

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February Issue 2025

Free

A Kid's Literary Magazine

KIDLITMAG

Pennygirl's Rescue
Judy McGee

Oliver's Magical Adventures
Cherise Arthur

Anywhere Once: Travel Journal
Tani Lamb

Fantastical Magical Places
E.J. Elliott Buford

The Alchemical Wizards
Sybrina Durant

Happy Music
Dana Royster-Buefort

Milli and Max
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When PB Met J
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Loud Voice, Quiet Voice
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Kristina Lucia Pezza

Cover Story

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Editor's Note

Dear KidlioMag Readers,

As we step into this vibrant season, we have three wonderful occasions to celebrate and learn from: Valentine's Day, Black History Month, and the Maha Kumbh 2025.

Valentine's Day is a special time to celebrate love and friendship. It's about showing kindness and appreciation to those we care about. Let's spread love and joy everywhere we go. Happy Valentine's Day!

February is Black History Month, a time to honor and celebrate the incredible contributions of Black individuals throughout history. Let's take the opportunity to learn about and appreciate the achievements and struggles of Black heroes who have shaped our world. Let's celebrate Black History Month with pride and respect!

Get ready for an extraordinary event! The Maha Kumbh 2025 is just around the corner, and it's one of the largest and most significant religious gatherings in the world. It's a time for reflection, prayer, and taking a dip in the sacred rivers to cleanse the soul. Wishing everyone a blessed and joyous Maha Kumbh 2025!

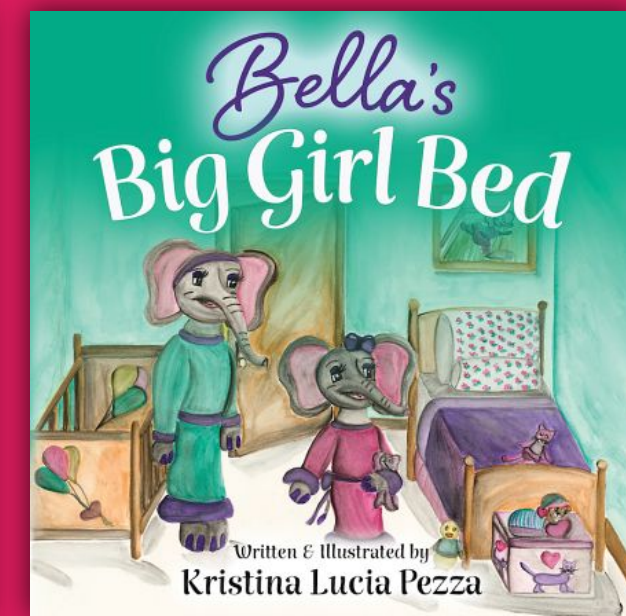
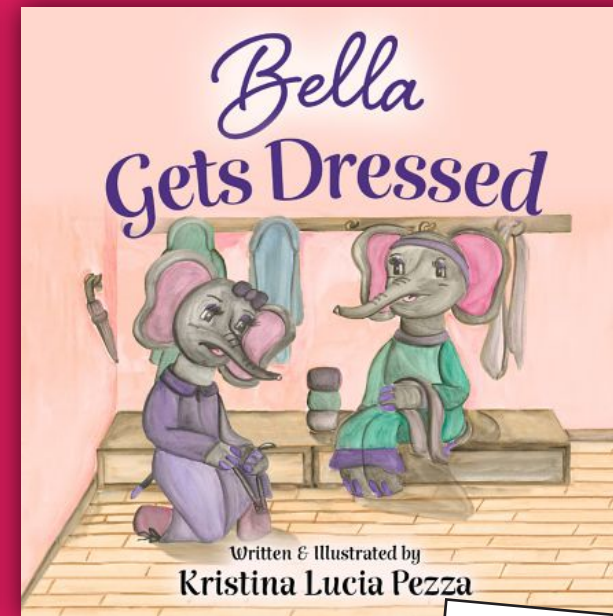
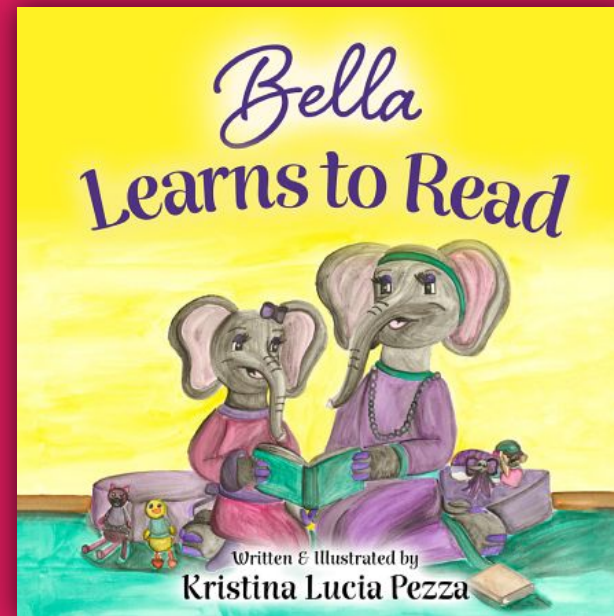
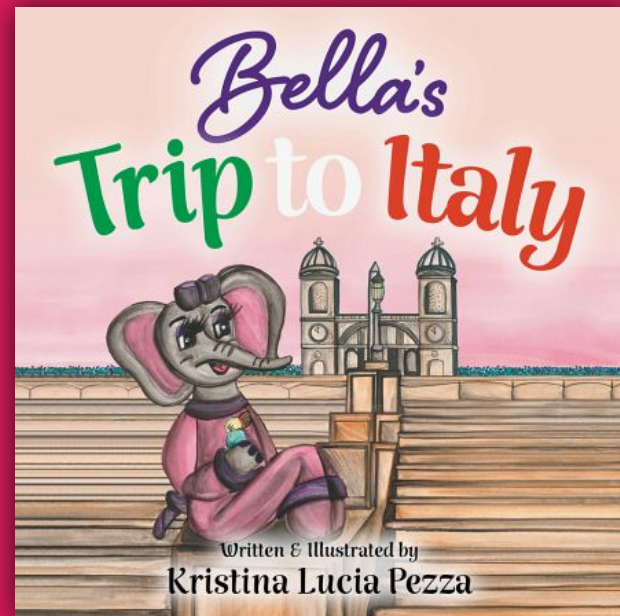
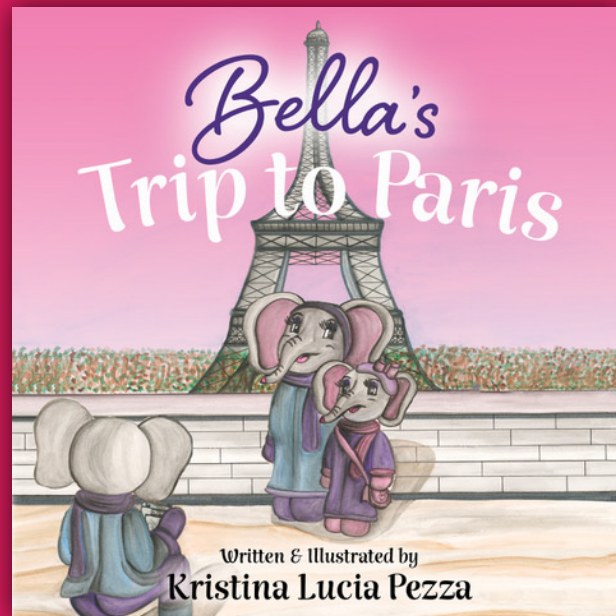
Happy Valentine's Day

Dhruvin Dharmendra

**Dhruvin
Dharmendra**



The Bella Lucia Book Series



Q: First tell us something about yourself.

I grew up in a small farm town with one real traffic light and at 18 years old moved to NYC. I have been living in NYC for my whole adult life.

I started formally drawing when I was seven years old, when a local art teacher saw potential in my drawings and took me under her wing. My training has been consistent since the moment I walked into her studio and I focused on the arts through my higher education as well. Ironically, my first dream was to become a Disney Artist. All I wanted to do was draw animal characters all day and here I am illustrating my children's book series which features all animal characters.

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

I discovered I was a writer during the pandemic. The idea of writing a blog had been in my mind for years and when the lockdown happened I sat down and wrote a blog a day. As I kept writing I gained more clarity and realized that I could not only write but write well. The irony is that I had been writing throughout my college years and even in my corporate career but it was often through someone else's voice or in an analytical format. Writing the blog gave me the space to play and discover my own writing voice.

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

I wrote my first drafts of my book series in December 2020. I sat down and wrote 10 stories in a week. In 2023 my first book was published and in February 2025 book 12 of my series will be published!

available at
amazon

Q: Tell us something more about your books.

My books focus on improving communication between children and parents by recognizing and identifying both our feelings and those of others. Growing up I was in a living dynamic where feelings were not recognized or acknowledged. I choose to embark on my own healing journey and learning how to speak about my feelings while also giving myself and others the space to feel has greatly evolved my life. My goal of this book series is to spread this message while giving others the space to adapt this message to their own lives.

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

My main goal is to write about topics that are relatable while also sharing a part of myself with the audience. This balance is key when writing a children's book. The main character of the series is a child version of myself. This choice came from the need to have the freedom to create and allow others to take away elements that touch them the most.

I actually chose the characters to be animals because I wanted everyone to feel welcome.

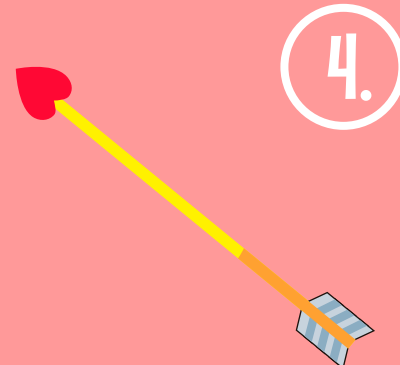
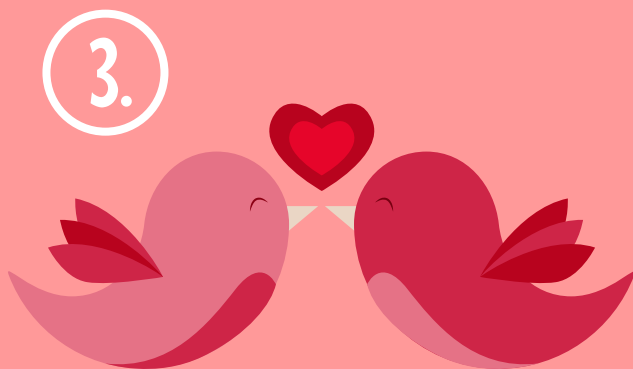
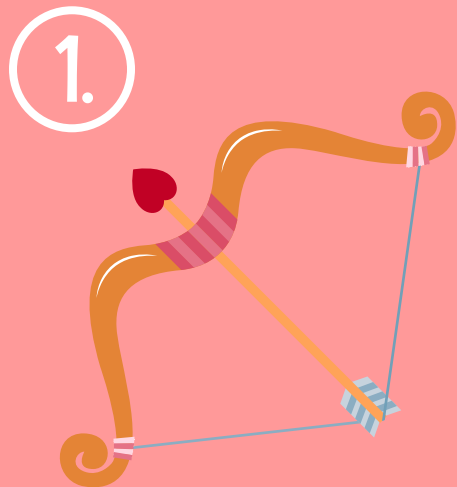
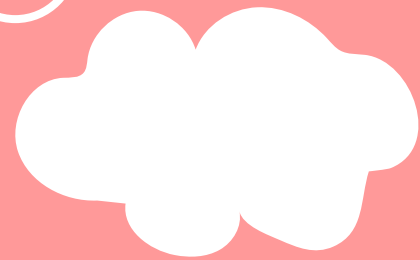
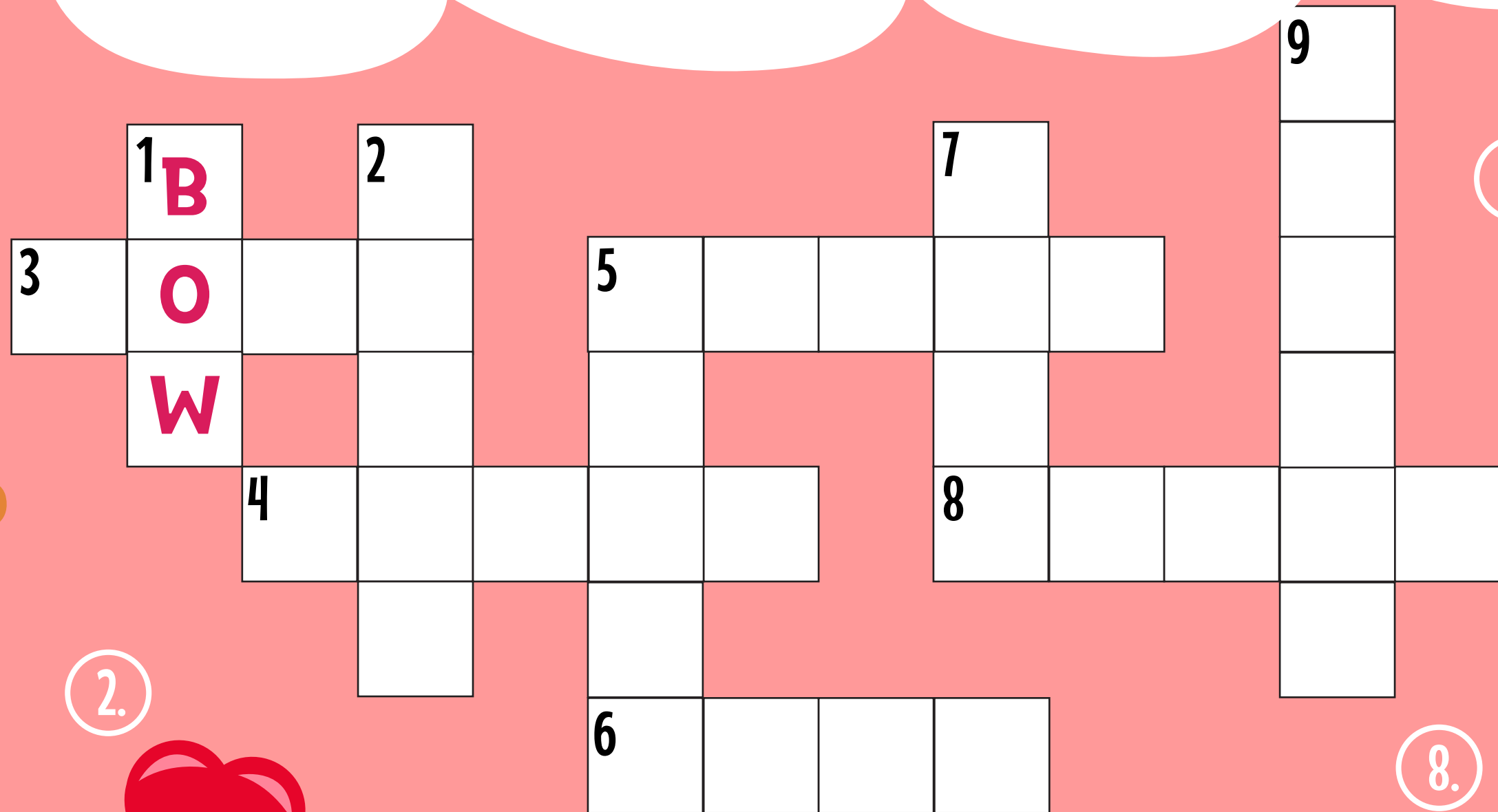
Q: Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

Always be your true self. When we are the best version of ourselves, we create a ripple effect that touches others in ways that we do not even realize. We each have a choice and a responsibility to those choices. Bella Elephant is built upon this concept. By striving to be the best version of herself she grows as a character and her community grows around her.



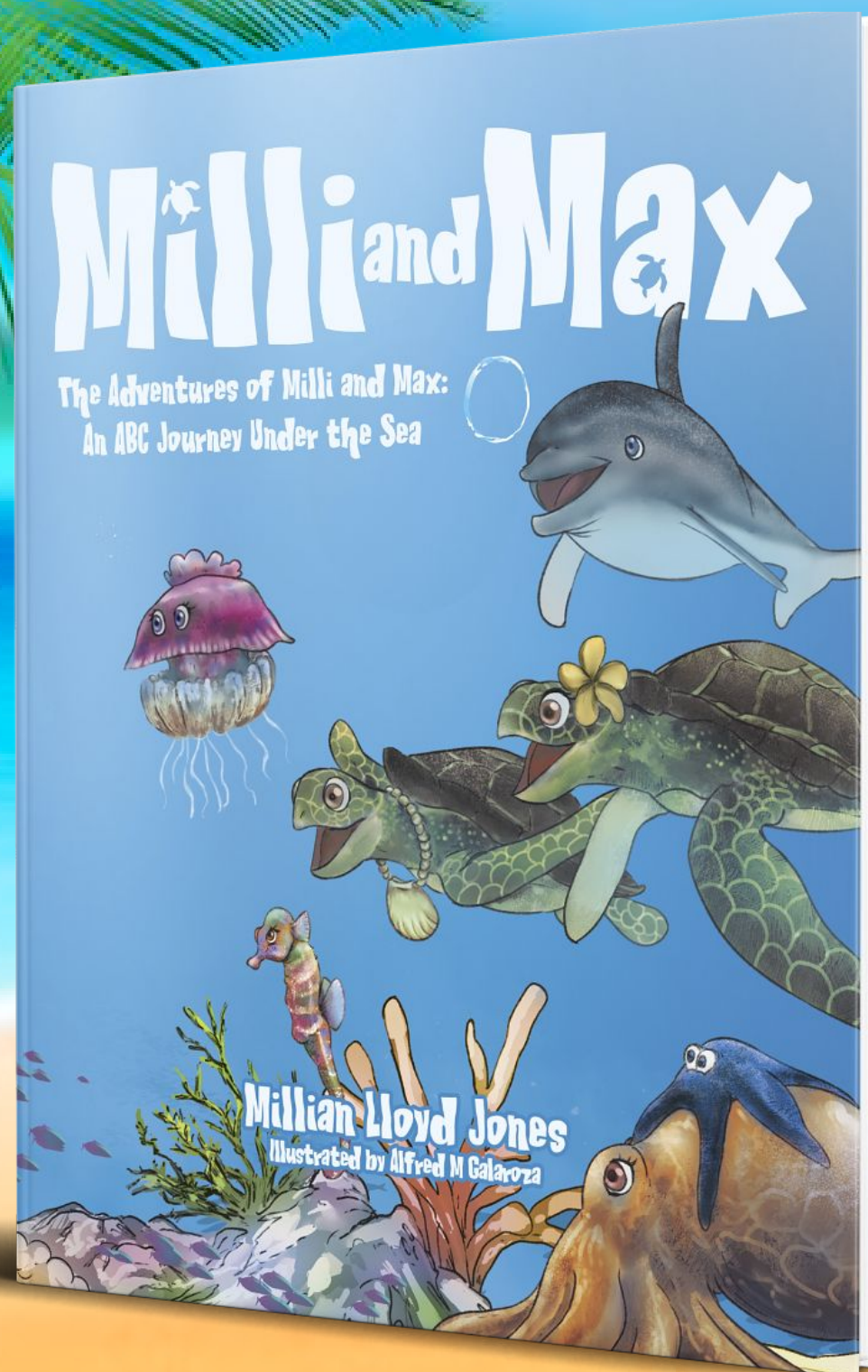
Kristina Lucia Pezza

Valentine's Day Crossword



Milli and Max

The Adventures Of Milli And Max: An ABC Journey Under The Sea



Author website:
www.milliandmax.com.au available at


Q: How has growing up in Fiji and living in Australia shaped your storytelling?

Growing up in the stunning Fiji Islands, my childhood was a tapestry of ocean adventures and natural wonder. Our family home was just a five-minute walk from the shore, and my siblings and I spent countless afternoons exploring the reefs and swimming in the sea, no matter the weather. It was in Suva, Fiji lands which was the capital of Fiji. The Low tides became our playground, where we ventured as close to the reef as possible, always mindful to return before the high tide rolled in. We gathered fresh sea urchins and sea cucumbers, eaten raw straight from the water. We also gathered sea grapes, seaweed, and an array of edible marine delights, savouring the bountiful flavours of the sea. Snorkelling and frolicking for shellfish were regular pastimes, and the evenings often found us gathered around an open fire, cooking our finds. We used lemon thorns to carefully draw out the shellfish meat, which we dipped in bowls of lemon juice mixed with salt, chili, and sometimes paired with ripe or raw mangoes. Sweet potatoes and breadfruit roasted in the fire added to the feast, creating memories rich in flavour and togetherness. Storytelling at a young age was common as we didn't have live Television then. We sat around with elders, siblings and cousins, aunts and uncles every weekend storytelling around lunches, dinners and when we went exploring.

Moving to Australia later in life broadened my perspective, introducing me to conservation efforts and diverse cultures that cherish storytelling. This unique blend of experiences—grounded in Fiji's vibrant marine life and Australia's environmental ethos—continues to inspire my passion for the ocean and the stories I tell through my books.

In fact, the traits of Milli and Max, along with their friends, are inspired by the personalities of my siblings, cousins, and myself. Writing about these characters felt natural and incredibly enjoyable, as it brought me back to cherished childhood memories. Each character embodies a piece of our shared experiences, making the creative process both nostalgic and heartwarming.

Q: How did you come up with the idea to combine marine life and the alphabet?

I wanted to create something fun and educational for children, sparking curiosity about the ocean while they learn their ABCs. Mind you, I didn't do any research on market competition at all. All I knew is that I wanted to create an ABC book for kids on sea creatures. The alphabet is a foundational tool and pairing it with fascinating sea creatures makes learning interactive and engaging. The idea for Milli and Max first emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. I contacted Tellwell publishing in late 2022 and the book started in January 2023. I launched Milli and Max in February 2024.

The journey of Milli and Max began as a simple alphabet primer featuring sea life, but it quickly evolved into something much grander. What started as 26 pages soon expanded to 76, filled with complex illustrations, fun facts, and detailed descriptions of underwater creatures. Throughout this process, Milli and Max became my source of joy and hope.

My passion for helping children in need is what drives me, and I hope that Milli and Max can serve as a vehicle for this greater purpose. It is my wish that the Milli and Max book series will be accessible to all children, including those with disabilities.

Q: What's the most memorable feedback you've received from young readers?

The feedback about Milli and Max has been overwhelmingly positive! Kids are thrilled to learn their ABCs through the captivating world of sea creatures, and the fun facts accompanying each alphabet letter make the journey even more exciting. These facts aren't just entertaining for kids—they often surprise and delight adults too!

The mesmerising illustrations which were original and our talented Tellwell illustrator really brought these ABC's pages to life with a colourful double spread and lovable characters in the Milli and Max series bring immense joy to young readers. Beyond the educational aspect, the stories teach children that collaboration is exciting, learning together can be an adventurous journey, and friendships thrive in diversity. It shows that friendships don't need to be "like for like"—different personalities and shared learning experiences make life richer and more rewarding.

Q: Did you always want to write children's books, or did Milli and Max surprise you?

Writing children's books wasn't my original plan—it was a delightful surprise! The idea came from a simple desire to produce a simple ABC book just on sea creatures.

The journey of Milli and Max began as a simple alphabet primer featuring sea life, but it quickly evolved into something much grander. What started as 26 pages soon expanded to 76, filled with complex illustrations, fun facts, and detailed descriptions of underwater creatures. Throughout this process, Milli and Max became my source of joy and hope, even during the loneliest moments of intense focus and sacrifice.

Milli and Max became my way of blending creativity and passion for marine life, and I've loved every step of this unexpected journey. Tellwell Publishing gave me complete directive for creatively and guided me along. I could not have done this without Tellwell Publishing to be honest.

I always loved Turtles and about 12 years ago, I started a business called Mini Milli – mother turtle and baby turtle was my logo. The business focused on creating accessories for mothers, like diaper bags, diaper wallets, baby blankets and ready to go hospital bags for mothers. Creativity has always been a part of who I am.



Millian Lloyd Jones

Q: Why did you include tools like QR codes and a glossary in your books?

The story behind the QR code in Milli and Max is one of innovation and creativity. Back in 2020, I approached Ingram Spark Publishing with the idea of creating a recipe book that used QR codes. At the time, this concept was almost unheard of. I still have that email from Ingram Spark.

For Milli and Max, I originally envisioned a QR code on every page to make the book highly interactive. However, the design process proved too complex, so we simplified the approach. In early 2023, as the book development began with Tellwell, I used QR Code Monkey to create a QR code specifically for Milli and Max. This code, which links directly to the Milli and Max website, was then integrated into the book series, adding a layer of engagement for readers.

Looking ahead, I have exciting interactive ideas for Milli and Max that will make reading and learning even more dynamic and fun. As a mum to two wonderful teenagers, I'm deeply passionate about creating experiences that combine education and enjoyment. The QR codes will enhance the experience of the Milli and Max Adventure Series. To ensure accuracy, I worked with a marine biologist on the series, fact-checking every detail to provide young readers with meaningful and accurate content.

Q: If Milli and Max had another adventure, what would it be about?

Get ready for more excitement with Milli and Max! The adventurous duo brother and sister green sea turtles will return in a second series, set to release in 2025, where they'll continue their thrilling exploration of the oceans, vibrant reefs, and fascinating sea creatures. This time, they'll encounter not only real marine wonders but also fun and mystical sea creatures along the way.

Joining them on this journey are their friends Octavia the Octopus, Starlight the Starfish, Jazzy the Jellyfish, Lai Lai the Seahorse, and Bubbles the Dolphin. Together, they'll dive into new challenges, take bold risks, and share valuable lessons.

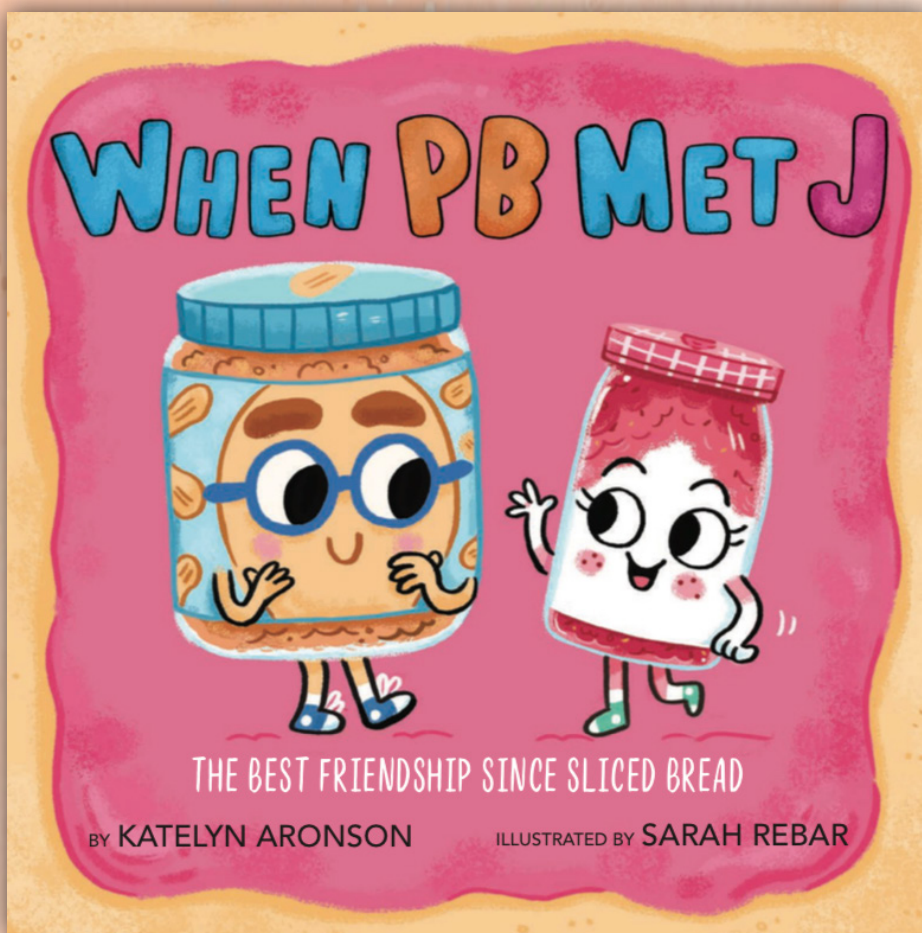
Our clear message is simple yet powerful: learning is always more fun when we do it together. Celebrating the diversity of personalities is the secret to achieving great things, and no one has to face challenges alone. Through their adventures, Milli and Max remind us all that the ocean is our shared world—and together, we can make a real difference in protecting our precious oceans and reefs.

Valentine I Spy



New Release

WHEN PB MET J



The best friendship since sliced bread!

The kitchen may look like a peaceful place, but there was never more division than between the "Fridgers" and the "Cupboard Crew." The Fridgers are a little too cool. The Cupboard Crew—well, they can get a little stale. Clearly the two should never mix! Until the day when Peanut Butter (PB, for short) meets 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.

With its themes of tolerance and embracing differences, When PB Met J is the delicious origin story of every child's favorite lunch. Readers will cheer that these sweet and salty characters should always stick together, making this book the perfect addition to Valentine-themed storytimes.

"A Friendship Story With A Heaping Helping Of Puns." —Kirkus Reviews

"This Treat Of A Picture Book Blends West Side Story With The Domestic Perspective Of Toy Story, Serving Up A Satisfying Helping Of Kitchen-based Humor For The Pun Enthusiast." —BCCB

"Readers Will Clamor For More."—School Library Journal

Katelyn Aronson

Katelyn Aronson grew up in California, where she went on to work in independent children's bookshops. Today, she lives between France and Switzerland and works as a bilingual language instructor. She has 8 children's books in the publishing pipeline, as well as poems published in various children's magazines.

Instagram @AuthorKatelyn

X.com : @MademoiselleK8

My Website: www.katelynaronson.com

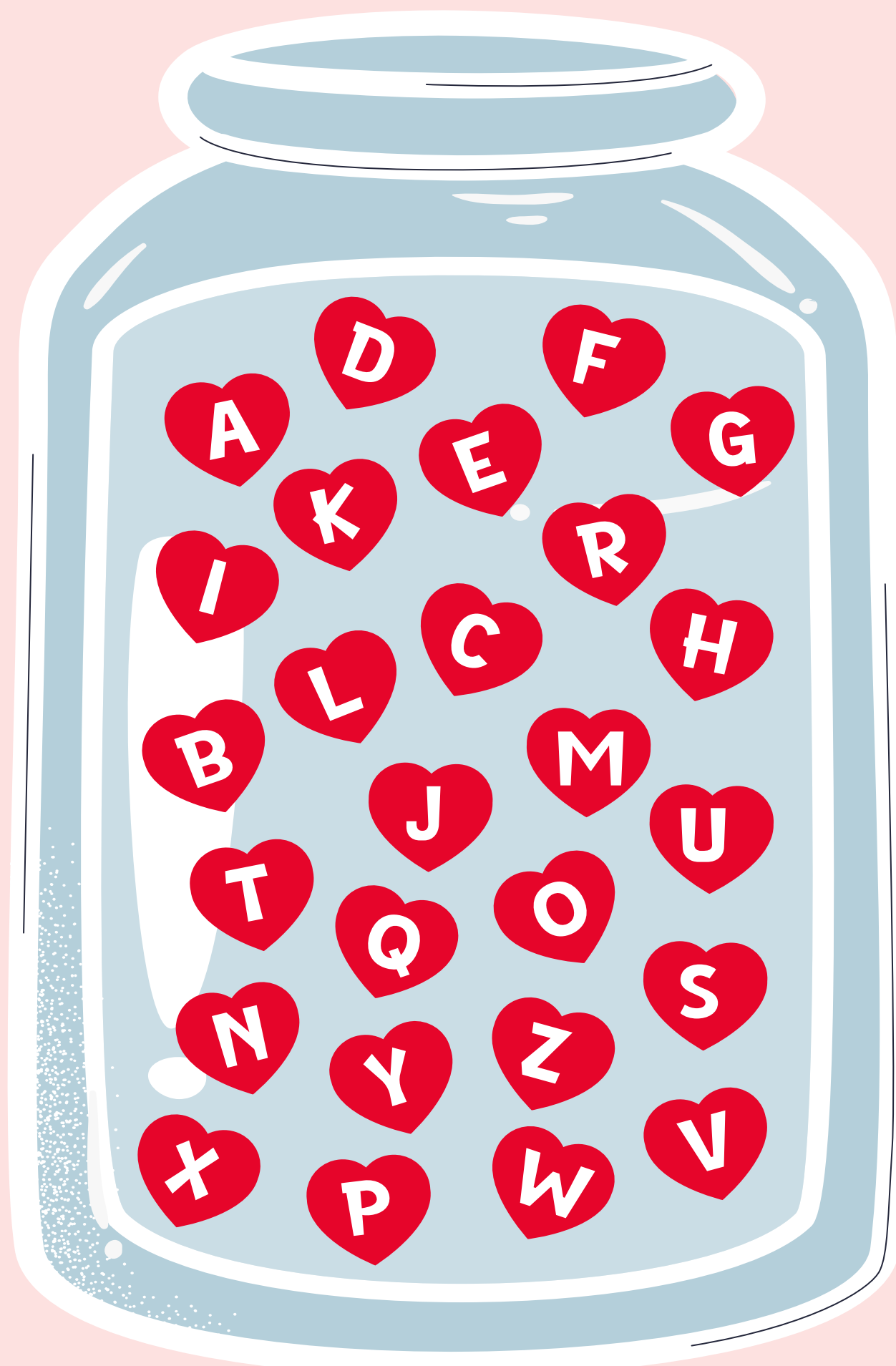
Bluesky: @katelynaronson.bsky.social



Activity

Letters In My Name

Circle The Letters In Your Name.



"Out Of The Mountain Of Despair,
A Stone Of Hope."

"I Was A Drum Major For Justice,
Peace And Righteousness."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.



I Have a
Dream!

I Have A Dream

This Is What My Dream Looks Like

My Dream for World is:

.....

My Dream for my Family is:

.....

My Dream For Myself Is:

.....



E.J. Elliott Buford

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

Hello! Bonjour! Guten Tag! Aloha! I am E.J. Elliott Buford, a children's author, school counselor, and world explorer with a heart full of stories! I grew up in the South (Alabama), where summers were long,, and country roads stretched beyond the sunset.

Living abroad and traveling widely, I have been inspired by the countless places, people, and languages that have colored my journey. My love for quaint cafés, vibrant cultures, and the curiosity of the children I work with are woven into every book I write. I feel most at home when surrounded by people speaking different languages. It doesn't bother me one bit; it makes me feel like I am part of something greater than myself!

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

I started writing as a young student; however, I did not take it seriously until I wanted to share my global adventures with young minds, letting them know there is a world beyond- beyond your situation, beyond your small or big city, beyond your imagination.

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

I wrote my first story, "Fantastical Magical Places" in 2019; however, I released a new, improved edition this past October. I also released "I Swear I Saw a Fairy" in 2023.



Fantastical Magical Places

Embark on an extraordinary journey through Fantastical Magical Places, a beautifully crafted children's book that sparks curiosity, wonder, and imagination. Join Luna as her parents take her on a journey around the world through their trail of memories. Their captivating adventures invite readers to explore extraordinary worlds, from walking on soft, white sand beaches to skiing down alpine mountains. Perfect for bedtime stories, classroom explorations, or family read-alouds, Fantastical Magical Places is more than a book—it's an invitation to discover the world's real and imagined magic. Get ready to wander through a collection of places. Your next adventure awaits!

Q: Tell us something more about your books.

Fantastical Magical Places takes young readers on a magical journey around the world and invites them to imagine, explore, and dream big. I Swear I Saw a Fairy is a whimsical story perfect for young readers who believe in magic and the unexpected.

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

My stories came to life on the road, inspired by each mile and the world flying by outside the window. There's something magical about how the open road sparks creativity and turns every journey into an opportunity for storytelling. For me, travel isn't just about the places—it's about the endless inspiration along the way. My main character's name is Luna. The name Luna is of Latin origin and means "moon." It is derived from the Roman goddess of the moon, who was also named Luna. In mythology, Luna was often associated with light, intuition, and the natural rhythm of time and tides. My fairy's name, Sage, is of Latin roots and means wise or profoundly knowledgeable. When you read, "I Swear I Saw a Fairy", you will understand how the names match their characteristics.

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

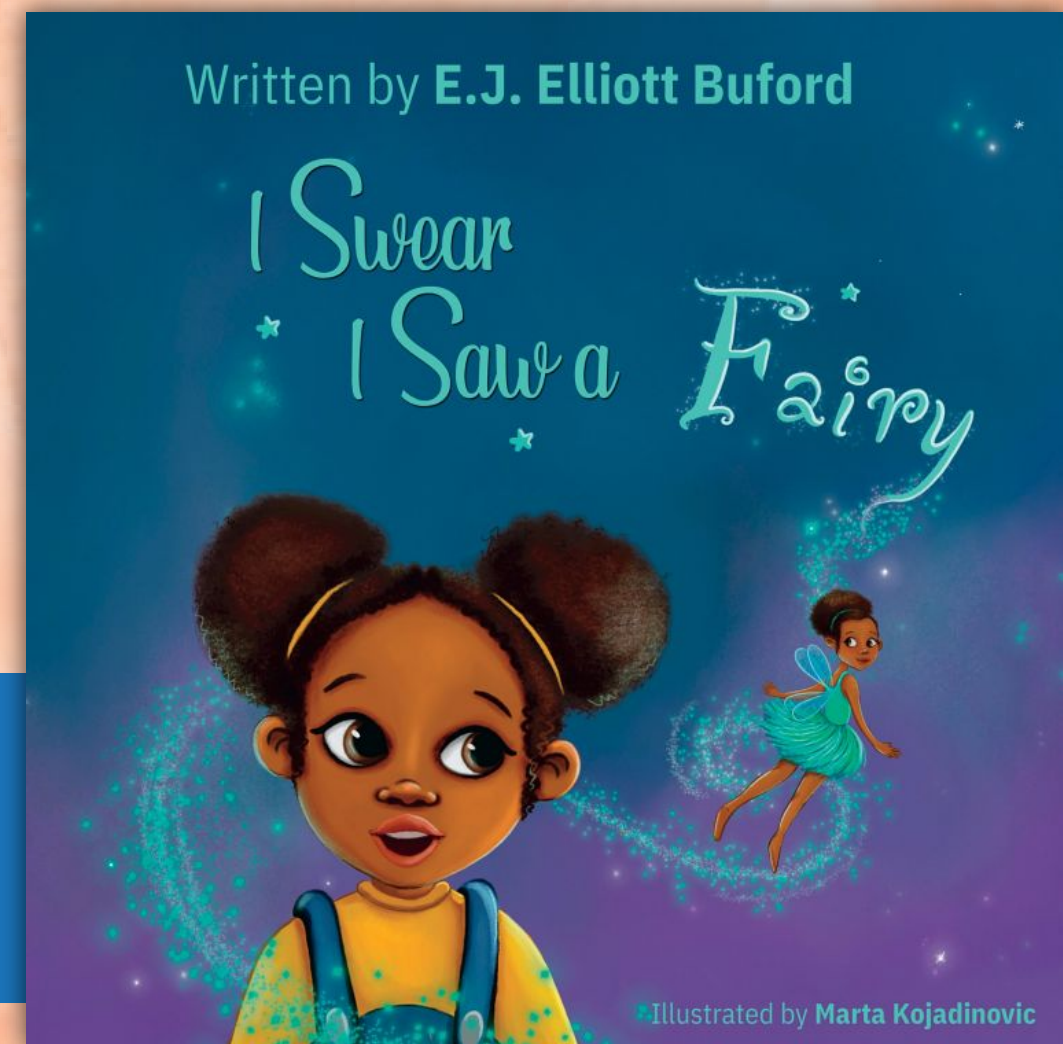
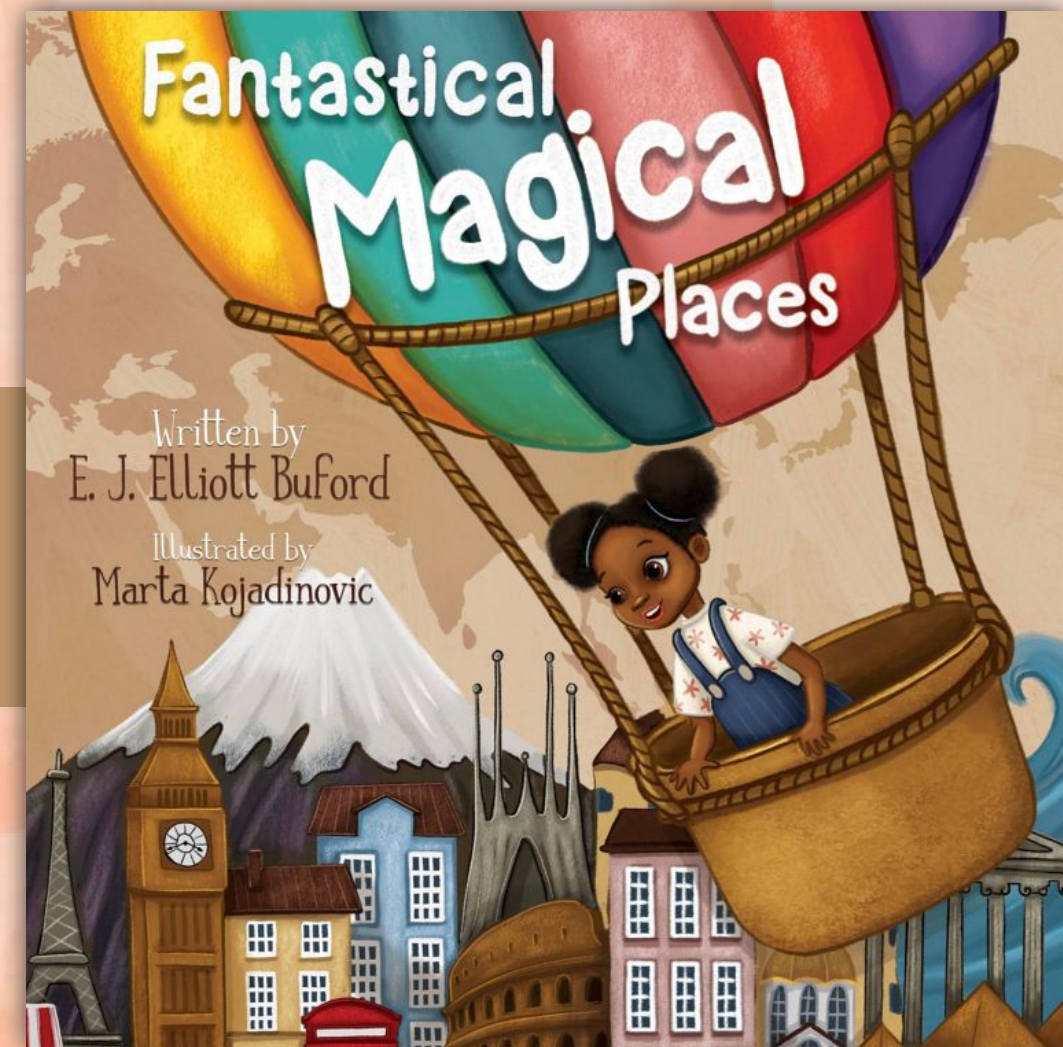
I want my books to inspire and empower kids and adults. The world is waiting to meet you. You will be surprised by the opportunities, adventures, and inspiration found in the most unlikely places, so never allow what you see in your surroundings to dim your vision. There's a world beyond – My books are online through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc. If you would like a signed copy, email me at Hello@ejaythecurious.com

Luna is on a car ride when something catches her eye. Is it a fairy, or is her imagination running wild?

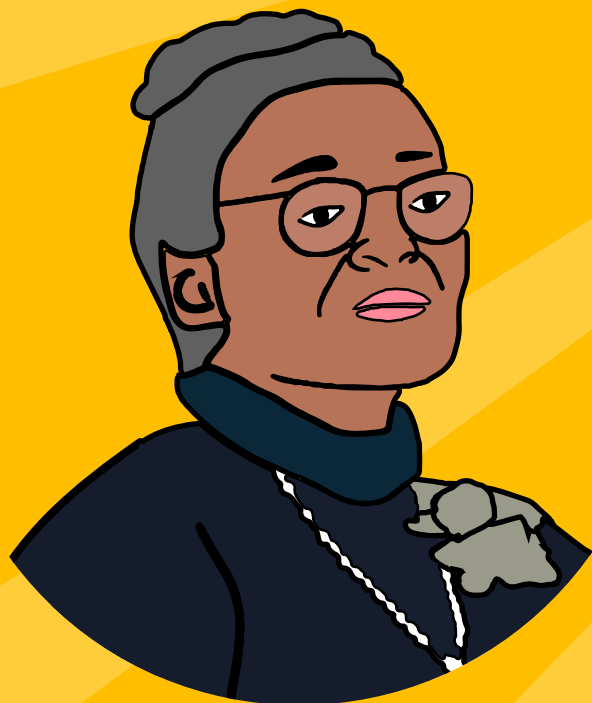
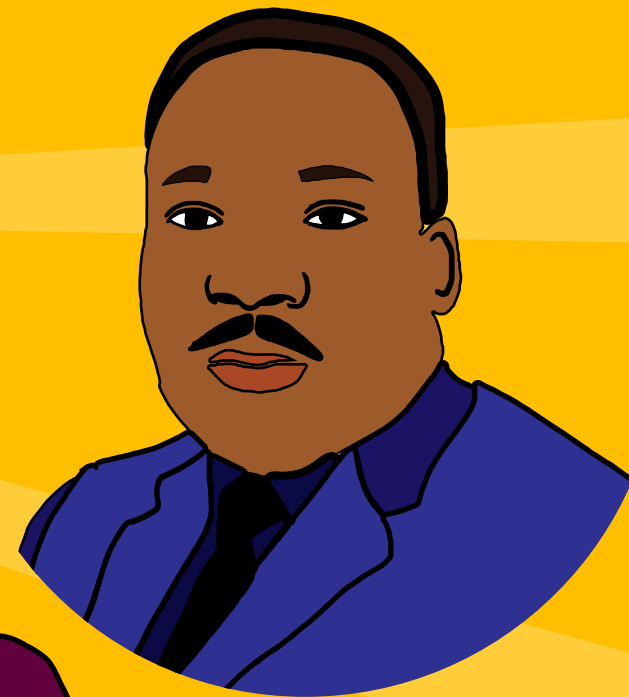
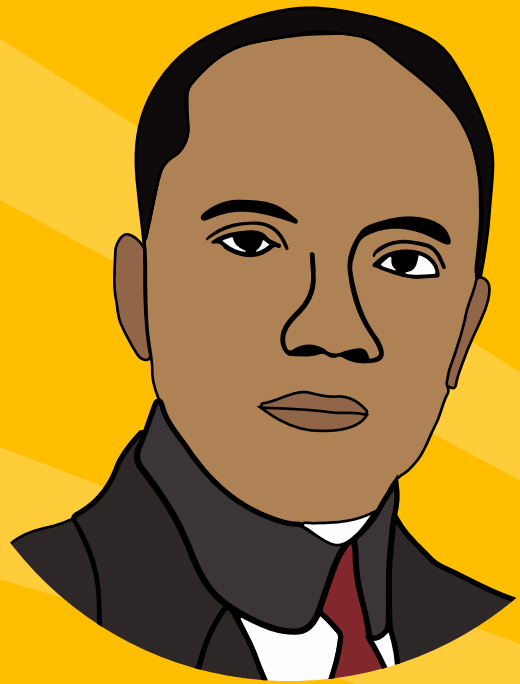
"Did my eyes deceive me so or glimpse a fairy in a glow?"

Despite her uncertainty, Luna feels a magical pull and knows she must investigate. With each step, Luna's courage and curiosity grow as she realizes that the world is full of endless possibilities.

Join Luna as she embarks on a rhyming and magical adventure with a fairy friend. Who knows what wonders await when you believe in the impossible!



Black History Month Wordsearch



B	P	A	R	K	S	O	W	R	D	C
A	W	N	S	V	Z	H	O	E	O	O
T	E	G	C	H	E	R	O	H	U	L
I	Z	E	H	W	M	X	D	C	G	E
M	Q	L	O	D	V	T	S	B	L	M
P	D	O	U	V	L	A	O	J	A	A
E	V	U	L	X	U	H	N	M	S	N
N	Z	M	H	W	T	K	A	Q	S	S
C	L	A	S	S	H	H	S	M	X	W
I	M	X	W	R	E	J	E	K	B	S
L	U	N	C	H	R	B	R	L	J	Q



Angela Gouglas

Q: First, tell us something about yourself.

I was a language arts teacher for 16 fun-filled years and have always had a deep love for storytelling. Reading aloud to my students was my favourite part of the job because it let me bring stories to life. Picture books are a great way to connect with young minds, and I often used them to create engaging spin-off activities. I also love watching movies, especially ones with inspirational themes. My passion for film prompted me to write my first screenplay, and writing soon became my second career. Stories, whether on the page or the screen, are my way of investigating the human experience.

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

My writing journey began as an adult when I wrote my first screenplay—a comedy. It was such a thrilling experience to have it optioned, which gave me the confidence to keep going. Over time, I've been fortunate to have several scripts optioned, and each project taught me more about the craft of storytelling. Writing for the screen sharpened my sense of character, pacing, and dialogue, which naturally carried over into my work as a children's book author.

Q: When did you write your first story? Is it published?

My debut picture book, *Loud Voice, Quiet Voice*, is my first published work, and it's incredibly close to my heart. I also have many more stories I'm excited to bring to life and share with the world soon.

available at
amazon

Loud Voice, Quiet Voice

Lucas has been waiting his whole life for this—he's finally big enough to go tobogganing with the older kids! But as he looks up at the hill, anxiety creeps in. It's much steeper and scarier than he imagined. "This was a bad idea," says the Loud Voice in his head.

"You can do this," whispers the Quiet Voice of his heart. "Go for it."

With each new step, Lucas must choose which voice to trust. Will he let fear hold him back or take the ride of his life?

Loud Voice, Quiet Voice is a delightful tale about mindfulness, overcoming anxiety, and the joy of listening to one's heart.

Q: Tell us more about your books.

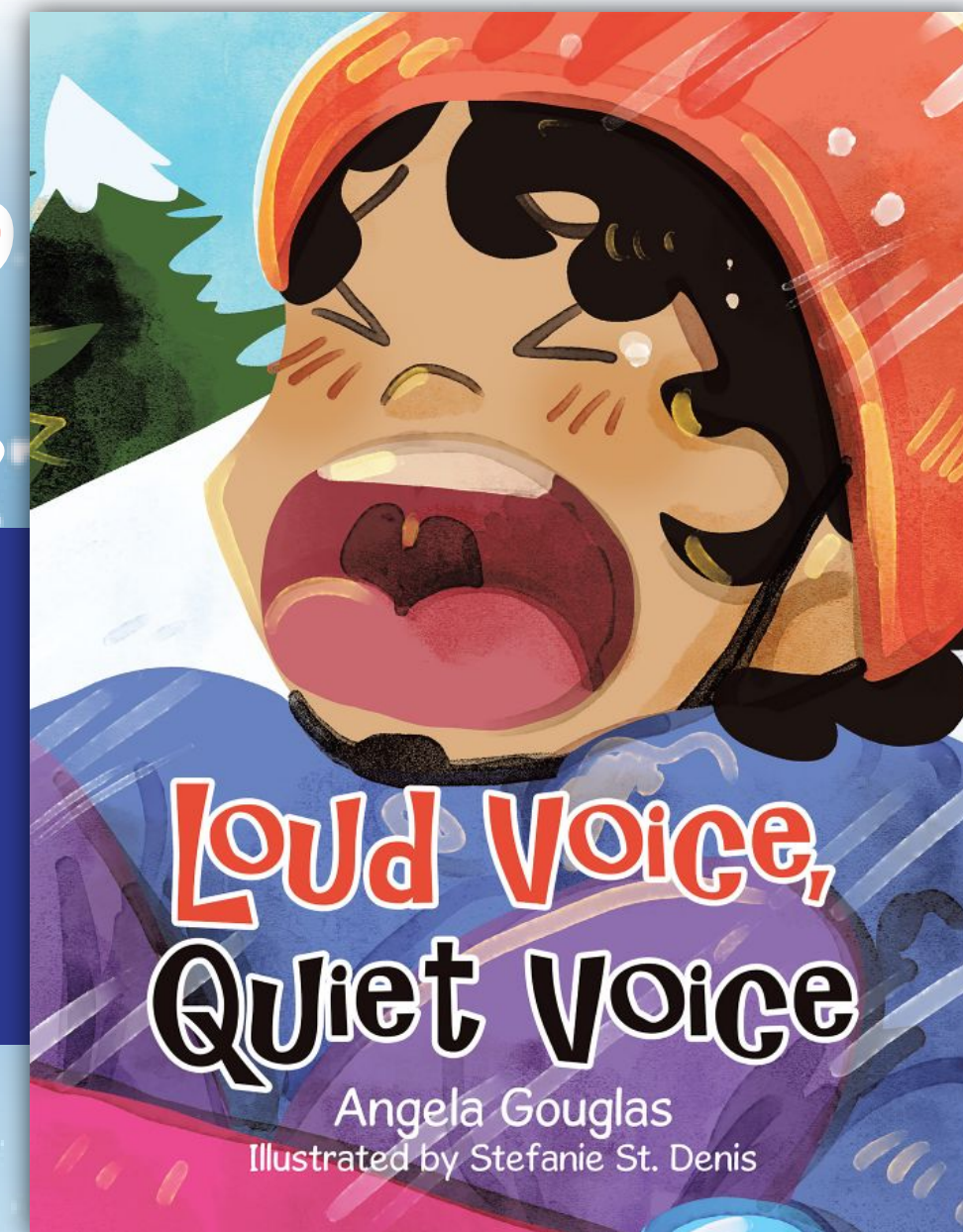
I strive to write conscious books that are both entertaining and thought-provoking. I love weaving in subtle lessons that invite readers to reflect on their own lives while still enjoying a compelling story. My hope is that children and their parents can connect with the themes and find value in the messages, all while being thoroughly entertained.

Q: How did these stories and characters come to you?

My stories often emerge from my mindfulness practice and personal journey. *Loud Voice, Quiet Voice* came from a realization I had about my own inner dialogue. When I feel anxious or unsure, I've learned that it's because my loud, negative voice is taking over and drowning out my intuition. The quiet, calm voice of my heart—the one rooted in truth—always knows the way forward. Writing this story was a way to explore that dynamic and share a tool that has helped me. My characters are often inspired by my life experiences, and I try to make them relatable for readers who may face similar struggles.

Q: Do you have a message for your readers?

Yes! Don't let the loud, negative voice in your head control you. It's not real, no matter how convincing it might sound. Instead, learn to trust the quiet voice of your heart. It never creates fear and always guides you toward what's right for you. Listen to it, and you'll find strength and clarity even in the most uncertain times. Please check out my website for free *Loud Voice, Quiet Voice* resources and spin-off activities! <https://angelagouglasbooks.com/>



Mathing Hearts

Match The Hearts With Their Correct Mathematical Sum.

$7+2$

$3+5$

$8+2$

$7+7$

$6+9$

10

15

14

9

8

Oliver's Magical Adventures

Cherise Arthur, a native of Oregon, has crafted this book as her third publication, following her earlier works, *Sierra and Star* and *Bella and the Queen's Ponies*. With over 25 years of experience in education, Arthur draws inspiration from her childhood experiences and her love for animals, particularly horses and carousels. Her storytelling aims to foster kindness and creativity in young readers. Cherise's love for storytelling began in her childhood, growing up surrounded by animals on a 20-acre farm. Her experiences with horses and nature heavily influenced her writing.

Cherise is working on her new project *Watching the Clouds Go By* about a little boy and his dad talking about clouds and learning about them. This adorable book was also illustrated by Jeremy Renne and will be available in the summer of 2025.

Oliver's Magical Adventures, written by Cherise Arthur, is a delightful children's book released on October 24, 2023. This enchanting story is designed for early readers aged 6 to 8 and captures the imagination through its vibrant illustrations by Jeremy Rinne. The narrative follows a curious little boy named Oliver who loves riding carousels. During a visit to the park with his grandmother, he chooses to ride a zebra on the carousel. When he makes a wish, the zebra unexpectedly jumps off the carousel, leading Oliver into an exciting adventure where he must be rescued by other carousel animals, including a prancing pig and a dancing bear.



available at
amazon

Cherise Arthur

Cherise's books often reflect her belief in the importance of kindness and friendship. She aims to create relatable characters that resonate with children, fostering their sense of wonder. Her writing process involves drawing from her personal life experiences and conducting research to create narratives that inspire young readers.

Cherise is currently teaching a how to self-publish a book at Portland Community College. In the spring of 2025, she will be offering one on one classes for individuals who need support with starting to write their first children's book. Go to Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon and look for non-credit classes. These classes are limited and will be available online to meet with Cherise and review your project and help you with your self-publishing journey.

The plot centers around Oliver's whimsical journey as he navigates the challenges posed by the runaway zebra. The other carousel animals spring into action to bring him back safely to his grandmother. This tale not only entertains but also emphasizes themes of friendship and the magic of believing in one's dreams.

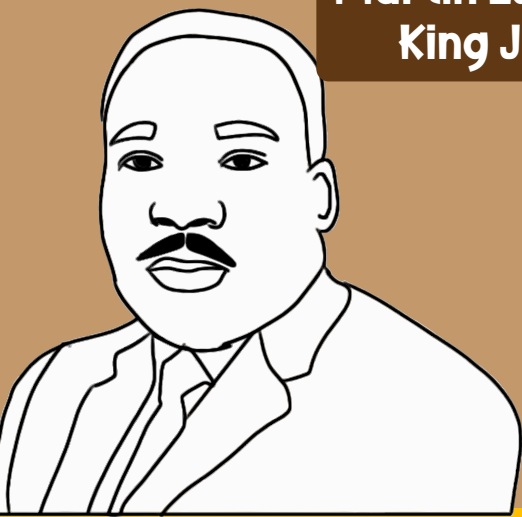
The illustrations by Jeremy Rinne complement Arthur's narrative beautifully, creating an immersive experience that resonates with children. The book has been praised for its engaging storyline and vibrant artwork, making it a perfect addition to children's literature collection.

Oliver's Magical Adventures is a charming tale that encourages children to embrace their imaginations while learning valuable lessons about friendship and adventure. Cherise Arthur continues to establish herself as a beloved author in the realm of children's literature with this enchanting new release.

Available on
Barnes & Nobles



Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr. Powered by faith, inspired by Gandhi and motivated by hope for equal treatment for all. Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesman and leader in the American civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968.

Carter G. Woodson



Carter G. Woodson was a scholar whose dedication to celebrating the historic contributions of Black people led to the establishment of Black History Month, marked every February since 1976. Woodson fervently believed that Black people should be proud of their heritage and all Americans should understand the largely overlooked achievements of Black Americans.

Maya Angelou



She was named the first Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Maya Angelou was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years.

Madam C. J. Walker



Madam C.J. Walker was an African American entrepreneur, philanthropist, and political and social activist. She is recorded as the first female self-made millionaire in America she was considered the wealthiest African-American businesswoman and wealthiest self-made black woman in America.

Mae Jemison



Mae Carol Jemison is an American engineer, physician, and former NASA astronaut. She became the first black woman to travel into space when she served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour. Jemison joined NASA's astronaut corps in 1987 and was selected to serve for the STS-47 mission, during which she orbited the Earth for nearly eight days on September 12–20, 1992.

BLACK HISTORY HEROES

Bessie Coleman soared across the sky as the first African American, and the first Native American, woman pilot. Known for performing flying tricks, Coleman's nicknames were; "Brave Bessie," "Queen Bess," and "The Only Race Aviator in the World." Her goal was to encourage women and African Americans to reach their dreams. Unfortunately, her career ended with a tragic plane crash, but her life continues to inspire people around the world.

Rosa Parks Often called "The Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white male passenger on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. Four days later, black people in the city organized a boycott of the city's buses that lasted for over a year. This collective protest employed Martin Luther King Jr. as its spokesperson and initiated the beginning of the civil rights movement.

Booker Taliaferro Washington was an American educator, author, orator, and adviser to several presidents of the United States. Between 1890 and 1915, Washington was the dominant leader in the African American community and of the contemporary black elite.

Frederick Douglass Born a slave to a mother he would only see a few times in his life and a white father he'd never meet, Frederick Douglass resolved to escape his harsh life and help other African Americans do the same, through abolition. He published multiple autobiographies about his life as a slave, acting as a spokesperson for equality. He wasn't only a leader of the black community, but to all, fighting for equal rights of women and minorities during his lifetime.

She became the first woman in American history to lead a military assault. Harriet Tubman helped to organise the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Harriet helped more than 700 slaves to freedom which took 19 missions to complete. Because of her efforts, she was nicknamed "Moses", alluding to the prophet in the Book of Exodus who led the Hebrews to freedom from Egypt.

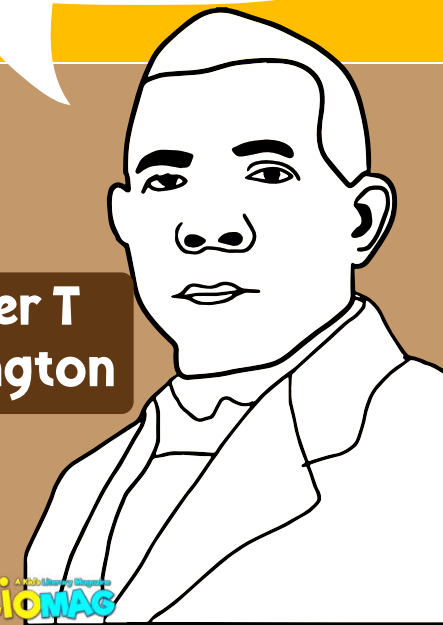
Bessie Coleman



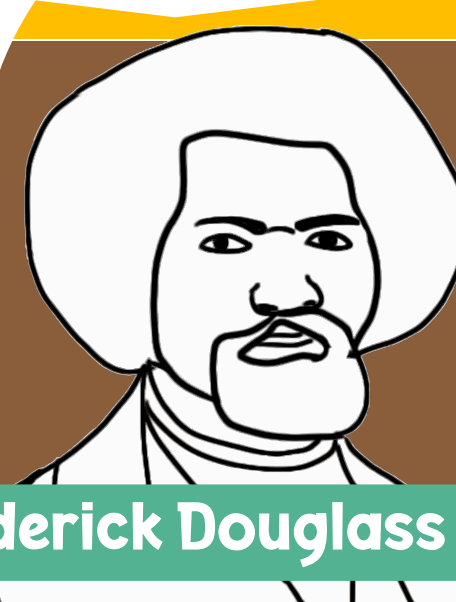
Rosa Parks



Booker T Washington



Frederick Douglass



Harriet Tubman

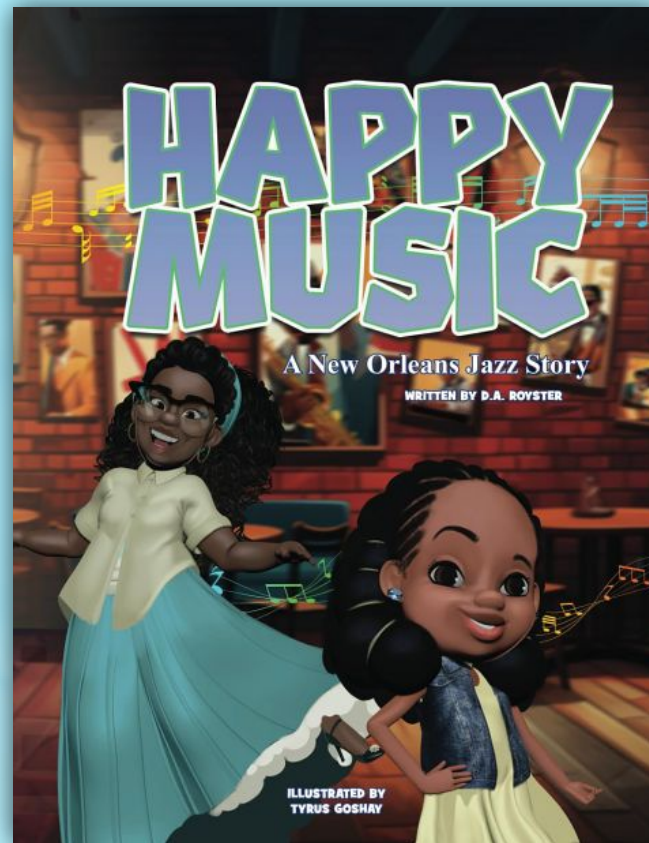


Happy Music

A New Orleans Jazz Story



Dana Royster-Buefort



Q: First tell us something about yourself.

My name is Dana Royster-Buefort. I am a native New Yorker and a retired Special Education teacher. I retired after 38 years of service to the Boston Public School system. Teaching and working with inner city youth has been my life's passion. I am an adoptive mother of three young men, a stepmother to my adult daughter, grandmother of five and great grandmother of one with another on the way.

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

I wrote my first book *Adoption Is...* after adopting my young son and searching for an adoption story to read as a bedtime story with him. My search led me to books about one animal adopting another or stories that began "We got on a plane..." My adoption story began when we drove across town. Additionally, I was unable to find any adoption stories about a young boy, domestic adoption or an adoption story featuring an African American family. Although my first book *Adoption Is...* was written more than twenty years ago it still remains the only Children's Picture Book that addresses all three categories.

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

My first Children's Picture Book *Adoption Is...* was written and published in 2005

Q: Tell us something more about your books.

available at
amazon

I believe that my books *Adoption Is...* and *Happy Music: A New Orleans Jazz Story*, fill a void in the children's book market. They both are, feel good, happy, energetic stories that shed light on subjects not commonly discussed with young children. They provide a way for parents and educators to introduce the subjects of Adoption, Jazz Music and dance styles in a fun yet informative manner. *Happy Music: A New Orleans Jazz Story* also has an accompanying Activity Book/Coloring Book which allows children to participate in extended creative activities independently or with others.

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

Both of my books' characters and stories came to life as an offshoot of my own real life events. *Adoption Is...* was born after the adoption of my son and my desire to read him an adoption story that he could relate to. I'm in the process of creating new illustrations and giving this book a bit of a facelift before relaunching it in the Spring, but it still remains a story in need of sharing with the masses. *Happy Music: A New Orleans Jazz Story*, is my way of sharing a bit of Jazz history with the next generation. It's the story of a mother sharing her love for Jazz music with the young children in her life. It's also my depiction of the stories my mother used to tell me about her New Orleans roots and love for Jazz music.

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

I would love for readers of my books to walk away feeling joyful, after experiencing the reader's journey and education that each book provides. Parents and teachers alike should feel supported as they use the books as tools to introduce new material to young children while also embracing the feel good vibes celebrated in each story.

African Jigsaw

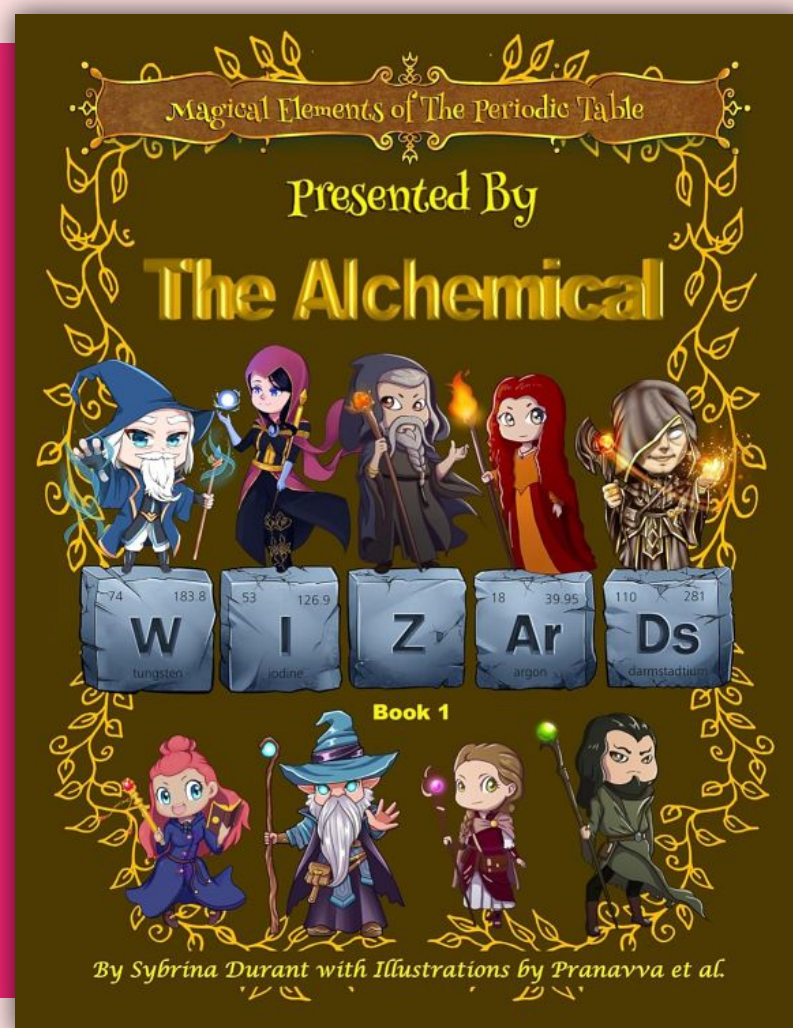
Can You Determine The Name Of
The Countries And Put Them
At Their Perfect Location



Presented by
The Alchemical



In this periodic table book, 23 Alchemical Wizards present Magical Elements of the Periodic Table. Each wizard wields a magical staff tipped with an element which gives them unique powers. Areg starts out Book 1 of the Alchemical Wizards by introducing the important element Argon on his element page. Thurwin rounds out the Book 1 elements by presenting facts and other fun information about the metal, Thulium on his element page. Another elemental favorite is Galoa, who represents Gadolinium. It gives her the power to control and manipulate electromagnetic waves, rendering her a formidable force in the world of technology and communication. Phova is truly magical, as Phosphorus gives her the ability to manipulate light and create illusions. She can control the intensity, color, and direction of light, allowing her to bend it to her will. The Alchemical Wizards, along with their techno-magical unicorn and dragon friends from the first 2 Magical Elements Books are the perfect group to introduce you to metals and other elements in the Periodic Table. Hopefully, the Magical Elements of this periodic table book will spark an interest in the magical and real world properties of all the metals and other elements known today. You may be surprised at how prominently they feature in our every day lives. Each element page in this book contains terms that might not be completely familiar to the reader. Refer to the definitions in the back of the book to get a clear understanding of each meaning. There is also a fun elemental themed Periodic Table at the back of the book. It features metal horn unicorns, dragons with element tipped tails, wizards and knights with elemental staffs and swords; and radiated goblins. Remember, "No metal - No Magic. . .and No Technology". It's Techo-Magical.



Sybrina Durant

Sybrina Durant is the author of the "Learn To Tie With The Rabbit and the Fox" series of books. The book with that name is available in English, Spanish and Tagalog plus a special little book to gift to boys in a wedding party. "Nellie Knows How To Knot A Neck Scarf", "Ned Knows How To Knot A Neck Tie", "Cleo Can Tie A Bow" and "Boo's Shoes" are also part of the series. Visit The Rabbit and The Fox Book Store on her blog to browse those books plus "Learn To Tie" books by lots of other authors.

available at
amazon

2

Fun With Numbers

4

Octopus has legs.

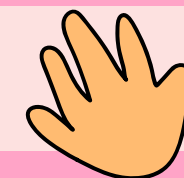


8

Rainbow has Colours.

7

We have fingers in each hand.



6

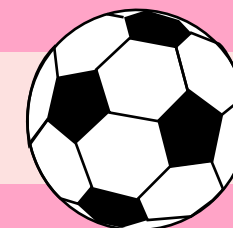
9



Dog has legs.

2

A Football team has players.



5



Clock has hands.

4

A Rabbit has ears



1



A dice has sides



HELP the CUPID to find HEART



YOU
DONE!





Pennygirl's Rescue

Judy McGee

available at
amazon

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

My background is actually in the medical field. I have a dual degree as a Registered X-ray Technologist and a Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Technologist which I officially retired from four years ago. I am a wife, a mother of three and a grandmother of two. I enjoy reading, gardening, all types of crafting, sewing and just recently, I published my first children's picture book, "Pennygirl's Rescue".

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

My journey as a writer began in September of 2020. We applied and got accepted to adopt our rescue dog, Penny, the inspiration for my book. We arranged to meet Penny's transport in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada which was 3 ½ hours from our home in Trenton, Ontario and it was on our journey to meet her transport to bring her home that I started to write a story about her. As it turned out, Penny's transport was delayed a further 3 hours from the planned meeting time which gave me the opportunity to continue on writing her story! Her story then sat on my phone for about 3 years until I decided to bring it to life March of 2023.

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

I began writing my first story, "Pennygirl's Rescue", on September 18, 2020 which was the day we drove to meet Penny at her rescue transport destination. Niagara Dog Rescue rescued her from her home in a Texas dog shelter in the USA and brought her, with 13 other puppies, nearly 2400 Km and a 17-Ma hour journey to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada. Over the next 3 years I added to her story, jotting down our lives together. The book was published on November 13, 2023!

Q: Tell us something more about your books.

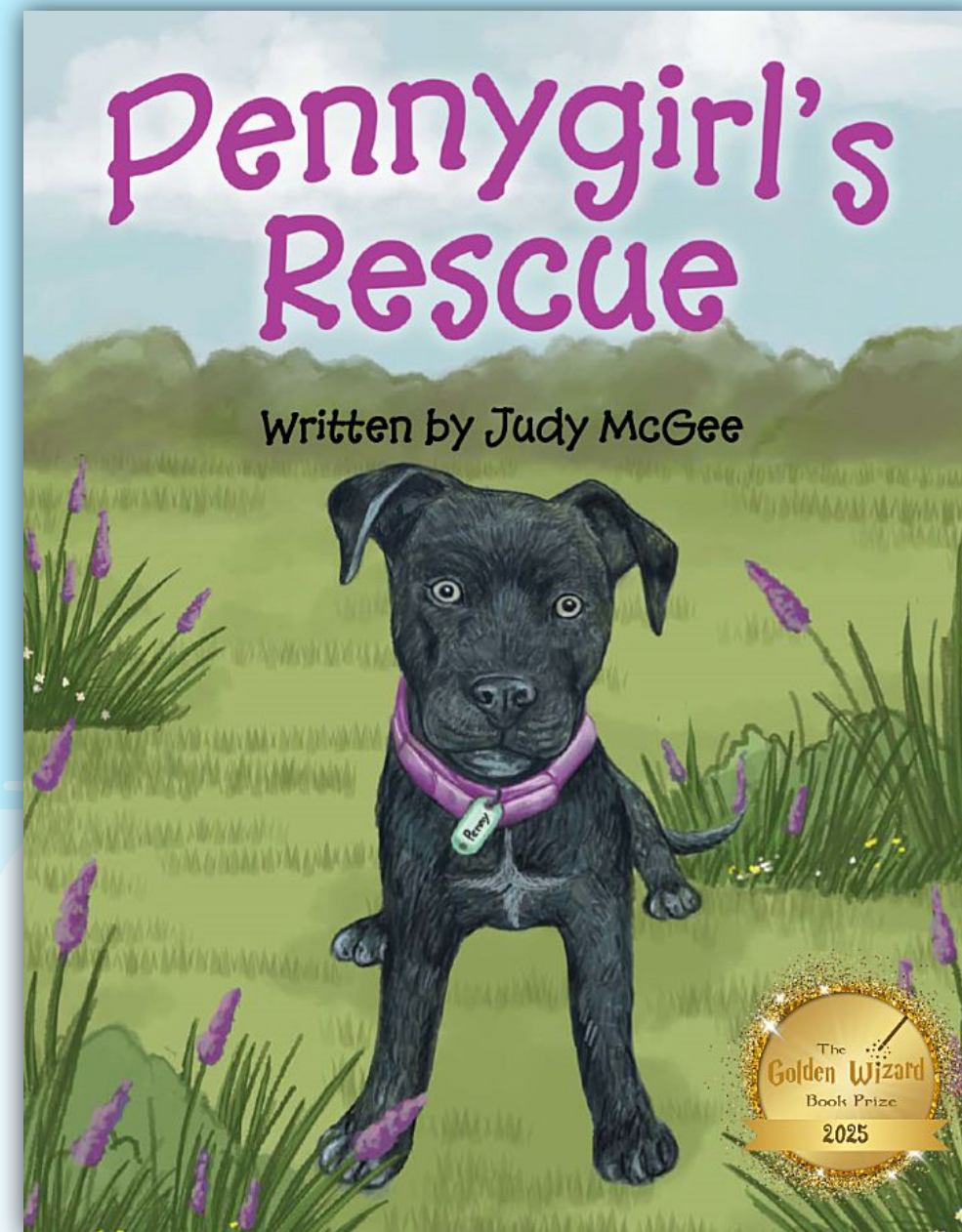
"Pennygirl's Rescue" is Book One in "The Pennygirl Series". I am planning to publish Book Two, "Pennygirl Comes Home" in late 2025 and Book Three, "Pennygirl's New Friends" the end of 2026.

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

My character, Pennygirl is actually my own rescue dog, Penny, adopted from a dog rescue in Texas, USA to our home in Trenton, Ontario, Canada. We fell in love with her picture and bio on the adoption/rescue website and our first encounter of Penny at the transport van meeting site was just wonderful. Penny was brought up to our car on a leash, introduced to my husband and I; she wagged her tail, licked my hand and jumped right into the back seat of our open car, as if to say, 'Let's go home!' She was a little shy at first and certainly had some fears but it was apparent within a couple of days that we had bonded and she was home. Our fondness for her grew and we began to have fond nicknames for Penny, and the one we use the most is "Pennygirl", so it was a natural choice for my book's title. I originally wrote a much longer story, around 3500 words and I had planned on it being a children's chapter book, but I decided Penny's story would be better realized with illustrations to help bring it to life. I could tell a serious story in a softer light for children to digest. I decided to divide my manuscript into three parts and make three picture books in a series.

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

Yes. My book shines a light on dog rescue through adoption and the importance and need for it with so many homeless dogs. The number of homeless dogs is increasing steadily thereby putting pressure on the dog shelters due to over capacity. These dogs all have backstories and have landed in shelters through various circumstances beyond their control, such as animal cruelty where the dog is taken away from the owner and must go into a shelter until rehomed or perhaps the dog's owner passes away and there has not been a plan implemented for a family member or friend to take over the dog's care. Other reasons are abandonment of the dog by the owner perhaps because they no longer wish to care for the dog or are regretting a purchase of a dog for a family pet because they did not do their research on the dog's breed and it grows much bigger than anticipated so the owner is not prepared to manage the dog's care. I believe young readers need to be taught about adoption versus purchasing and about dog rescue, as they may spark a conversation with their parents when the discussion comes up about getting a family dog. The story of "Pennygirl's Rescue" is told in a softer light in the writing and in the illustrations, making it a good choice for an introduction to children of the harsh reality of the topic of dog rescue.

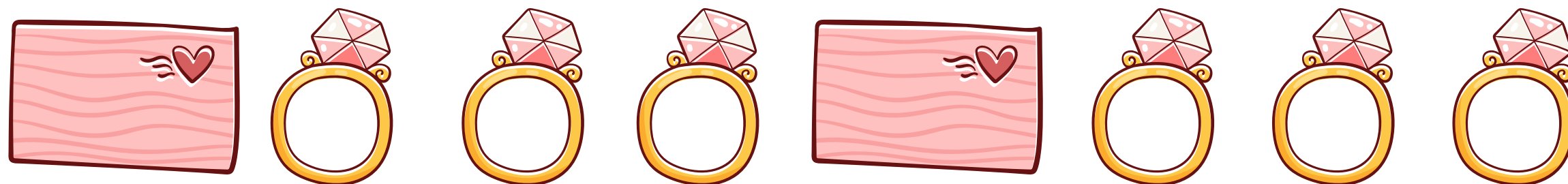


Pennygirl's Rescue is a heartwarming adventure of a brave and curious rescue dog named Penny. She finds herself, through no fault of her own, in the city's dog shelter and soon misses her siblings, farmyard pets and humans. Will Pennygirl get a second chance?

An inspiring story of courage and kindness with a focus on animal advocacy, Pennygirl learns the true meaning of love and friendship while hoping for a Forever Family. This is Book One of The Pennygirl Series.



WHAT COMES NEXT?

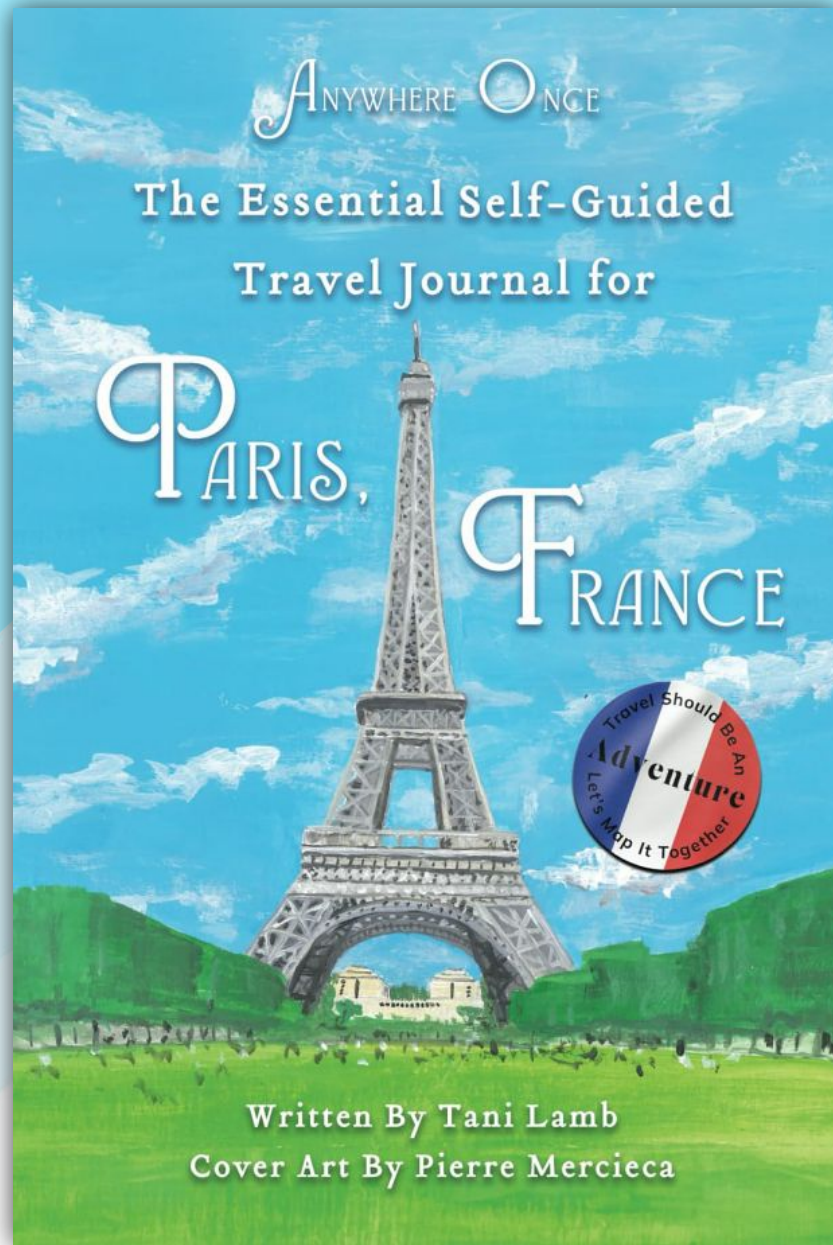


Anywhere Once

The Essential Self-Guided Travel Journal For

Paris, France

Tani Lamb



Travel should be a delightful adventure, not a dreadful headache. I have traveled to over forty-five countries and I am willing to travel pretty much anywhere at least once. I have heard many horrific travel stories through the years and believe there is no such thing as a bad vacation, just inadequate planning. Examining what you already know, and researching what you do not, will help you design the perfect travel plan. Having a plan and remembering why you traveled there in the first place will help you get back on track and stay focused when things go off the rails. I am here to help you prepare for your first or second dream trip to the French capital, Paris. This journal is for children or adults, whether you are traveling to Paris now or years from now. Let's get ready to travel anywhere once, and I will help you plan it step-by-step.

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

I love experiencing different cultures, meeting new people, trying different foods, and having meaningful conversations. I love living life! I have visited 47 countries and over 35 U.S. states, and my love of travel drives my passion for writing.

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

I began writing my first book in the summer of 2016 after my trip to the United States Virgin Islands. I had such an amazing trip dancing with Moko Jumbie and snorkeling with sea turtles that a spark was lit for me to share my adventures through the pages of books for children and the young and adventurous at heart.

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

I wrote my first story around the age of seven. It was a short book about mermaids, and I also drew the illustrations. I self-bound the book with staples, but it was not published. However, my first book was cataloged on my bookshelf beside my encyclopedias in my toy room for safekeeping.

Q: Tell us something more about your books.

I am on a mission to make geography and history more entertaining for children. These topics are not boring, but they are usually not presented in the correct manner to make them enjoyable and easily palatable for children. My books offer geography and history as Edutainment, enriching cultures and creating a deeper connection to the world around you.

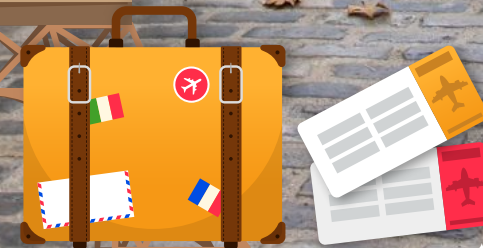
Q: How did these stories and characters come to your mind?

In my first book, T Sees and Island, the main character, T, is the seven-year-old version of myself. That book is based on my trip to the U.S. Virgin Islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas. I creatively retold my adventure from the U.S. Virgin Islands and added a few interesting facts about the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the introduction. My second book, The Princess of Sapphires and Sand, is based on my two favorite regions to travel to: the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The characters are a mix of both cultures and locations in the book. Lava, the protagonist, is the descendant of her father, Vulcan, the Roman god of fire and volcanoes. The father and daughter represent the Mediterranean and the Sapphire Kingdom. Lava's mother, Aisha, shares the name of the Prophet Muhammad's third wife, born in Mecca, Arabia. Aisha represents the Arabian Peninsula and the Kingdom of Sand. The most recent book is a self-guided travel journal for Paris, France. Its intent is to help you plan your vacation as you obtain information about the destination. The travel journal lays out how I plan my trips. Collecting background information about your destination and having a general idea of what you want to see will yield a better trip.

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

I have loved reading since I was a child, and the pages of books helped me solve mysteries, explore ancient kingdoms, take me around the world, visit fantasy kingdoms, and travel through time. Books help stimulate your mind and create escape. I am here to help you explore this wonderful planet and to enrich your life through vicarious travel. All you need to do is open one of Lamb Chop Publishing's books and let the adventure begin. Safe travels and happy reading!

available at
amazon



World-Renowned Food

When you discover Haitian cuisine, we are sure you'll want to tell the whole world! In fact, we have a dish that UNESCO recognizes as part of the "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity." The dish that earned this high honor is a soup like no other, Soup Joumou.



Haitian Creole Is The Most Spoken Creole Language In The World



Haiti Has The Deepest Cave In The Caribbean

Caribbean's most spectacular cave adventures. With a massive cave system of more than four kilometers (two-and-a-half miles), the Grotte Marie Jeanne is the deepest cave in the Caribbean! Located in the south of Haiti by the city of Port-à-Piment, this impressive cave and its five levels of natural galleries and stalactites will, without a doubt, leave you speechless.



Haiti Is An Island



Haiti



Breathtaking Coastlines

The Caribbean is well-known for its lovely beaches, and our beaches are among the most beautiful in the region. You can visit Lover Island in Ile à Vache, Labadee in Cap-Haïtien, the Arcadins coast, the Anse Blanche beach close to Pestel, or Boukanye in Petit-Goâve. No matter where you go in Haiti, there's a lovely white sand beach to discover!



Haiti is Mountainous

No matter where you may find yourself in Haiti, you'll either be on a mountain range or have one in view. The country is made up of a series of breathtaking mountain landscapes. Actually, the very name Haiti means "mountainous land" in the Taíno language spoken by the island's indigenous inhabitants.

Tracing Practice

HUG
ME

You
Rock!

Cutie

Be
Mine

HUG
ME

You
Rock!

Cutie

Be
Mine

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!

What Kind Of
Candy Is
Never On Time?
Choco-LATE

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!

UNESCO Recognition

In 2017, Kumbh Mela was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This recognition highlights its global significance as a living cultural tradition.

Maha Kumbh Mela happens every 144 years

This year, the Maha Kumbh Mela began on the auspicious day of Paush Purnima, which fell on January 13, 2025. It will continue until February 26, 2025. This year's Maha Kumbh Mela is even more significant because the constellation alignment is witnessed once every 144 years.

Largest Religious Gathering

Facts

Maha Kumbh 2025

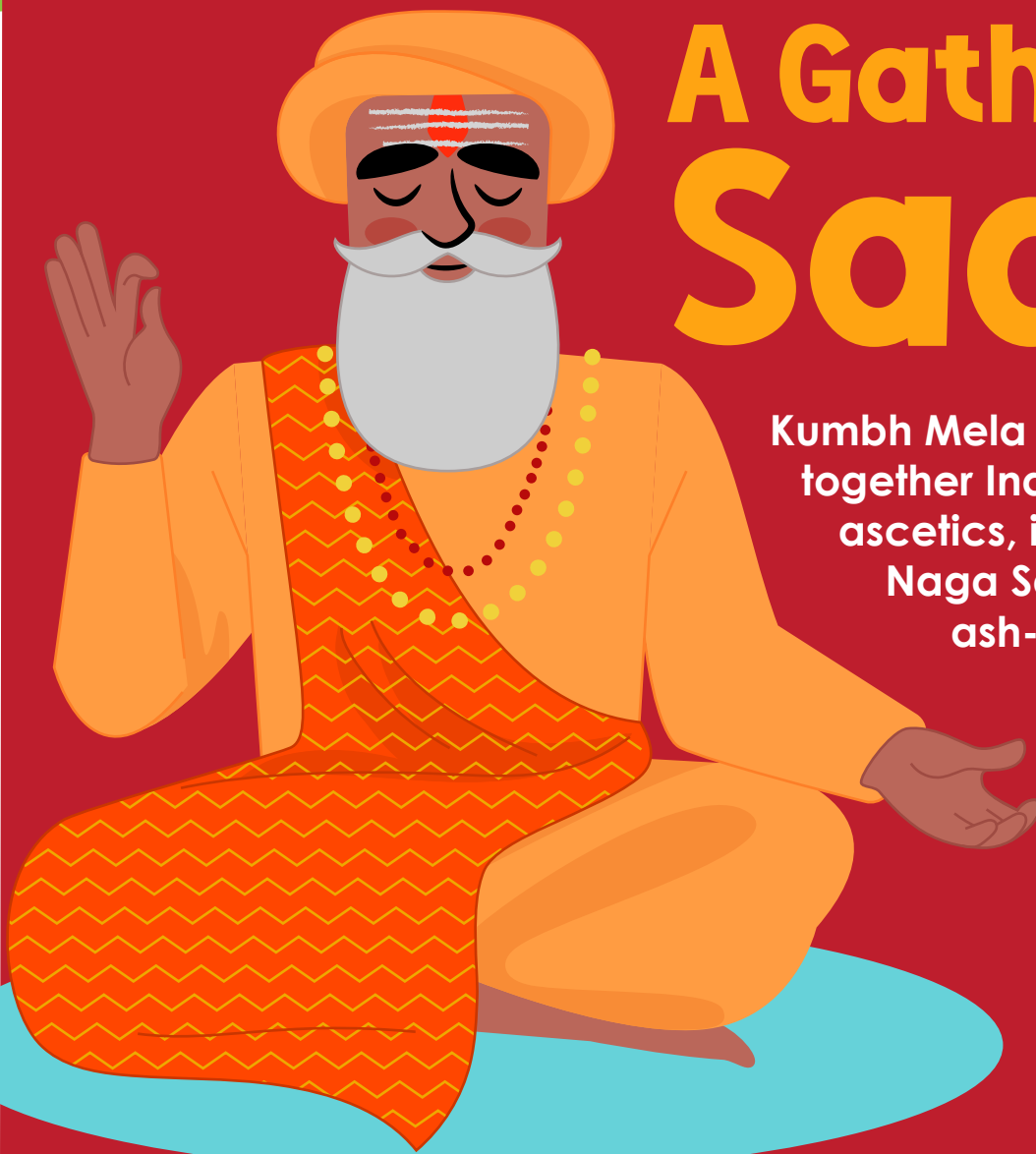


A Gathering of Sadhus

Kumbh Mela is famous for bringing together India's diverse sects of ascetics, including the mystical Naga Sadhus. These saffron-clad, ash-smeared saints, who live in isolation for most of the year, emerge during the festival to perform rituals and share spiritual wisdom.

A Hub for Global Spiritual Seekers

The Kumbh Mela isn't just for Hindus. Spiritual seekers from all over the world, regardless of religion, attend to experience its unique energy, learn ancient practices like yoga, and witness India's rich cultural heritage.



What Do You Love About Your Name?

What Do You Love About Your Hair?

What Do You Love About Your Family?

What Do You Love About Your Skin Color?

What Other Things you Love About Yourself

What Do You Love About Your School?

What Do You Love About Your Room?

I Love Myself

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

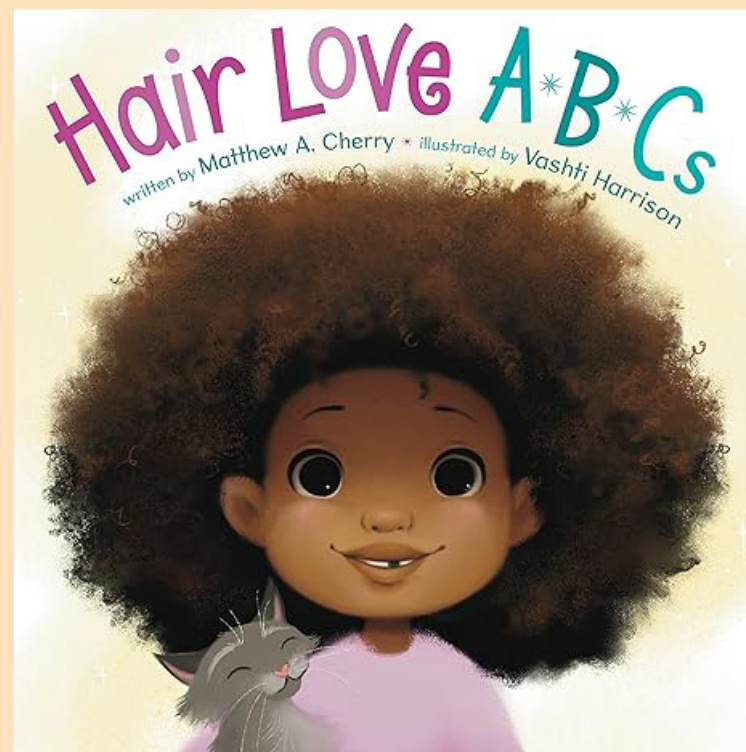
Black History Month
Was Founded By
Carter G. Woodson,
Who Was A
Historian, Author, And Journalist.

The very first Black History Month theme
was **Civilization: A World Achievement.**
The 2025 Black History Month theme is
African Americans and Labor

James
Weldon Johnson
was a writer and musician
that wrote the
National Black
Anthem,
"Lift Every Voice
and Sing"

February is
Black History month! It is a time designated
to celebrate the contributions
of black people to this world.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



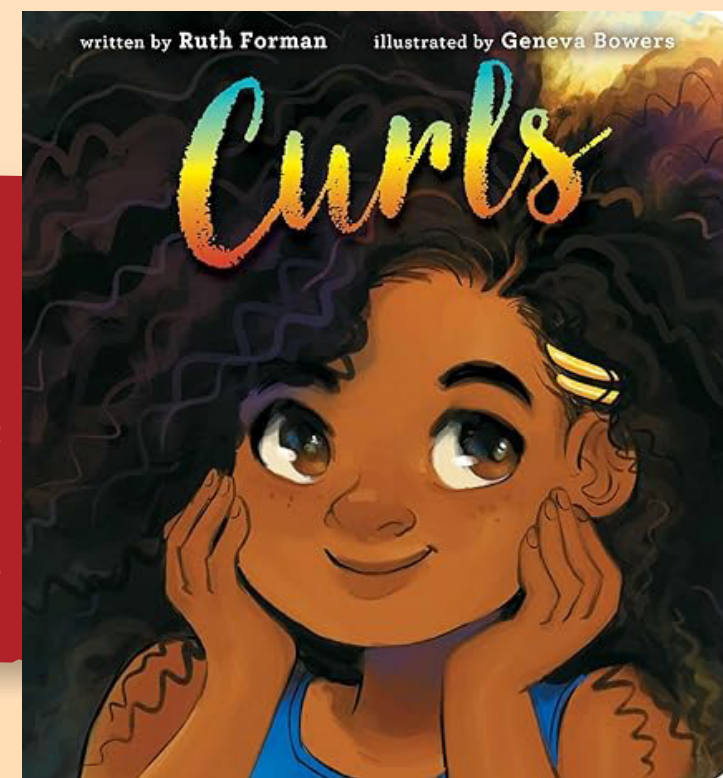
Name: Hair Love ABCs

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.

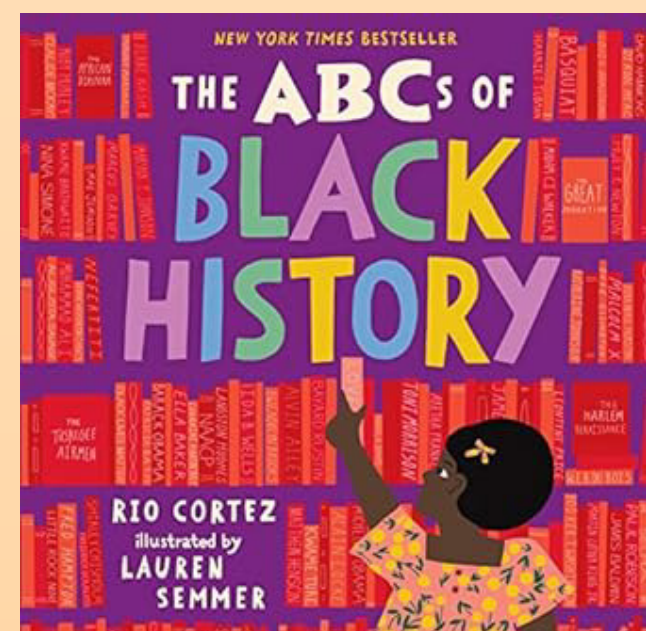


Name: Curls

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

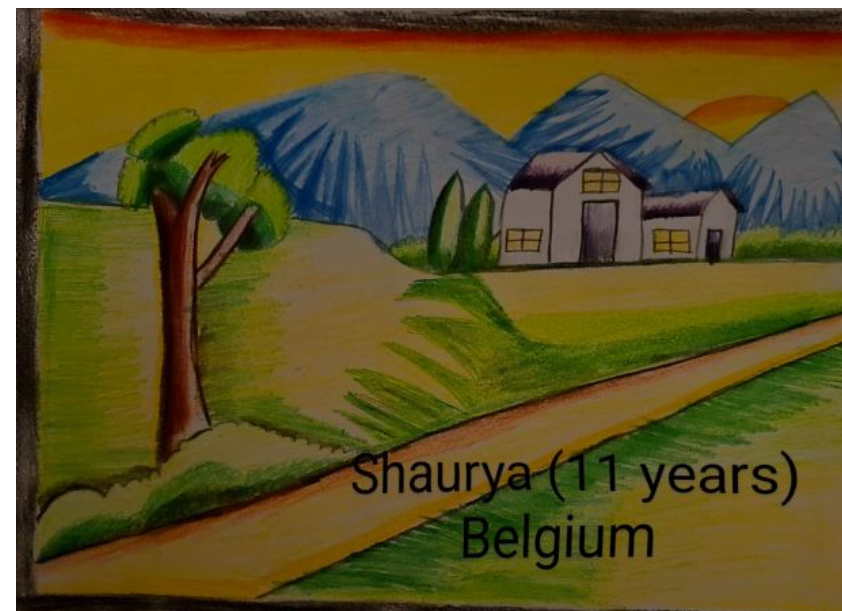
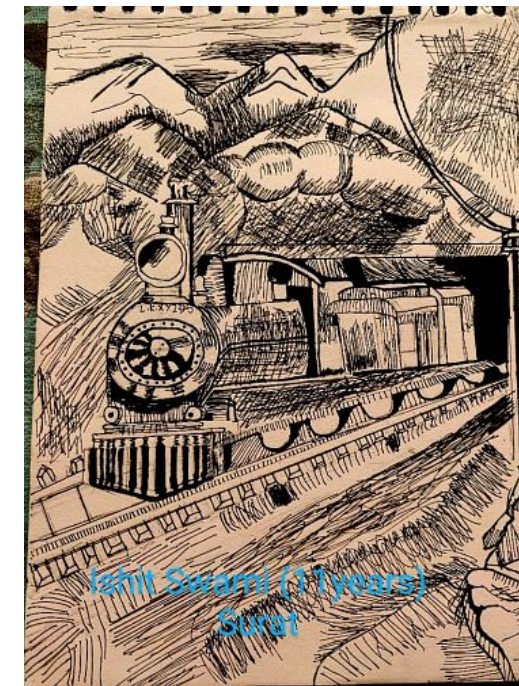
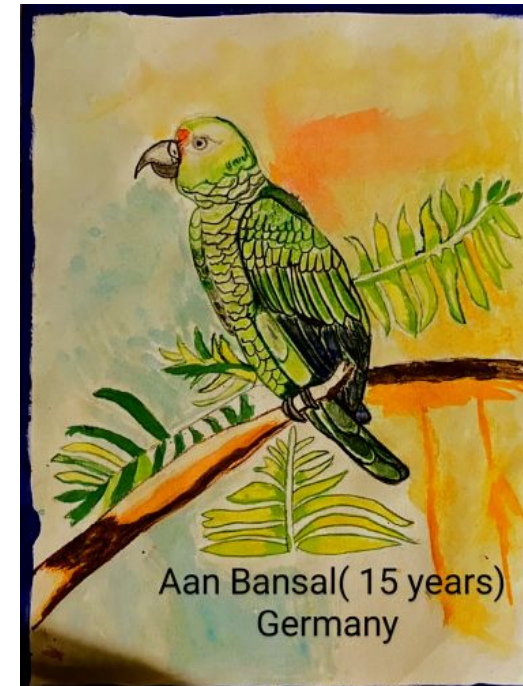
Author: Rio Cortez

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.

Creative Corner





BLACK HISTORY MONTH



www.Kidliomag.com

A Kid's Literary Magazine
KIDLIO MAG