, can help his mother cook, and goes down all the big slides. But readers will feel his frustration and sadness at not being able to tie his shoes as he dreams of all the tying adventures he could do, if only he knew how: tie aprons, make bows, pull drawstrings, and of course, tie his shoes.

available at
amazon



**Silvia Autorino
Galombik**

As a preschool teacher, Silvia Autorino Galombik found herself tying an endless number of loose shoelaces. Her creative background led her to writing her instructive and whimsical picture book, Happy Laces, to help young children gain confidence and learn this tricky milestone. Silvia knew she wanted to be a writer even as a teen. She is inspired with so many ideas from her preschool students, believing that teachers should simply be guides and that children learn better by doing things themselves and at their own pace. Silvia believes that a great children's book is one that is cute, quirky, and makes the reader feel positive and empowered long after the book is closed. She hopes her stories inspire kids to never give up and, if at first you don't succeed, tie, tie, again! When she isn't writing informative and entertaining books for children, Silvia enjoys using her creativity, reading, cooking, coming up with new business ideas, and daydreaming. A former fashion designer, Silvia was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY where she still resides with her two teenage daughters. Happy Laces is her debut children's book.

Please contact Silvia at happylaces123@gmail.com or visit www.happylaces123.com

SHOE'S SHOOZ

Match The Shoes With Their Matching Pair.



RAMADAN

MUBARAK

MY RAMADAN CALENDAR

ACTIVITY

STORY

Revolutionary Decision

I always get scolded at school for getting up late in the morning and I can't get to the **assembly** on time. Rocky said to his uncle Robert who was sitting in front. "Please tell, when you love to sleep".

Rocky's mouth was **WIDE** open at the question of Uncle Robert.

His theft had been caught.

"I go to bed at half past eleven at night."

Rocky replied shyly.

"When you go to bed late, how can you go to school on time. You

better get in the **HABIT** of getting up early in the **morning**." Uncle Robert's speech was over and Rocky replied immediately.

"It's very difficult for me. How will this work?"

"If you make it a habit to get up for Morning Prayer and go to bed early, it will be possible."

Uncle Robert's words had made a place in Rocky's heart and mind and he had decided that he would go to bed on time every day so

that he could reach **school** on time.

Written by Zulfiqar Ali Bukhari
Pakistan

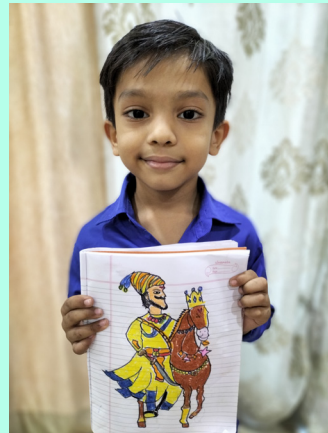


Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim year, where fasting is observed from sunrise to sunset. It celebrates the revelation of the Muslim holy book, the Quran, to Muhammed. The end of Ramadan is marked by a feast called Eid-al Fitr. Ramadan is a time when Muslims focus on prayer, study, giving, and humility.

Creative Corner



Name: Meghna Nair
Age: 9yrs



Name: Riddhish Patil
Age: 4 yrs



Name: Shubhkamna Kaushal

Success Story of Blooming Star Inaaya Mazumdar



Ever wondered how it would be to raise a child with a super IQ? Well, apart from managing all the negative advice of condemning the parents for exposing the child to too much information and being accused of putting pressure on the child to learn and gain knowledge, the parents also have to learn for themselves the challenges of keeping this super brain engaged all the time. Children with high IQ need to be constantly fed with information as their hungry brain knows no limit. When Mrs. Shreemoyee Mazumdar spread the word about 3yr old Inaaya's achievements on various social media platforms, to her shock she was confronted with criticism. It was in 2021, when she finally came across Mrs. Sejal Ray's, Taare Zameen Par FB platform where her daughter's achievements received accolades and appreciation through various competitions that encourage such young minds.

Inaaya Mazumdar is a 5year old super brain, high IQ girl

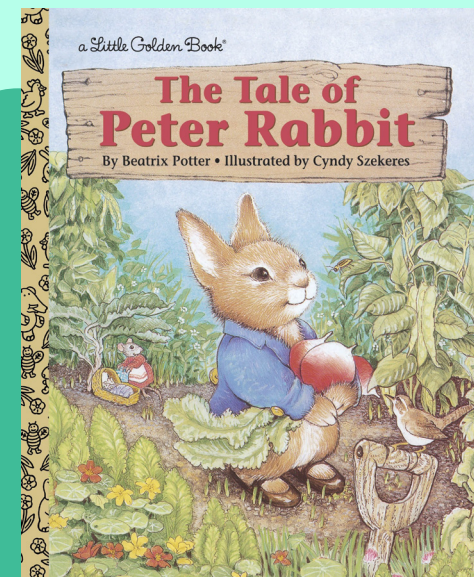


who will blow your mind with her achievements. She can not only identify flags simply by relating to their colours but also read and write an essay, speak three languages and sign in 3 different languages. Like all children of her age she can identify flowers, fruits, birds, animals, planets, etc. She can also write Hindi varnamala, do addition and subtraction. She can write 1 to 300 and say it backwards too. She can spell almost 300 words and also write them.

Kudos the platforms that encourage such bright kids and also three cheers to parents who are not let down by the jealous comments of commoners but rather focus on the right energy to bring out the best in their child.

Winner of Noble World Record, India Books of Record, International Book of Records, The Child Prodigy Award

Book Recommendation



Name: The Tale of Peter Rabbit

Author: Beatrix Potter

Publisher: Golden Books

Pages: 24 pages

Description: Share Beatrix Potter's most popular and well-loved tale with rabbit lovers everywhere this Easter!

Follow the story of naughty Peter Rabbit as he squeezes under the gate into Mr. McGregor's garden and finds himself in all kinds of trouble!

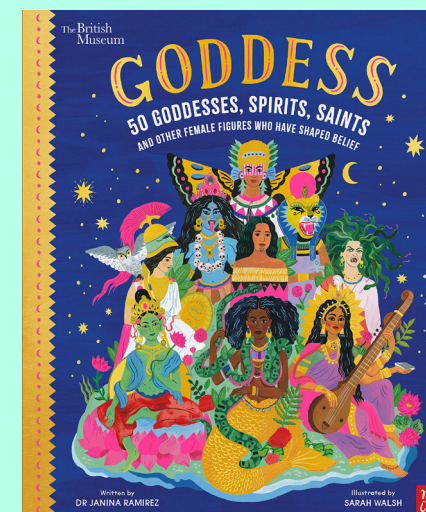


Name: Peppa's Easter Egg Hunt

Publisher: Scholastic Inc.

Pages: 24 pages

Description: Peppa and her friends go on an Easter egg hunt adventure! Includes stickers! It's springtime, and Grandpa Pig has set up an Easter egg hunt for Peppa Pig and her friends! Join Peppa, Rebecca Rabbit, and Freddy Fox as they search for delicious chocolate eggs and even see baby chicks hatching in the yard! Includes stickers!



Name: Goddess

Author: Dr Janina Ramirez

Publisher: Nosy Crow Ltd

Pages: 112 pages

Description: Tales of powerful female figures have been told since the beginning of time and this collection brings together 50 stories from around the world. There are loving creators, wise leaders, fearsome warriors, gentle healers and mystical protectors, and they can each inspire you to find strength within yourself.



***A Movement
that Began
24 Years Ago***

consciousplanet.org

Sadhguru



www.Kidliomag.com



Kidliomag
A Kids Magazine