

February Issue 2024 Free

A Kid's Literary Magazine

KIDLIOMAG

Chuck the Fire Truck
Kenneth McLarnon

Doc Green And The Mind Monsters
Tyson Green

Andrew Conquers The Court
Antonietta Tripodi Quinn

The Hawk and the Hummingbird
J. S. Clawson

Stressful Life vs Abundant Life
Sridevi K.J. Sharmirajan

Tilda Finds Her Rainbow
Nicola A Lewis

When PB Met J
Katelyn Aronson

Doctoroo & The Case
of The Picnic Pirates
Dr. Rachel Wellner

EXCLUSIVE

★ Lola Love Dolls
Lola Ogundele

★ Lil Herbie
The Affirmation Doll
Sherrika Myers



Shania Lewis

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

February is a month full of love and learning. Not only do we celebrate Valentine's Day, the day of love and friendship, but we also celebrate Black History Month, the time to honor and appreciate the history and culture of black people.

In this issue, you will find many fun and informative articles, activities, and quizzes that will help you celebrate both Valentine's Day and Black History Month. We hope that you enjoy reading this issue and that you feel the love and appreciation that we have for you, our readers. Valentine's Day and Black History Month are both great opportunities to celebrate diversity and to respect everyone, no matter what they look like or where they come from. Remember, love and learning are not just for one month, they are for every day.

Happy reading!

Dhruvin Dharmendra

Dhruvin
Dharmendra



Dear Little Black Girl

Shania Lewis



The book "Dear Little Black Girl" makes for the perfect morning affirmation story to instill confidence within your little black girl before a big day or it can be the ideal bedtime story to uplift, affirm, and acknowledge just how brilliant, unique, and loved your little black girl truly is. This book provides a powerful message to little black girls everywhere as it not only inspires but uplifts and builds little black girls up and reminds them to follow and conquer their dreams.

available at
amazon



Q: First, tell us something about yourself.

Hello! My name is Shania Lewis, and I am a children's book author and publisher who creates literature that celebrates uplifts, and honors little black girls.

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

My writing journey began when I was a child. I loved to write little poems. This love for writing became a hobby for me as I would fill the pages of my journals with all my hopes and dreams. I can't believe I turned a hobby into a career that has changed my life.

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

I wrote my first story in 2021. It was initially a poem written for a contest that I unfortunately did not win, but I didn't let that stop me from turning that poem into my first published children's book entitled "Dear Little Black Girl."

Q: Tell us something more about your books.

Something that makes my books so unique is their representation, from the poetic words to the vibrant illustrations. Representation matters, and every child should be able to find books with characters that look like them.

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

The character in the book is based on a picture of myself when I was four years old, and the stories are poems that I wrote to heal my inner child. Now, my words encourage other little black girls to be bold, brave, and fearless.

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

Never let the word "no" stop you. If I had listened to all of the people who told me "no," I would've never gone on to publish what is now an award-winning children's book. I would've never started my own publishing company, and there's a good chance I would've never gotten to grace the cover of this magazine. Never let the word "no" stop you from achieving your dreams.

Valentine I SPY



Tilda

Finds Her Rainbow

Join Tilda the tortoise as she bravely goes on an adventure in search of new colours. Explore how she helps a tired butterfly, a scared fairy, an old slimy frog, and a hissing snake along the way before finding her rainbow. Tilda's adventure is a journey of kindness, courage, friendship, and forgiveness.

Nicola A Lewis

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

As a child I grew up immersed in books that led my imagination to magical places. Now a mother of two grown up sons I still have that same passion of storytelling and inventing characters that find a place in your heart.

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

I have always wanted to be an author and have many unedited manuscripts in my desk drawer! It was an unexpected turn of events in my life that put me on the path to being introduced to a very special tortoise. Yes, a tortoise named Tilda!

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

It was this tortoise Tilda who inspired me to write my first children's picture book and to publish it in 2023. I was fortunate to have Bear with us productions professionally design the book with one of their illustrators Alice Peironi creating the beautiful illustrations. My second book There's a raccoon in my room was published shortly afterwards.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

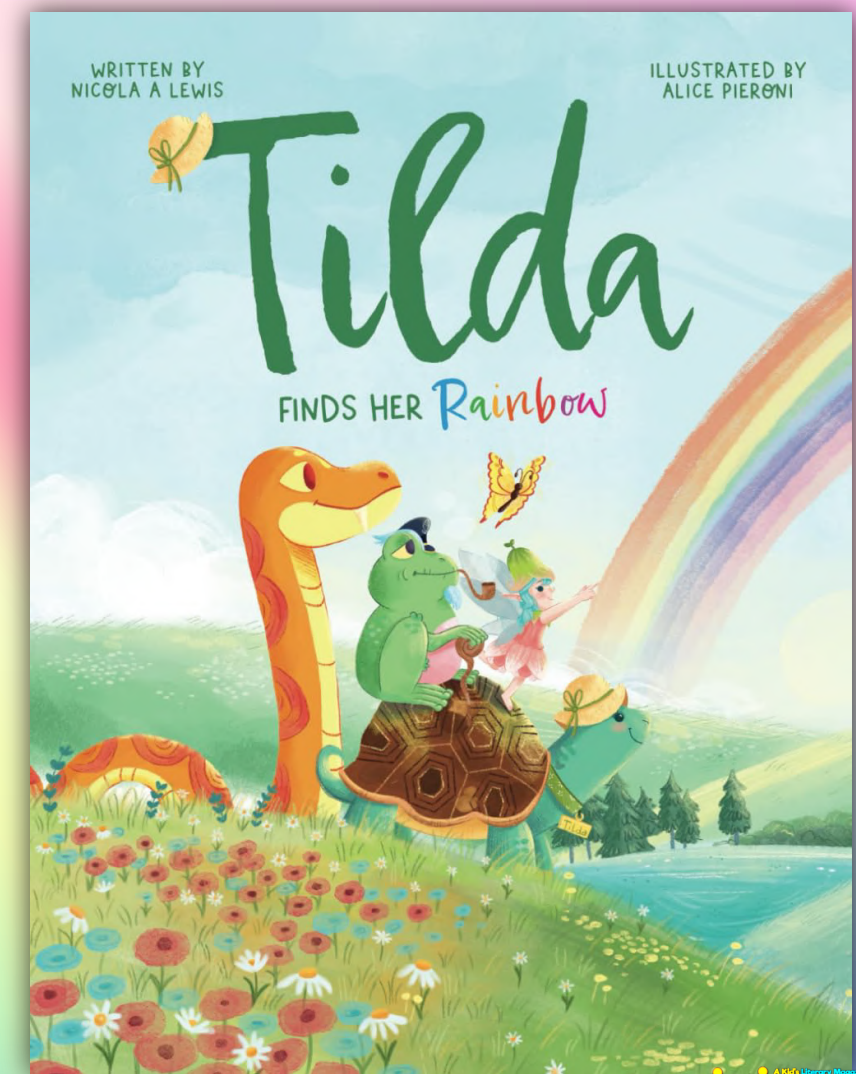
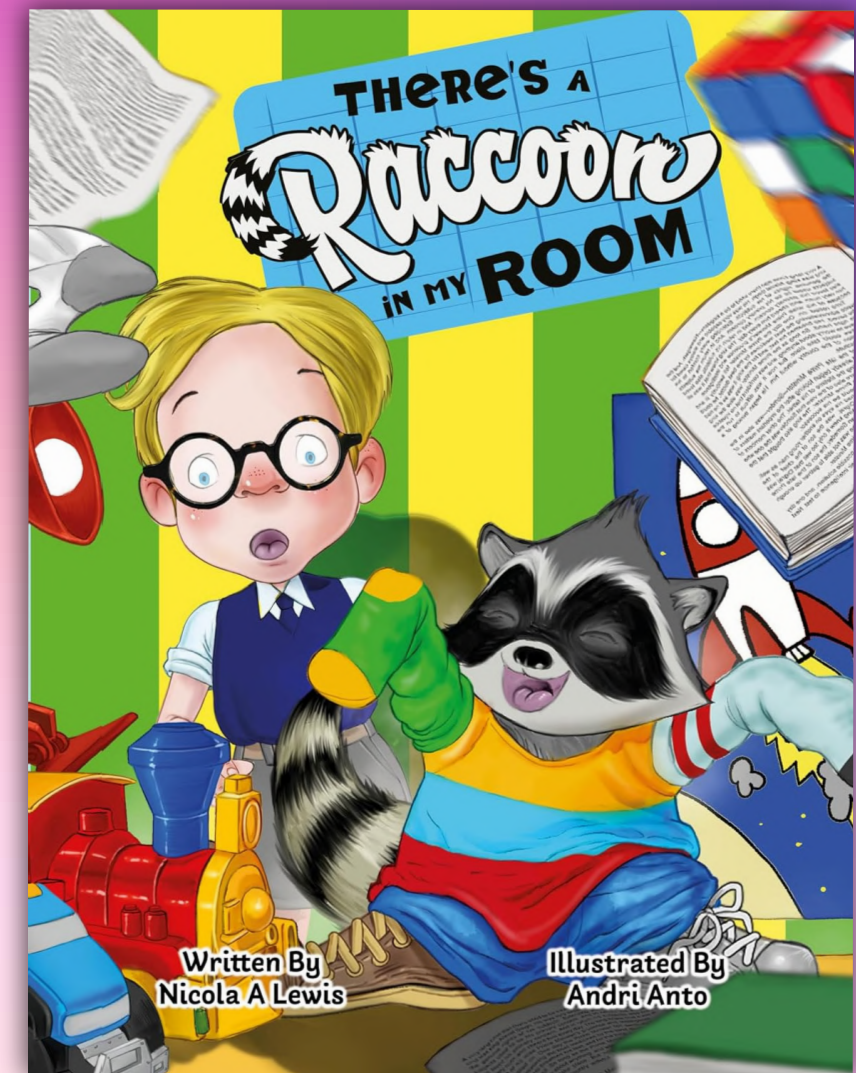
Tilda finds her rainbow is an adventure of courage, kindness, friendship and forgiveness told through rhyme and beautiful illustrations. She wishes to explore new exciting colours beyond her garden and helps a tired butterfly, a scared fairy, an old slimy frog and a hissing snake along the way. There's a raccoon in my room is a funny story about a young boy who comes home from school to a very untidy bedroom. He has a very cheeky raccoon in his room causing mayhem with pyjamas, pillows, socks and shoes.

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

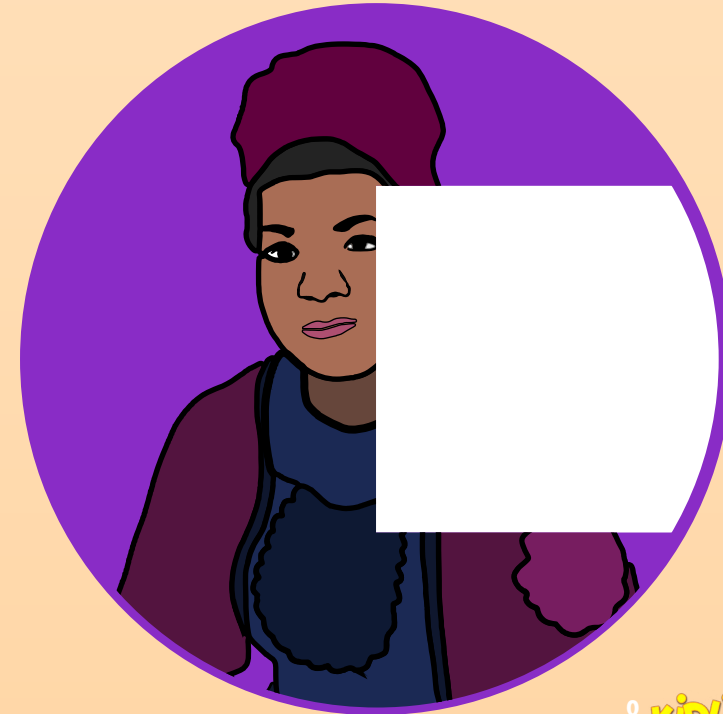
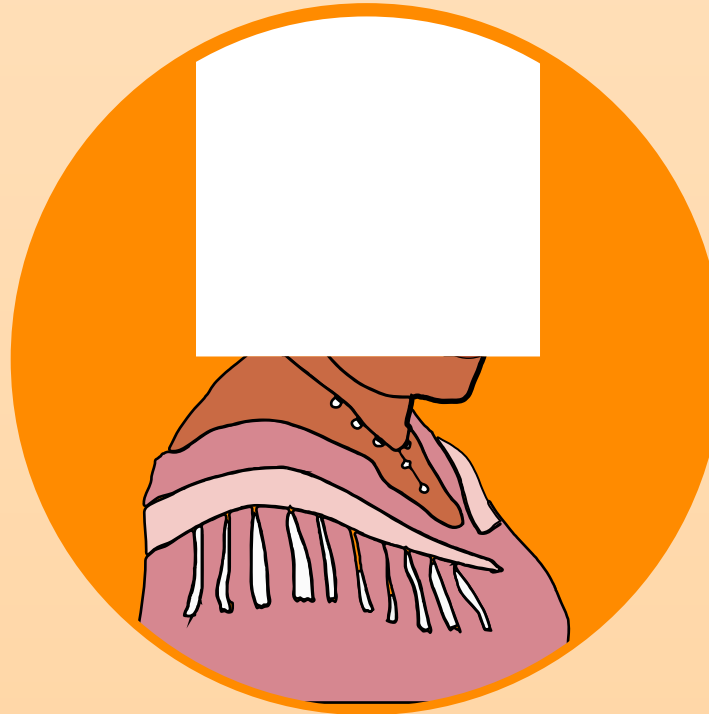
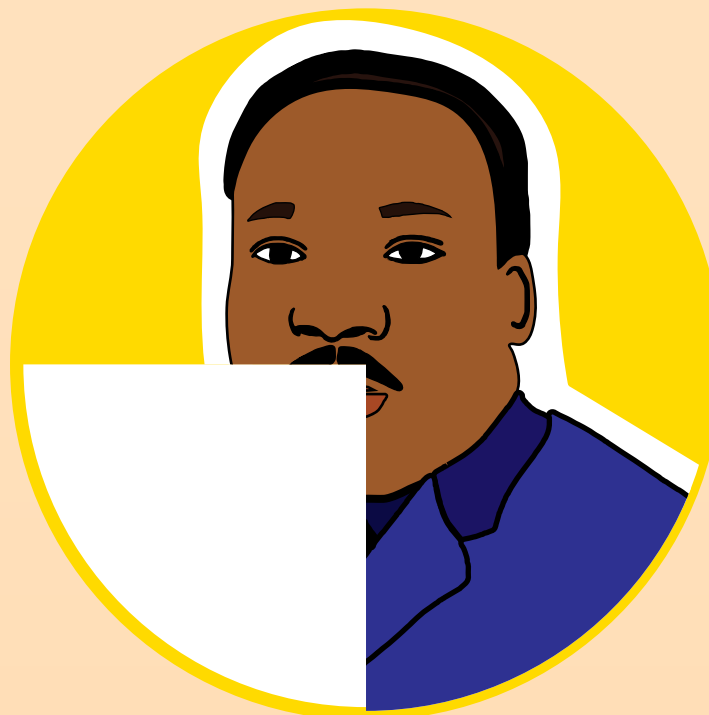
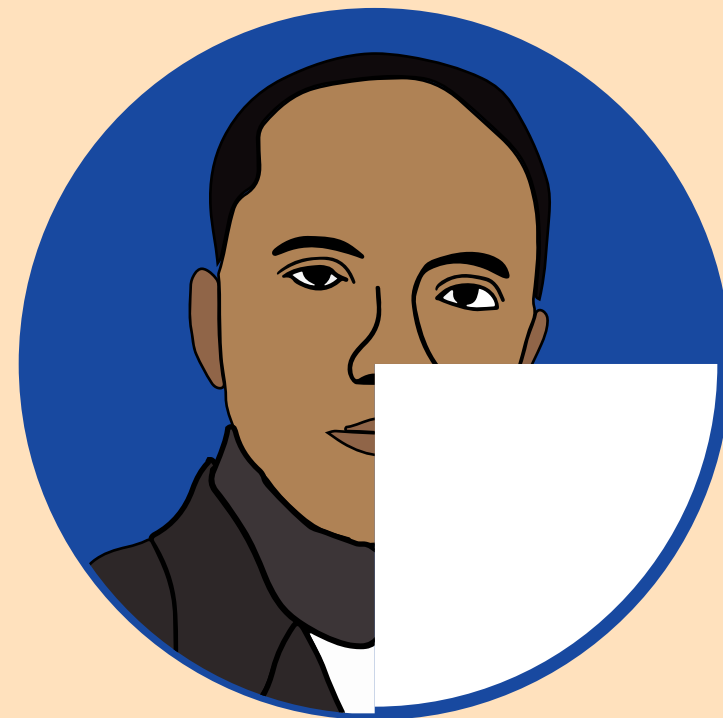
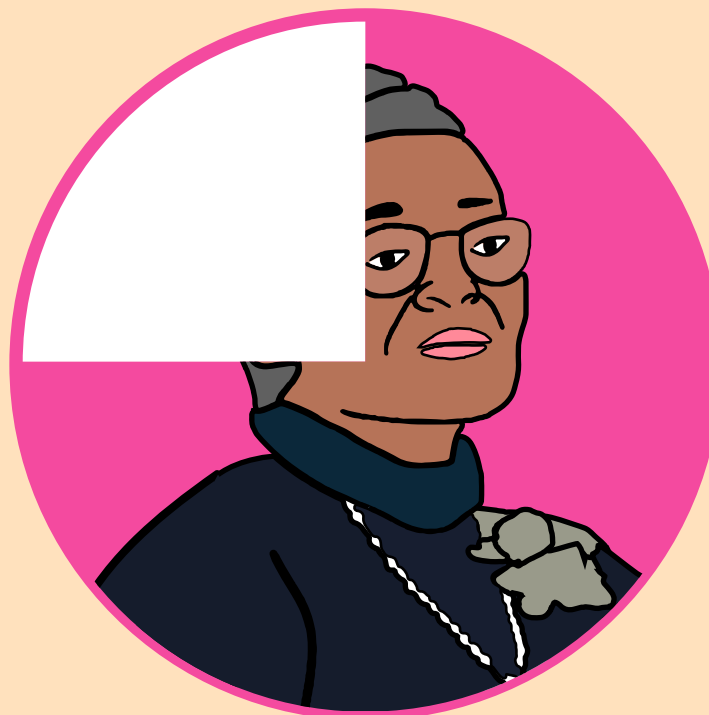
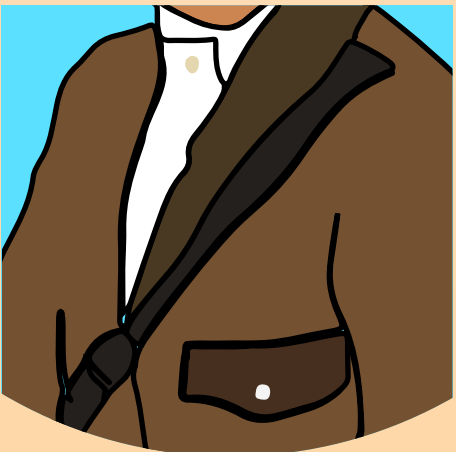
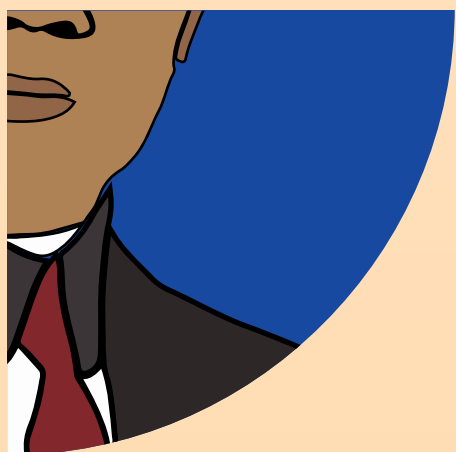
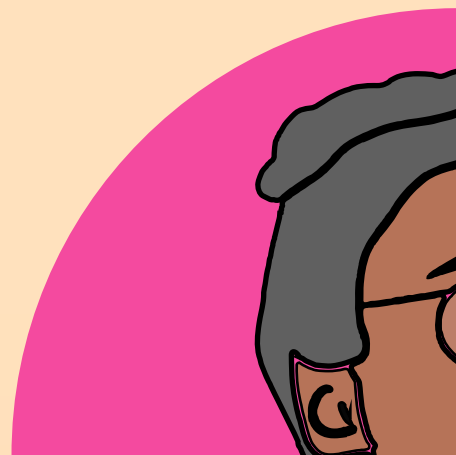
The characters in Tilda finds her rainbow have always been patiently waiting in my head for the right story and Tilda was that story! It was written from the heart about becoming brave enough to explore whatever may be your dream. In my case it was to become an author. Her message within the story to support and consider the obstacles others face whilst chasing your own dream is such an important ethos. As she tells the butterfly 'A shared adventure is simply the best'. A messy bedroom is something we have all experienced but for the cause to be a funny raccoon is something else! This endearing character and his message in the story 'To be kind and be happy' means this a raccoon everyone would love to meet.

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

My message to all young readers is my own quote 'To believe in your imagination is magical' Follow your heart into a story whether it is one you choose to write or to read.



Black History Month Jig Saw Puzzle





Lola Ogundele

When I started my company I remember the early starts, late nights, and working weekends, all while juggling a day job and parenting.

I was able to quit her mentoring job in April 2023 to focus full-time on Lola Love Dolls

And despite naysayers who criticised saying the dolls would never sell, Lola Love Doll may soon be distributed by a major chain of upscale department stores in the UK.



I COULDN'T FIND DOLLS WITH AFRO HAIR

In 2018, my daughter and I went shopping for a doll that represented my daughter who at the time was age 4, but despite searching big-name department and toy stores, she could find only poor imitations.

One assistant showed me a Barbie that was ashy-grey in colour with straight hair; it wasn't black or dark skin, honestly, it was insulting.

"So, I didn't even bother complaining, I just said this is it – I need to start a company."

Despite not having any knowledge of business Ogundele I sourced the first dolls and started trading on a small market stall, steadily growing to open a store on Portobello Road in August 2023.



I felt pressure to relax my hair for some jobs, as having big afros in a workplace felt unacceptable.

My afro was sometimes even seen as a political stance; how's my hair a political statement?

So realistic curls for the dolls was crucial because I want Isabella to grow up to love her hair – to be happy in her own skin.

www.lolalovedolls.com



I now have a range of 22 black dolls with of varying afro curls and shades of brown skin, serving not only as toys but a voice to people of colour.

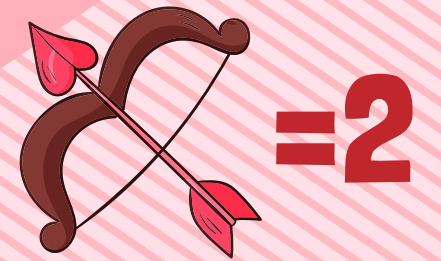
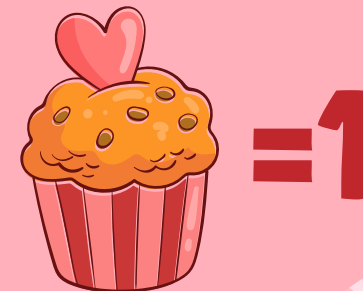
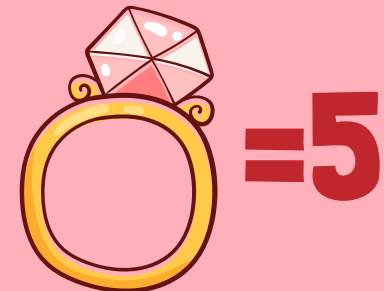
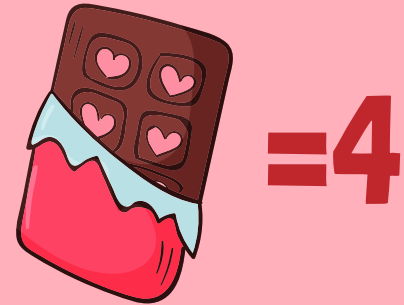
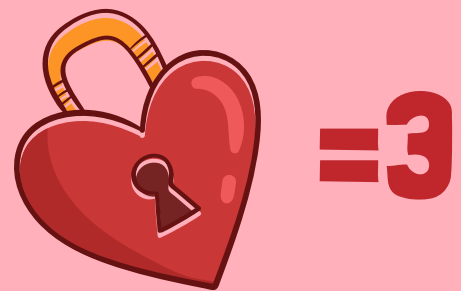
Though I was born and raised in London, I felt marginalised as a child, unable to see myself represented in the media, instead inundated with images of blue-eyed, blond-haired kids.

I felt ignored by teachers and, on occasion, having my name mispronounced, yet having to sit there and allow it, answering to a name which wasn't hers.

These experiences, fuelled by the absence of black dolls on the market, made me determined to find a better way for her daughter by creating a doll Isabella could identify with – of which hair played great importance.



Valentine's Day Maths



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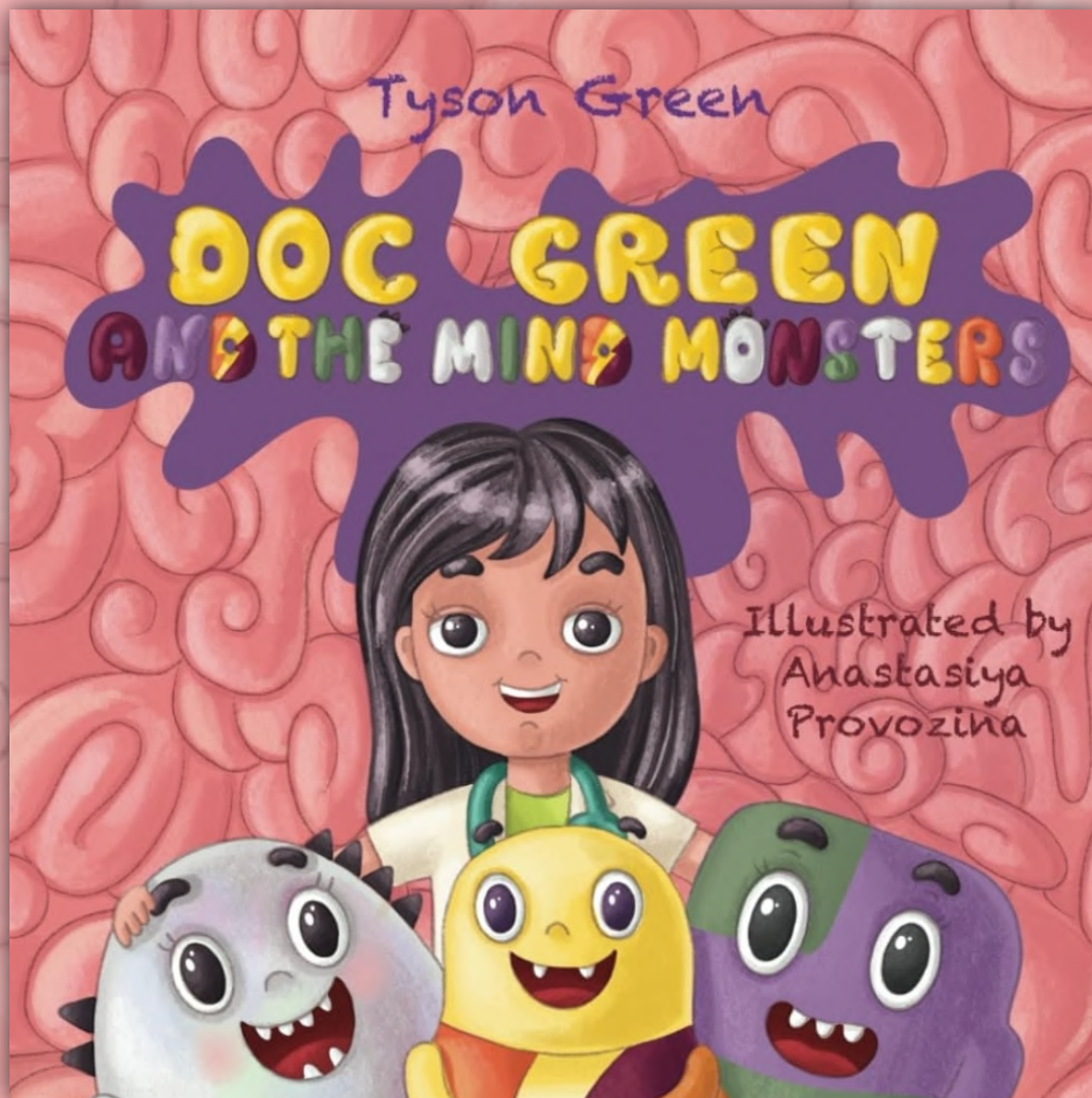
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Doc Green And The Mind Monsters

Tyson Green

"Doc Green and the Mind Monsters" is a self-help adventure book that recounts the tale of Doc Green as she embarks on a journey into the brain to offer assistance to the mind monsters within. The book's objective is to aid readers in gaining a deeper understanding of themselves and their mental health.



Q: First tell us something about yourself.

As a first-time self-published author from the UK, I balance my creative pursuits in filmmaking during my spare time while concurrently managing a 9-5 job.

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

From a tender age of 8 or 9 years old, my passion for writing blossomed through the creation of rhyming poetry. These early experiences laid the foundational stones for my ongoing journey in the world of writing.

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

I wrote my first story at 10 years old, which was a spin off of the Goosebumps books, as I was fascinated by the book series at the time. However, my book was put in the bin by my parents. Whether that was because it was trash or by mistake I'll never know lol.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

In my debut book, 'DOC GREEN AND THE MIND MONSTERS,' I aim to educate young children about mental health while inspiring them to express their feelings openly.

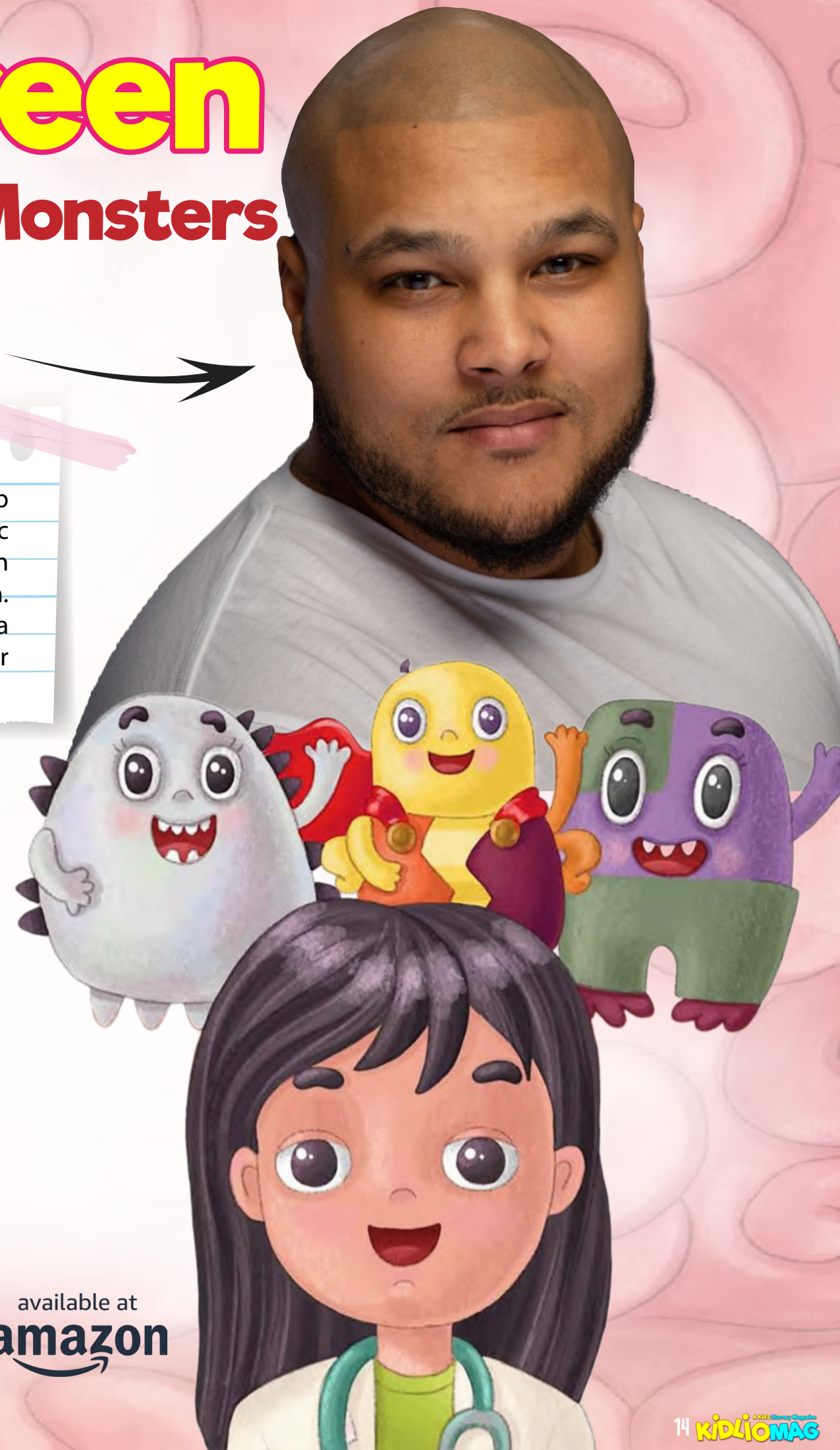
I firmly believe that instilling these crucial lessons from an early age can empower children to navigate their emotions and support others, fostering a foundation for lifelong well-being.

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

Having navigated mental health challenges since childhood into adulthood, I found inspiration while contemplating creative ideas. As my own daughters played beside me, memories of my younger self surfaced—struggling to understand my thoughts and emotions, yet reluctant to share them. Motivated by this reflection, I embarked on the journey of creating a children's book that addresses mental health in a way that is not only educational but also adventurous, fun, and easily understandable.

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

I strongly advocate for prioritising children's mental health by integrating comprehensive mental health teachings into the regular school curriculum. Unlike certain replaceable subjects, mental health is a lifelong concern, and its understanding and management deserve a continuous and integral place in education—not limited to specific weeks or days dedicated to the cause.



available at
amazon

LeBron James

LeBron James is widely regarded as one of the best players in basketball today. He has an incredible combination of skills, strength, leaping ability, and height that make him one of the best athletes in the world.

Jackie Robinson

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson took to the field as the first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson was the first Black player to play Major League Baseball (MLB) in the modern era. Since 2004, baseball has honored Robinson's legacy by celebrating April 15 as "Jackie Robinson Day."

Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan is widely considered the greatest basketball player of all time. He won an NCAA championship with the University of North Carolina in 1982 and an Olympic gold medal in 1984. Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships and was part of the Dream Team that won gold at the 1992 Olympics. Jordan retired twice, first in 1993 to play baseball, and again in 1998 after winning his sixth NBA title. He briefly returned to play for the Washington Wizards in 2001-2003 before retiring for good.



Usain Bolt

Usain Bolt (born August 21, 1986, Montego Bay, Jamaica) Jamaican sprinter who won gold medals in the 100-metre and 200-metre races in an unprecedented three straight Olympic Games and is widely considered the greatest sprinter of all time.

Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali was one of the most influential athletes in American history, a three-time heavyweight boxing champion who fought as well with his mouth and mind. Ali called himself "The Greatest," and many agreed. Among boxers, he certainly ranked among the elite, having won the heavyweight title three times in his 21-year career.

Serena Williams

Serena Williams exemplifies courage, beauty, power and style, and has overcome insurmountable odds to win 23 career Grand Slams, the second-most singles titles of record. Her remarkable tennis achievements, combined with her off-court success in fashion, philanthropy and business, make her one of the most recognizable icons in the world and a powerful voice for women.

ANDREW CONQUERS THE COURT



written by
Antonietta Tripodi Quinn
illustrated by
Eva Morales

ANDREW CONQUERS THE COURT

Andrew has loved playing basketball his entire life. Now a 5th grader, it's time to try out for the school team. Andrew is sure Coach will be impressed. Until...

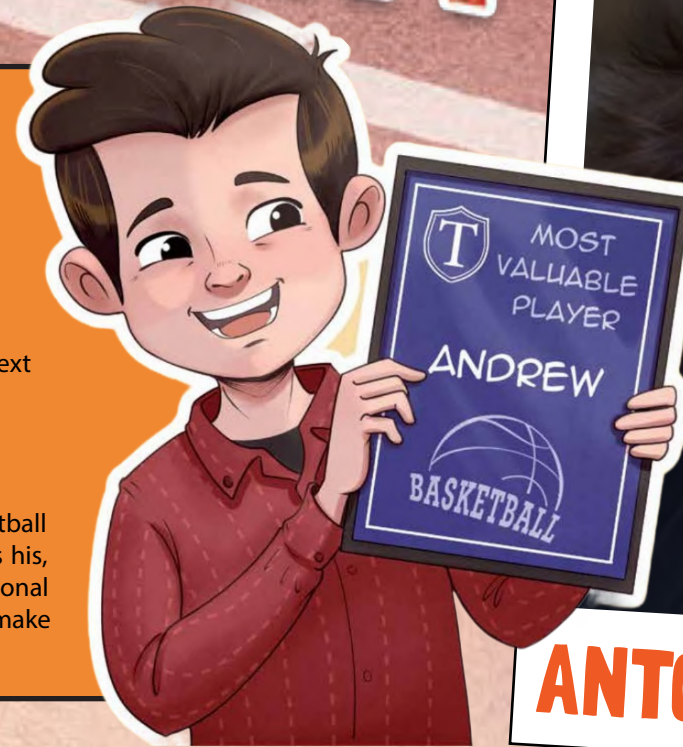
Thank you for trying out for the school basketball team.

I am sorry to let you know that you did not make the team.

I hope you will continue to work hard and try out again next year.

- Coach

Devastated, Andrew wonders if he should give up on basketball altogether or wait to try out again next year. The choice is his, but it won't be easy. Follow Andrew through this inspirational story based on real-life events as he learns what it takes to make the team.



ANTONIETTA TRIPODI QUINN

Q: First, tell us something about yourself.

I am a wife, mother, educator, and now a children's book author. As an educator for almost 30 years, I know how important books are for children in elementary school, and writing a children's book is something I've always wanted to do. I've used many, many children's books in the classroom over the years. When my education career changed from classroom teacher to curriculum writer, I would use children's books, both fiction and non-fiction, to help teach various concepts to elementary students, especially in science.

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

Within the last couple of years, I found myself at a crossroads in my education career and decided it was time for me to move on to other adventures. About a year ago, I found myself in the children's section of a bookstore. It was then I remembered that dream of mine of writing a children's book and decided it was time to move forward with making that dream come true.

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

I began writing my first children's book, Andrew Conquers the Court, in November of 2022. I was guided through the process by Miriam Laundry Publishing, and my book launched on November 9th, 2023. So, it took me about a year to publish the book.

available at
amazon

Q: Tell us something more about your book.

My book was inspired by my son, Andrew's, basketball journey. In middle school, he did not make the school basketball team, and he was very disappointed. He was the only one out of his group of friends who didn't make the team, so he felt very left out. He had to make a choice – was he going to quit the sport he loved or work hard at getting better? His coach at the time was very helpful in giving Andrew direction on what he needed to work on to get better. The story not only takes the reader through what Andrew did to get better, but it also shows how it turned out for him. At the very end of the book, you get to see pictures of the “real” Andrew and read his “real” story. I've heard from some of the children who have read the book already that they liked seeing the actual pictures of who the book was about. One of the classrooms that read the book couldn't believe that the story was true. That was surprising to me but also encouraging. It's great for students to know what is possible for them if things don't turn out the way they hope it will.

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

As I mentioned, the inspiration for my book was my son, Andrew. I watched him go from a child struggling as a basketball player to working day in and day out to become better at a sport he loved. Many members of the basketball community would watch Andrew play and comment on “what a great story he had.” When I heard that repeatedly, I realized that his story may help other children, too. His experience was truly a metaphor for life. Applying perseverance and grit in life can lead you to great success. It's a great lesson for kids of all ages! I now understand more why coaches and athletes say that sports can teach you so much about life. It is so true!

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

Ultimately, the message I would like to leave for my readers is that Andrew's story can be their story, too. Just because you don't make the team or get the part in the play, it's not over! You can put the work in to get better and try again! In the process of writing this book, I remember seeing a post on social media about a mom who was very upset about her daughter not making the cheerleading squad. Her daughter was even more upset..what should she do? I wrote back to the mom and sympathized with her feelings because moms hurt when our kids hurt. We want to fix it for them. I told her what happened to my son, and for her daughter, it doesn't have to be the end of cheerleading. It may be the beginning of her becoming even better at the sport she loves.

I also hope it helps parents to see that not making the team or a disappointment in their child's life can be a great learning experience for them. Again, we don't want to see our kids upset or feel left out, so we want to swoop in and fix it. I get that feeling. In Andrew's situation, I wanted to talk to the coach myself, but his dad and I knew it had to be Andrew who talked to the coach. He needed to ask the coach what he needed to do to get better. Luckily, he had a fantastic coach who helped him focus on what he needed to do to improve and gave him some pointers. Then Andrew took it from there with our support.

Andrew Conquers the Court can be purchased on Amazon: <https://bit.ly/4757Oq9>
If you would like your book signed for a special child in your life, you can order the book through

my **website: www.atqauthor.com**.

Besides my website, where you can send me a message, you can also find me on: FB: www.facebook.com/atqauthor

Instagram: www.instagram.com/atqauthor

Twitter: www.twitter.com/atqauthor



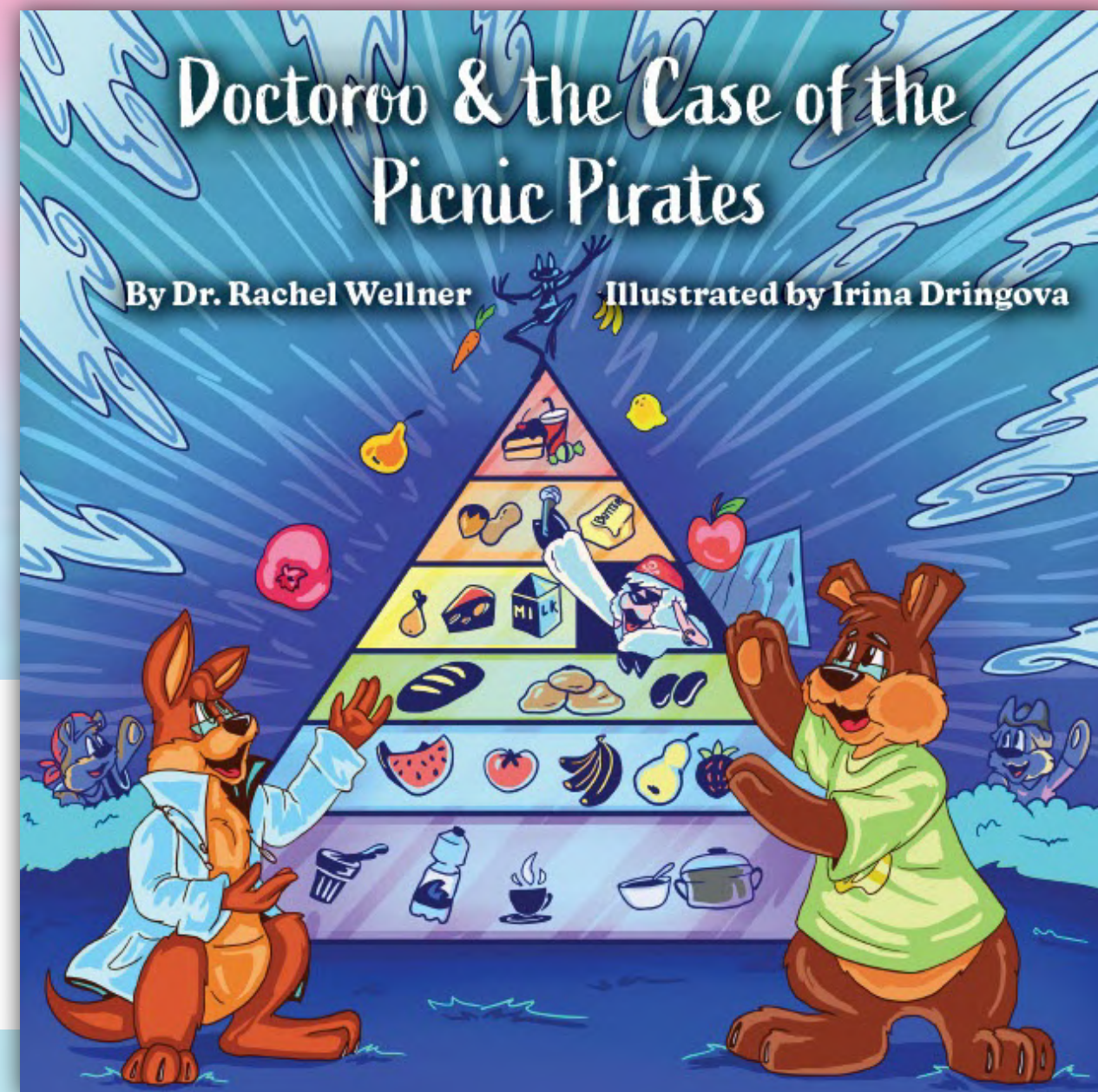


Dr. Rachel Wellner

Doctoroo & the Case of the Picnic Pirates

Doctoroo (also known as Dr. Marsha Roo) and her team Kirby Koala, Louie Llama and Terence Toad may live in Australia, but they travel the world solving medical mysteries. In Doctoroo & the Case of the Picnic Pirates, they fly to the United States to find out why bear cubs in the Tumbling Potomac Pirates won't practice their somersaults, cartwheels, or handsprings. Will Doctoroo discover what is wrong? Will she have the answer in time for the cubs to perform on the Fourth of July, America's Independence Day?

available at
amazon



Q: First, tell us something about yourself.

I am a board-certified general surgeon, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a Society of Surgical Oncology-trained breast oncology surgeon who has been featured as a guest expert on several local and national news networks, including WPLX 11, Fox and Friends, and CNN. I earned my MD at the University of Connecticut and pursued my surgical training at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. I received a Master's in Public Health degree from Columbia University, which reflected my ongoing passion for global health and prepared me to work toward establishing clinical rotations in underserved regions of Nicaragua, Guatemala, India, and The Dominican Republic.

I graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College. I am a past director of Breast Services at NYEE/Continuum Cancer Center, Pascal Valley Hospital, and Palisades General Hospital, and a past assistant clinical professor of surgery at the Montefiore-Einstein Center for Care. I recently founded and served as CEO of Caelum Diagnostic Solutions, Inc., a start-up company dedicated to disrupting the cancer diagnostic market. We are doing this by rendering biopsy results 10 minutes after the diagnostic biopsy procedure using highly specialized (and proven) molecular imaging paired with our proprietary hardware and software packages to build a comprehensive solution for the clinical setting.

Doctoroo & the Case of the Picnic Pirates is the first book in Dr. Rachel Wellner's DOCTOROO series, geared toward educating children about personal health. Other books in the Doctoroo series include Doctoroo & the Case of the Red-hot Hawaiians and Doctoroo & the Case of the Hacking Hippo.

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

I was first inspired to write the series when I was in medical school, rotating on my pediatrics experience. I wanted to find a way to explain to children why they were sick and how I was going to help them get better. I have a long-standing history of caring for the world's little ones, and I believe that a healthy foundation leads to improved life-long health.

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

So far, I have written 3 books in the series, plus a coloring book. They are all published and on Amazon.com or accessible through my website: www.doctoroohealth.com. I plan to turn Doctoroo into a whole series- I have yet to set a limit on how many Doctoroo stories I plan to tell! As children identify with Doctoroo, I think the sky's the limit with what I can do as far as interesting storylines with Doctoroo imparting wisdom as well as creating cute and colorful characters.

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

I have tried to create an adorable but educational children's book series that centers around Doctoroo and her adventures. Through Doctoroo, a loveable kangaroo doctor with a magical pouch containing her medical supplies, the reader is taken on a series of adventures that teach children about the importance of a healthy diet. Doctoroo! treks across the globe in search of answers to health-related mysteries. Each book in the series will center around a different health issue, such as learning to eat healthy, the food pyramid, smoking, and several other health challenges. The books are engaging and draw the reader in with the catchy phrases and adorable animal characters.

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

These characters were very much inspired by my background in healthcare. I want children to learn the important health lessons in this book while investing in the mystery. I look at the mystery as a tool to allow all-comers to learn and apply the health lessons embedded in the story. An interesting story holds the attention of kids and gets them to retain information. My goal has been to give children the enjoyment of vivid, colorful pictures and characters while learning something about health at the same time.

Ayodhya Ram Mandir

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya

It has been built at an estimated cost of Rs **1,800 crore** and has an overall area of **71 acres**. The total width is **250 feet**.

Mysuru sculptor Arun Yogiraj crafted the idol of five-year-old Ram Lalla, now installed in the 'Garbh Griha'. The idol is 51 inches tall. Its consecration ceremony took place today.



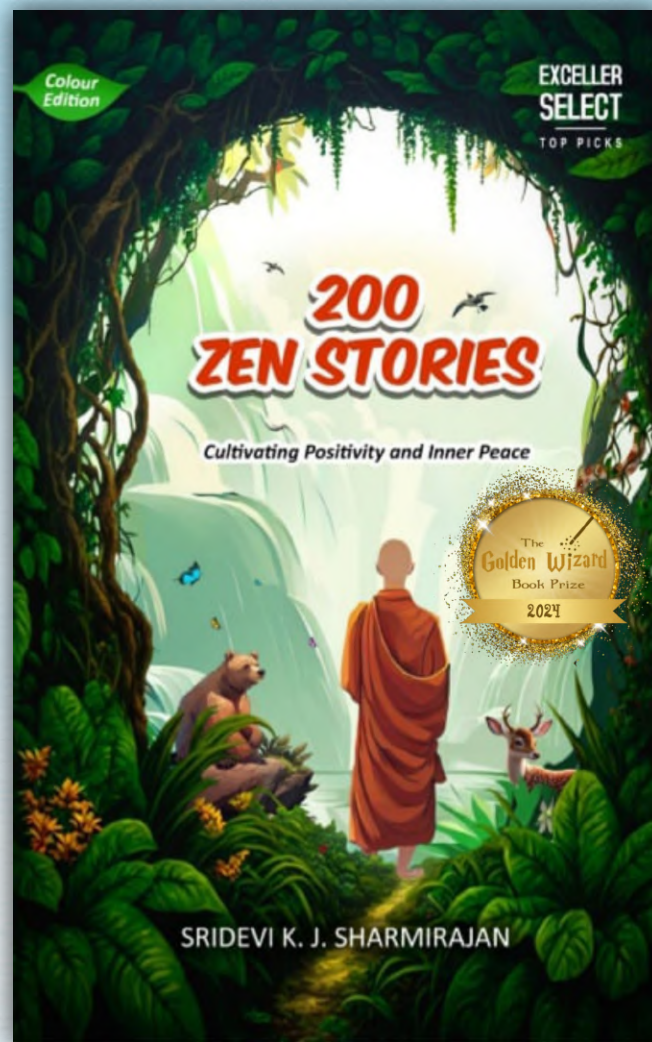
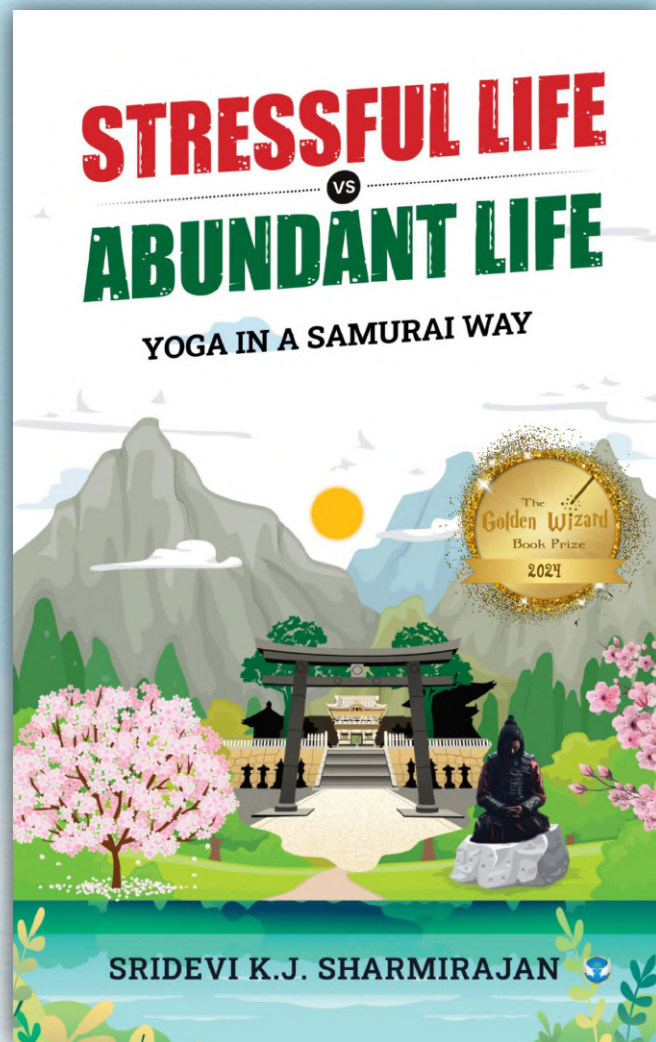
The Temple Has **390 Pillars**, **46 Doorways** And **5 Mandaps**. No Iron Has Been Used In The Construction Of The Temple. The Temple Is Built To Last At Least **1,000 Years**.



Stressful Life

VS

Abundant Life



"Stressful Life vs. Abundant Life: Yoga in a Samurai Way" merges the disciplines of yoga and the samurai's Bushido code, offering a transformative journey towards balance and harmony. This book provides practical exercises, samurai-themed journaling, and insights to embody the virtues of Bushido and yoga, fostering physical strength, mental clarity, and emotional resilience. It's a guide to discovering your Ikigai, living with purpose and integrity, and transforming stress into abundant well-being.

Author Interview

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

I'm Dr. Sridevi Soundirarajan(H.G), also known as Sridevi K.J. Sharmirajan, from India. My academic background spans a BE in Electronics and Communication Engineering, an MBA, and an MA in Yoga for Human Excellence. I've been honored with an honorary doctorate award in Literature from the Iconic Peace Award Council and a honorary gold medal from DRDC Global. As a Bharatanatyam Dancer, Certified Yoga Teacher, Author, Podcaster, Youtuber, And Artist, I took a significant turn in 2020 by leaving my software job. This period led me to find my Ikigai in yoga and literature, inspiring me to share this passion through writing.I then pursued a Master's in Yoga for Human Excellence, transitioning into a professional Yoga career.

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

In August 2022, I participated in an essay competition and wrote "My First Novel," a concise exploration of the epic "Ponniyin Selvan," which to my joy, was published in a prestigious magazine, sparking my love for writing.

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

"Positive Infinity," my inaugural poetry collection, received three accolades, including the Golden Book Award 2023,led to my award winning podcast "Spread Positive infinity with Author Sridevi," now listed in Apple Podcasts' New and Noteworthy. This podcast has achieved three world records and is currently in its acclaimed second season, focusing on my second book, "21 Laws of Universe."

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

My Golden Wizard Book Prize 2024 winning books, "200 Zen Stories" and "Stressful Life vs. Abundant Life," blend zen,samurai and yoga wisdom with modern challenges, promoting inner peace and positivity. My latest children's book, "208 Zen-Inspired Samurai Tales: Kids Meditation Palette," draws from these works, offering 208 illustrated stories to teach calmness, positivity, and wisdom. Aimed at young readers, it features interactive coloring pages to enhance engagement and stimulate creativity.

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

My stories and characters come from my imagination, mixed with things I see and feel in my daily life. They're like little pieces of the world around me, put together in a fun and creative way. I think of interesting people and exciting adventures, and then I write them down to share with everyone. It's like taking real life and adding a pinch of magic to it!

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

To my cherished readers:Let the serenity of Zen, the strength of the Samurai, and the balance of Yoga guide you. Embrace each day with mindfulness and positivity, and remember, within you lies the power to transform challenges into stepping stones for growth and inner peace.

available at
amazon



Sridevi K.J. Sharmirajan

The Hawk and the Hummingbird



J. S. Clawson

available at
www.jsclawson.com **amazon**

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

I live on a small island in the Chesapeake Bay on the east coast of the U.S. with my wife and our travel cat Elsa. I am both a photographer and writer. The island I live on serves as inspiration for a lot of my creativity. We love to flower garden, so the gardens attract a lot of wildlife that we can enjoy and be inspired by. We also love to travel with our RV and Elsa, who is a travel cat, to destinations of natural beauty to photograph and enjoy. These destinations will serve as a basis for my new children book series called 'Elsa the Travel Cat' series. We love the outdoors so hiking and kayaking naturally are part of our lifestyle.

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

I have always written since I was a child. I liked to put my active imagination into words. Life and a career took me in a different path, but I continued to write and also kept the creativity flowing by writing poems. I discovered different poem styles and would write to those styles (nonet, Quaterne, tyburn etc.). I also wrote many free style poems all which were shared on a blog. I also used writing prompts, like three-word prompts, to write short stories. All leading to a time in my life now where I can concentrate on my writing in many different disciplines. So, it truly has been a journey.

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

My first story was a sci-fi short story written on a blue manual typewriter when I was a young teen. It was not published, other than I think my mother kept a copy of it!

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

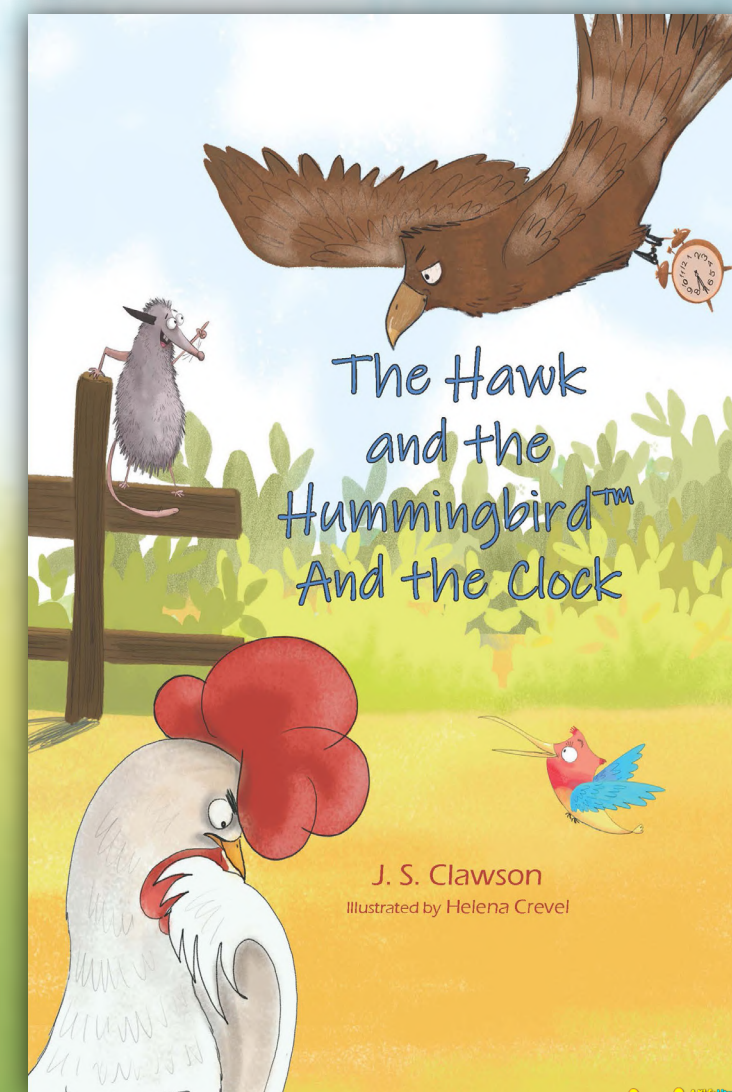
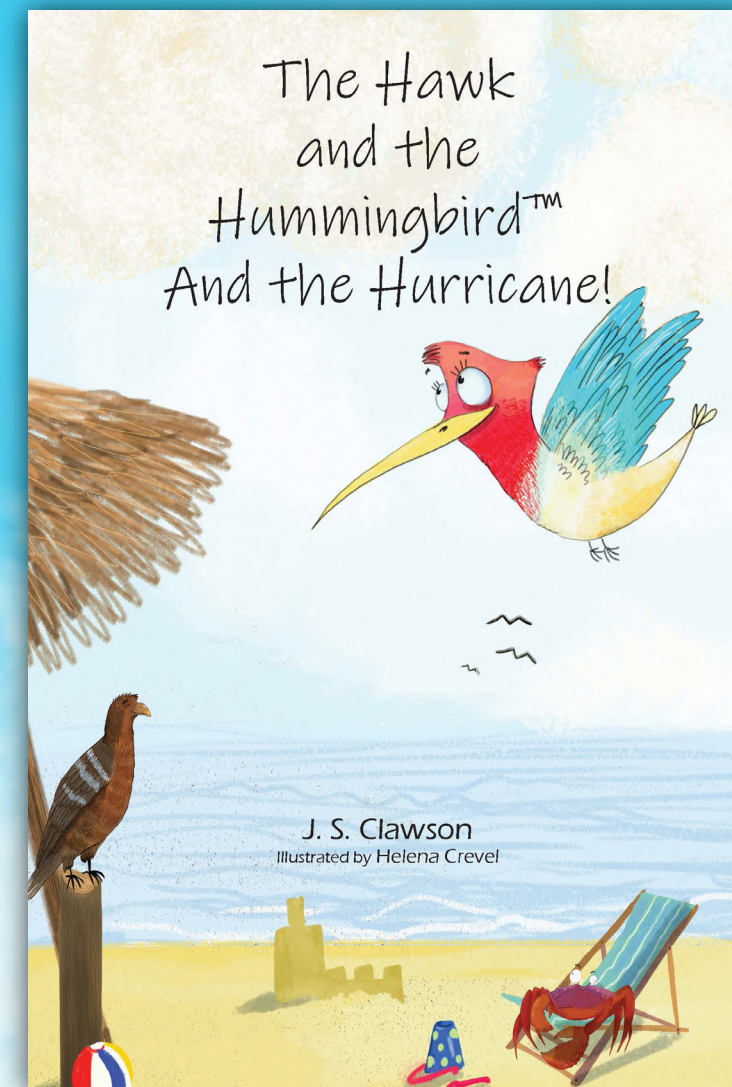
These books are children's books, leveled to a 3rd grade level and are a first chapter book. They are a series featuring two best friends, Ruby the ruby-throated hummingbird and Red the red-tailed hawk. They go on adventures and solve mysteries along with their many friends. They live on a small island in a bay. At the end of each book, we feature two words that are either in the title or are used repeatedly throughout the book and give their definition. Also, at the end we talk about the real life characters or items found in the book like the different trees mentioned and animals. So, in that sense, they are educational.

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

The two main characters came to light one day when my wife saw a hawk and a hummingbird in the yard and told me about it. I said to myself that would make a great children's book title, The Hawk and the Hummingbird. The first story came to mind while I was home during a hurricane. I literally wrote most of the first book during the hurricane. I wondered, since animals do not have tv or radio, how would they figure out that a hurricane was coming. So, they work together to not only figure out what is coming, but to also work together to survive. The second book is a mystery. Ruby wakes up one morning and none of his friends are in their normal routines and are all running late. So Red, Ruby, and their friends work together to solve the mystery.

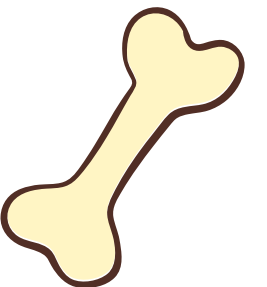
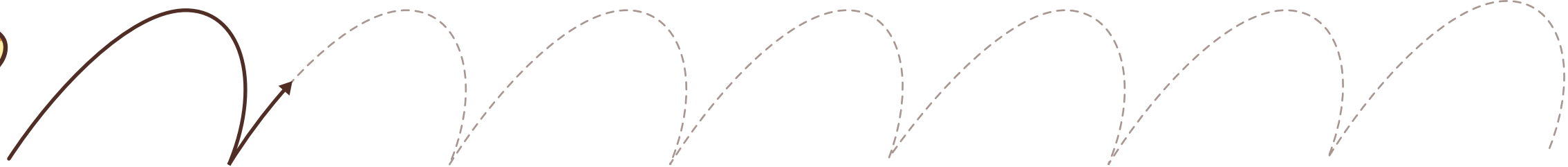
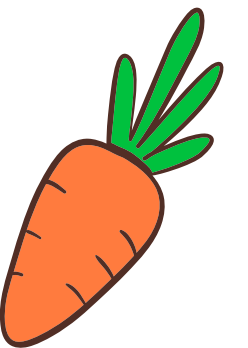
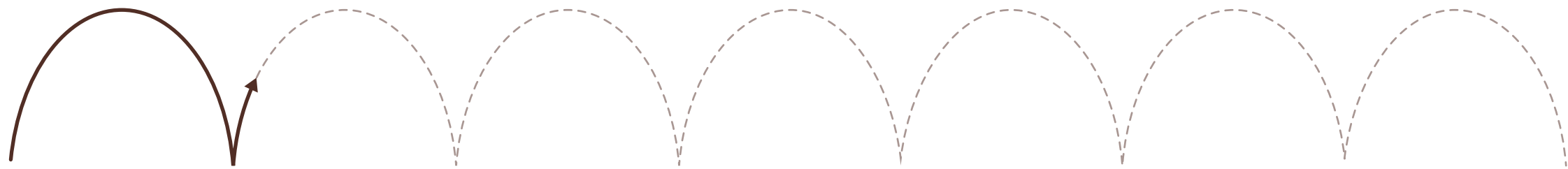
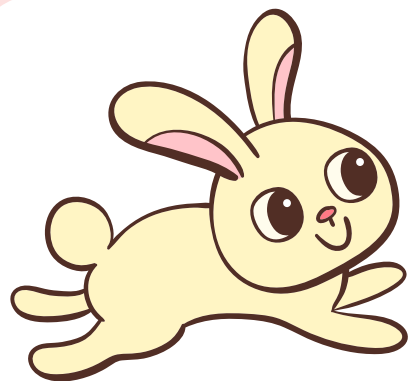
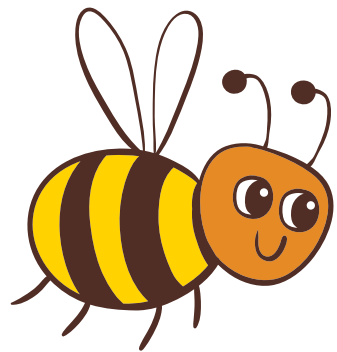
Q: Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

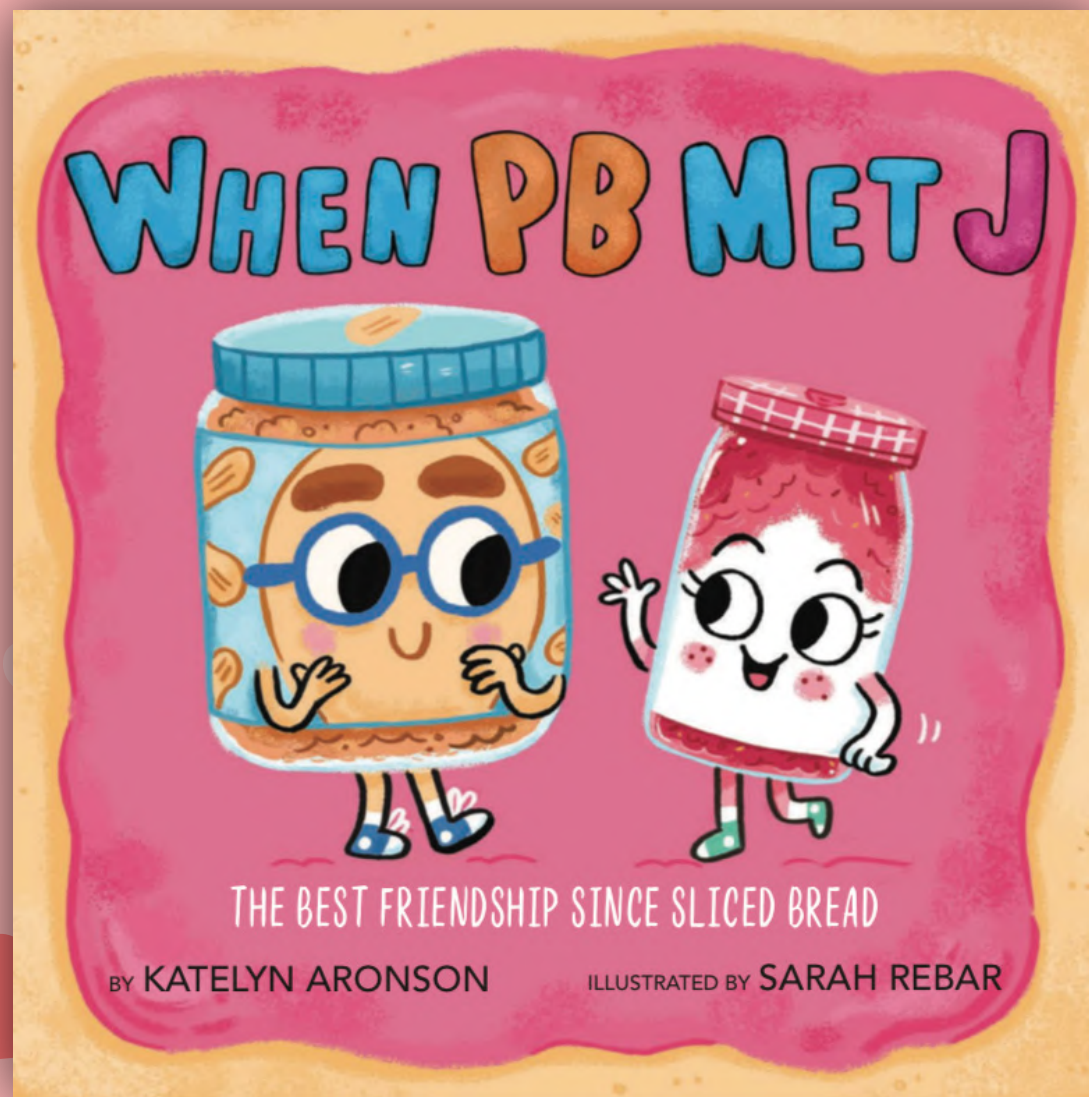
If there is a message in the books, it would be about teamwork and working together. That no matter our differences in looks or size, we can all be friends and work together. We have inch worms, cows, birds, and beavers among other animals working together to solve mysteries and go on adventures.



★ Tracing Practice ★

Activity





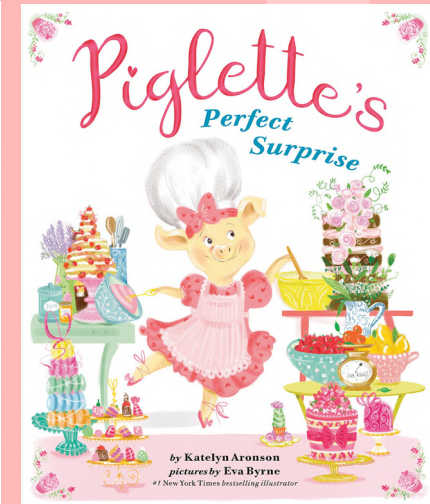
WHEN PB MET J

Once upon a kitchen, the Fridgers chilled on one side.
The Cupboard Crew loafed about on the other.

The kitchen may look like a peaceful place, but there was never more division than between the Fridgers and the Cupboard Crew. The Fridgers could be a little too cool. The Cupboard Crew—well, they often got stale. It was clear that the two should never mix. But that was until Peanut Butter (PB, for short) met Jelly. When Jelly finds herself in a sticky situation, it's Peanut Butter to the rescue. And the result is the best friendship since sliced bread.

Published by Penguin Random House
Available at www.penguinrandomhouse.com

available at
amazon



Q: First tell us something about yourself?

As you can probably guess, I am a fan of peanut butter. I'm nutty like that. But I live in France, and I can assure you that NO ONE eats peanut butter here except me.

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

My writing journey started at the age of 8. My 3rd grade teacher would give us writing prompts—just a few intriguing lines to get us off and running on our own story. I would write pages and pages! And very early on, I started dreaming of being published one day. Alas, I didn't seriously pursue that dream until I was old enough to have an 8-year-old of my own!

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

One of the earliest stories I drafted was Piglette. I wrote it back in 2015 and it became my very first book, published by Penguin Random House in 2020, followed by its seque Piglette's Perfect Surprise, published in 2021. The series follows a perfectionist piggy on her adventures from her French family farm to a Parisian perfumery and then a pâtisserie. I originally wrote Piglette as a birthday present for my younger sister. Only in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that it would later be picked up by the same publishing house as the famous Madeline.

Q: Tell us something more about your books?

Each of my books is very different. Some are written in prose, some in rhyme. Some deal with STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) and some with SEL (Social-Emotional Learning). Some are silly, some are serious.

This latest book of mine, WHEN PB MET J, is a parody of West Side Story set in a kitchen, and the origin story behind Peanut Butter & Jelly. To date, it is my "youngest" story ever. I call it my teen drama for preschoolers (ha!) because friendships are made, broken, and made up again in the space of one fateful "Friday Night Jam." And yes, the book is positively packed with food puns.

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

I loved my childhood. I remember it as a time when my mom and dad read to me a lot, and also a time when I was constantly absorbed in creating and imaginative play. So today, when I sit down to write a story, I write for the child still alive within myself. I write children's books in order to recapture that sense of joy and wonder. And I write to make a little magic of my own and to share it in turn with the kids of today.

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

As a kid growing up in the '80s/'90s, I loved collecting play food and serving it up at make-believe restaurants with my sister. I also loved watching an animated short on Sesame Street called Teeny Little Super Guy. It's such an ancient reference now, but basically the show was all kinds of kitchen utensils and glassware having adventures in a kitchen.

So those two childhood fascinations must have fused together in my imagination: play food + kitchen utensils coming to life when humans aren't watching! I added a little Romeo & Juliet/ West Side Story tale of feuding families and out came When PB Met J.

(The fact that Sesame Street artist Sarah Rebar agreed to do the illustrations brought this project full circle and made my childhood dreams come true!)

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

I don't set out to write stories with a particular "message" in mind. But inevitably, all stories carry some kind of message. For example, When PB Met J reminds us not to assume the worst about someone we don't know yet. It encourages us to give others the benefit of the doubt until we can get to know them and make up our minds about them. In my own life, I've often been pleasantly surprised about people (whom others had warned me about) much like PB & J in this story.



Katelyn Aronson



Lil Herbie The Affirmation Doll

Lil Herbie: A new doll that embodies the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion to provide black and brown children with a positive role model they can relate to.

In an effort to promote the principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Sherrika Myers, author of the Lil Herbie Series children collection and founder of the nonprofit, Every 1 Voice Matters, created a new affirmation doll to provide black and brown children with a positive role model they can relate to and be inspired by.

The concept of Lil Herbie was born from a deep-rooted desire to instill key values such as perseverance in young minds. By embodying these principles, Lil Herbie symbolizes the importance of diversity and the power of inclusion. The doll's creation is a significant step toward fostering a more inclusive society.

"I grew up stuttering in a single-family household that didn't have the resources to help me overcome this barrier," said Sherrika Myers, creator of the new Lil Herbie doll. "According to DoSomething.org, 42% of students bullied were related to appearance, race or a disability. The Lil Herbie doll was created with these kids in mind so that they can have a positive role model they can relate to, while helping them overcome social barriers."

Myers started the Lil Herbie series and doll to help kids break down communicative and social barriers such as stuttering, bullying, and low self-esteem. The new Lil Herbie doll will launch Wednesday, February 7 and serves as a powerful tool for children's self-affirmation. It provides them with over 20 daily affirmations that they can repeat to themselves, boosting their self-esteem and self-belief as a source of encouragement and empowerment.

The Lil Herbie Series encompasses children's books, an animated series, kids' coaching, an anti-bullying mascot, and now, a doll tailored for ages 4-10, with a focus on social-emotional learning (SEL). SEL helps kids understand how to cope with feelings while learning interpersonal skills.

Check out the Lil Herbie Series YouTube channel for children. It has videos that focus on social-emotional learning, diversity, equity and inclusion, financial literacy, anti-bullying, and more

To learn more about the Lil Herbie series, visit www.lilherbieseries.org www.every1voicematters.org

Sherrika Myers

Sherrika Myers is the creator of the Lil Herbie Series and founder of Every 1 Voice Matters, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit designed to help kids break down communicative and social barriers such as stuttering, bullying and low self-esteem to improve their quality of life. Myers grew up stuttering in a single family household with limited resources. She used the only resource available to her to control her stuttering, which was a book. Reading aloud is what helped her overcome stuttering and changed the trajectory of her life. After finding out her first grandchild, Herbie, stuttered as well, she decided to go back to school and start her nonprofit organization to help other kids in her community. As a national speaker and certified life coach, Myers travels the country spreading messages of hope.

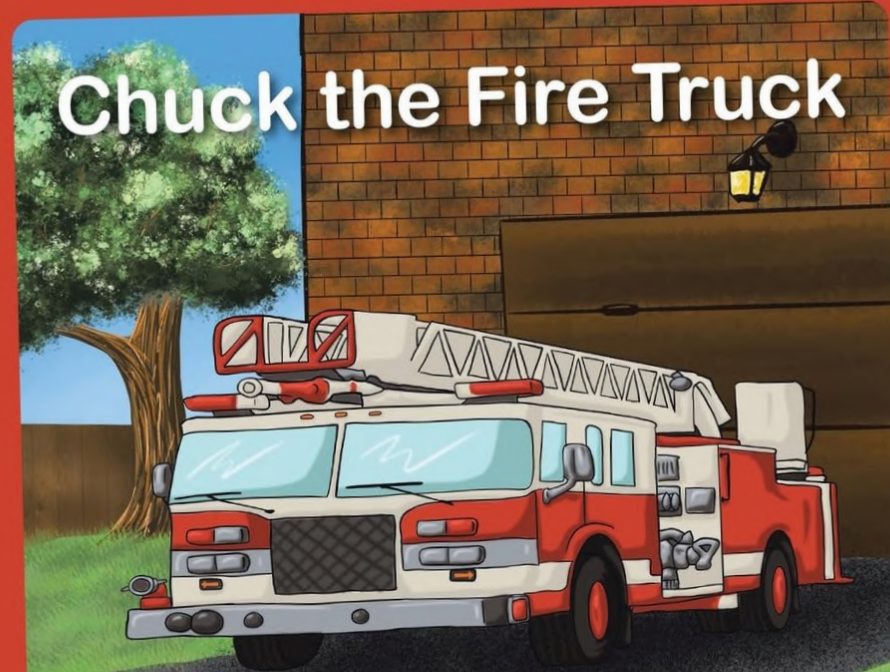


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Valentine Day Word Search

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| LOVE | × | CUPID |
| ARROW | | HEART |
| VALENTINE | | CARE |
| CANDY | | SWEET |

Chuck the Fire Truck



Chuck the Fire Truck

All sales proceeds from this book will be donated to charity.

by
Kenneth McLarnon
Illustrations by Allie-Marie Piggott

Ken was born in Vancouver, British Columbia on December, 12 / 1964. Ken found himself searching for something, including himself, for most of his childhood and adult life. Ken is adopted, and even though his parents gave him more than everything he ever wanted or could ever imagine, Ken felt he didn't fit in anywhere. Education was taken from Ken before he even had the chance. Ken was bullied in elementary school and this led him to not completing his education. Going down many wrong paths in life, and after losing his mom and first wife to breast cancer in 1997, Ken finally found himself in 2012 at the age of forty-eight. Ken walked through the doors of Parkdale Project Read in Toronto, Ontario and he was welcomed beyond recognition. This was a new start for Ken and a chance to finish his upgrading and get a grade twelve equivalent through the Ace Program at George Brown College. Even though Ken finished at the top of his class in everything he attempted, Ken's true passion was for Creative Writing. Creative Writing gave Ken the opportunity to express himself on paper, and Ken has been told, his Creative Writing has touched many people. Ken even won a scholarship from George Brown College for his Creative Writing. It is Ken's hope that Chuck the Fire Truck will touch many people as well, this is Ken's gift to the community and he thanks you for your support. Thank you for supporting the Robb Family Trust, administered by London Community Foundation, with your purchase of Chuck the Fire Truck.



Kenneth McLarnon

Chuck the Fire Truck gives an example of a daily routine that might be avoided if some simple safety tips are followed.

This is Ken's first children's book to be published and sure to make you smile. Ken's family home burnt down when he was 6 years old.

Fire safety is very important to Ken and he feels fire safety should be taught to everyone; no matter how young or old.

available at
amazon



What Causes Goose Bumps
On My Skin?

BRAIN-G

Why Does The Skin On My Fingers Get All "Prune" In The Bathtub?

Why Do People Have Different Skin Colors?

Why Do People Get Wrinkles As They Get Older?

Why Do I Sweat In Summers?

THINK! WHY? Answer?



DO YOU KNOW?

Carter G. Woodson Selected
February In Honor Of
Frederick Douglass And
Abraham Lincoln's
Birth Dates.

The first celebration of
Black History Month
took place in
February 1970

Black History Month

Was Founded By

Carter G. Woodson,

Who Was A

Historian, Author, And Journalist.

The very first Black History Month theme
was **Civilization: A World Achievement.**

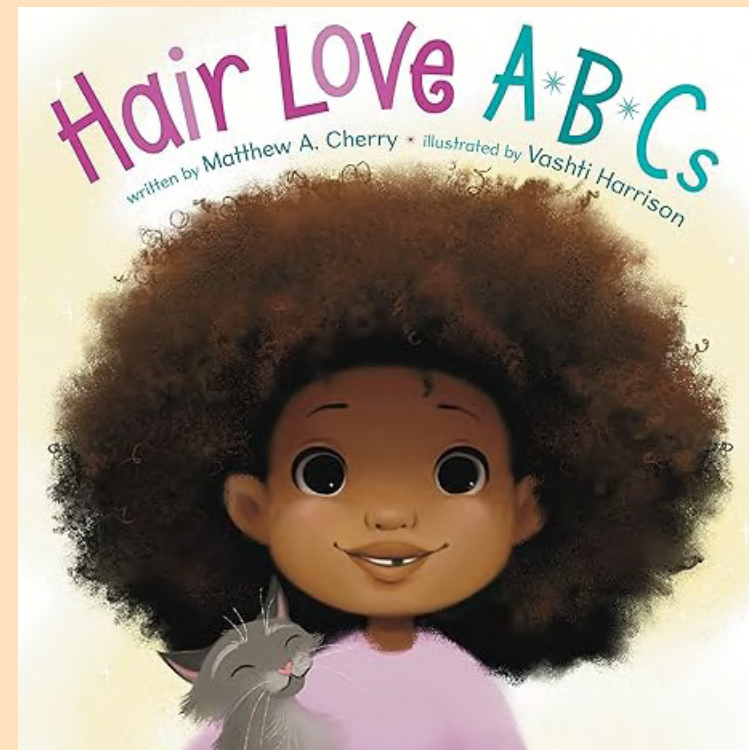
The 2023 Black History Month theme is

Black Resistance.

February is
Black History month!

It is a time designated
to celebrate the contributions
of black people to this world.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



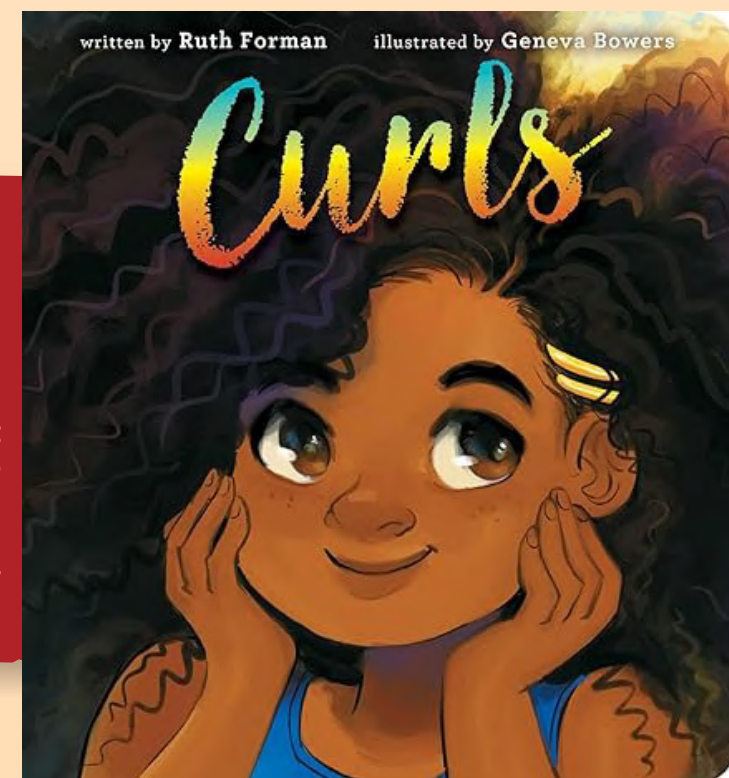
Name: Hair Love ABCs

Author: Matthew A. Cherry

Publisher: Kokila

Description: An alphabet board book inspired by the bestselling HAIR LOVE, from the original award-winning author and illustrator duo—and perfect for baby gift baskets.

A is for Afro, N is for Natural, and W is for Waves. Letter by letter, follow Zuri and her father in their joy-filled journey through the kinks and curls of Black hair.

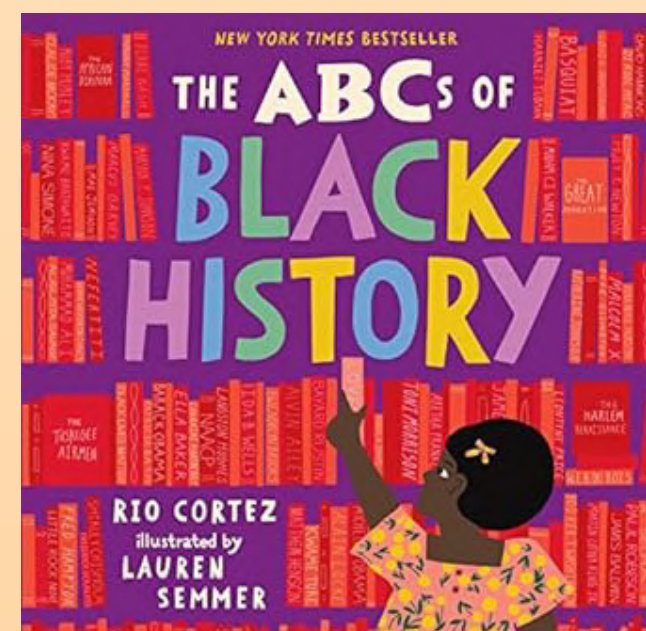


Name: Curls

Author: Ruth Forman

Publisher: Little Simon

Description: A joyfully poetic board book that delivers an ode to African American girls and the beauty of their curls. This simple, playful, and beautiful board book stars four friends who celebrate the joy of their hair-styles from bouncing curls to swinging braids.



Name: The ABCs of Black History

Author: Rio Cortez

Publisher: Workman Publishing Company

Description: Letter by letter, The ABCs of Black History celebrates a story that spans continents and centuries, triumph and heart-break, creativity and joy.

It's a story of big ideas—P is for Power, S is for Science and Soul. Of significant moments—G is for Great Migration. Of iconic figures—H is for Zora Neale Hurston, X is for Malcom X. It's an ABC book like no other, and a story of hope and love.

LOL

WHAT DID ONE
VOLCANO SAY
TO THE OTHER?
I Lava you!

What kind of flowers
should you NOT give on
Valentine's Day?

CAULIFLOWERS!

Who always has a date
on Valentine's Day?

CALENDAR

What Did One Bee
Say To The Other?
I Love Bee-ing
With You, Honey!

Creative Corner



Shiviksha Saxena age 10 years

SHIVIKSHA SAXENA
AGE:10 YEARS OLD



Pratyksha age 8 years

PRATYKSHA
AGE:8 YEARS OLD



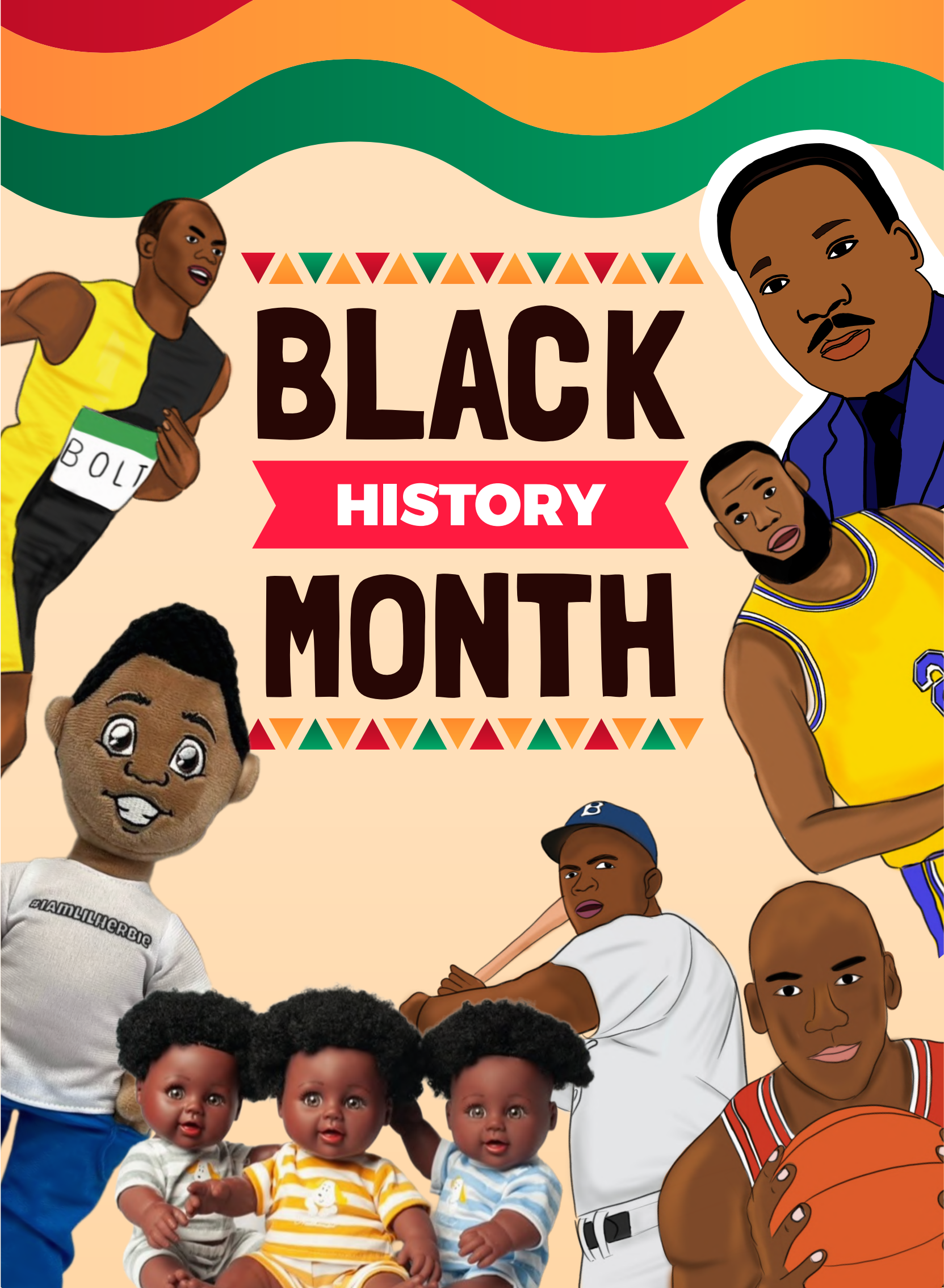
Mannat Rai age 11 years

MANNAT RAI
AGE:11 YEARS OLD



Ishit Swami age 11 years

ISHIT SWAMI
AGE:11 YEARS OLD



BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH