

A Kid's Literary Magazine

KIDLIOMAG

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Ross Hewitt



Dr. Darcele Cole-Robinson

Cover Story

THE SIXTY-MINUTE
SHAKESPEARE
SERIES, ADAPTED AND
CONDENSED BY
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PROFESSOR EMERITUS

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Editor's Note

Dear Young Explorers,

Welcome to the September issue of Kidliomag! As the summer breeze shifts into a fresh autumn air, we are stepping into one of our absolute favorite times of the year: Back-to-School season!

Going back to school means new classrooms, fresh notebooks, meeting old friends, and embarking on exciting learning adventures. To celebrate, this month's issue is packed with fun activities to make the return to school smooth and joyful—from back to school activities and fun goal-setting worksheets to interactive story prompts that spark young imaginations for the term ahead.

Whether your young reader is stepping into a new grade or diving into a fresh stack of books, we hope this edition inspires curiosity, confidence, and a love for learning.

Happy reading and happy learning,

Dhruvin Dharmendra

Dhruvin Dharmendra



Kaygan's Adventure I Choose Calm



**Dr. Darcele
Cole-Robinson**

Q: Tell us something more about your book series.

Dr. Darcele writes trauma-informed children's books under her publishing brand Read with Nana Darcele Stories. My flagship series is Kaygan's Adventures, which teaches kids emotional intelligence and safety skills.

Published Titles Included:

- Kaygan's Adventure: My Feelings Matter-Award-winning book used in schools to teach "every emotion is normal and deserves acknowledgment". Ages 4-12**
- Kaygan's Adventure: Save Silly Millie**
- Kaygan's Adventure: Surprise at 5**
- Kaygan's Adventure: Nana Darcele House**
- Kaygan's Adventure: I Choose Calm**

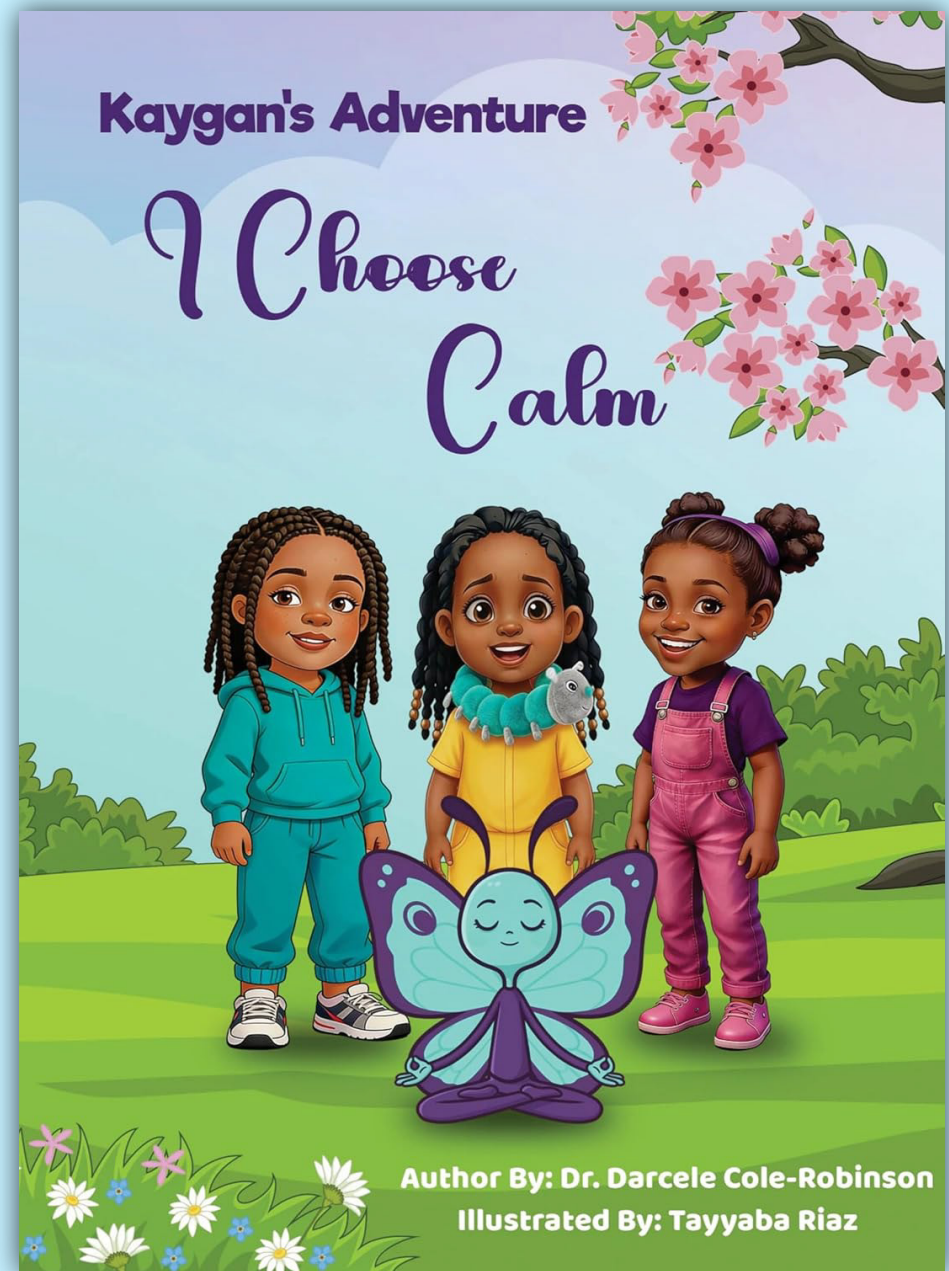
Robinson uses storytelling to help scholars name their feelings, manage triggers and make safe choices. Dr. Robinson is known as "Read with Nana Darcele Stories" to the community that Dr. Robinson serves.

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

Dr. Robinson is a clinical social worker, therapist, and children's author based in Flint Twp., Michigan. She is known as Read with Nana Darcele Stories

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

My journey started when my granddaughter lost her pet Millie, and I wrote my first book, Kaygan's Adventure: Save Silly Millie. I have been writing every since.



Q: How did you create the magical system in your books and characters that drive every character?

The magic is emotional literacy. Its trauma informed social work turned into a story. This the framework that drives every character's growth. It's based on clinical skills Dr. Darcele uses in therapy, translated to scholars.

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

Dr. Robinson books is written for scholars "you are not alone" Your feelings matter and there are ways to Choose calm. Dr. Robinson is building a city-wide safety net, one reader at a time.

Dr. Robinson will have another book release coming out this fall. Kaygan's Adventure: "Stop Picking on Me". The book is a trauma-informed story for scholars ages 5-12 that teaches bullying prevention through emotional literacy.
Kaygan's Adventure: I Choose Calm
Teaches scholars 5-12 how to hit "pause" before BIG feelings turn into unsafe choices. Through real-life situations kids face at school and home, readers practice safe person tools to calm their bodies and Powerful choices.

This book is perfect for:

- * Kids who struggle with anger, meltdowns, or impulse control**
- * Classrooms teaching social-emotional learning**
- * Parents and counselors helping children impacted by trauma or stress**

Dr. Robinson believes every scholar deserves to play it safe. Because when we choose calm, we choose each other. There is also a video meditation that is included in the book for scholars to stay calm



BREATHE IN 1,2,3,4...



PAUSE 1,2,3,4...

FIND YOUR CALM

Nancy Franklin-Wright



Q: First, tell us something about yourself.

My name is Nancy Franklin-Wright, and I'm a children's book author, entrepreneur, and mother. I believe every child deserves to know they are loved, capable, and uniquely created for a purpose. Through my books, I hope to encourage confidence, kindness, courage, and imagination while creating stories that families can enjoy together. Seeing children connect with my books is one of the greatest joys of my work.

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

My journey as a writer began years ago, but it truly came to life after the birth of my daughter, Reign. Becoming a mother inspired me to finally pursue a dream I had put on hold. I wanted to create stories that would empower children, celebrate their uniqueness, and remind them that their words and actions have the power to make a positive difference in the world.

Q: How did you create the magical system in your books and characters?

The "magic" in my books isn't about having supernatural powers—it's about discovering the extraordinary qualities that already exist within each child. I wanted my characters to reflect traits like kindness, courage, confidence, and perseverance because those are the qualities that truly change lives. By combining imagination with meaningful life lessons, I hope children see that they already have everything they need to make a difference.

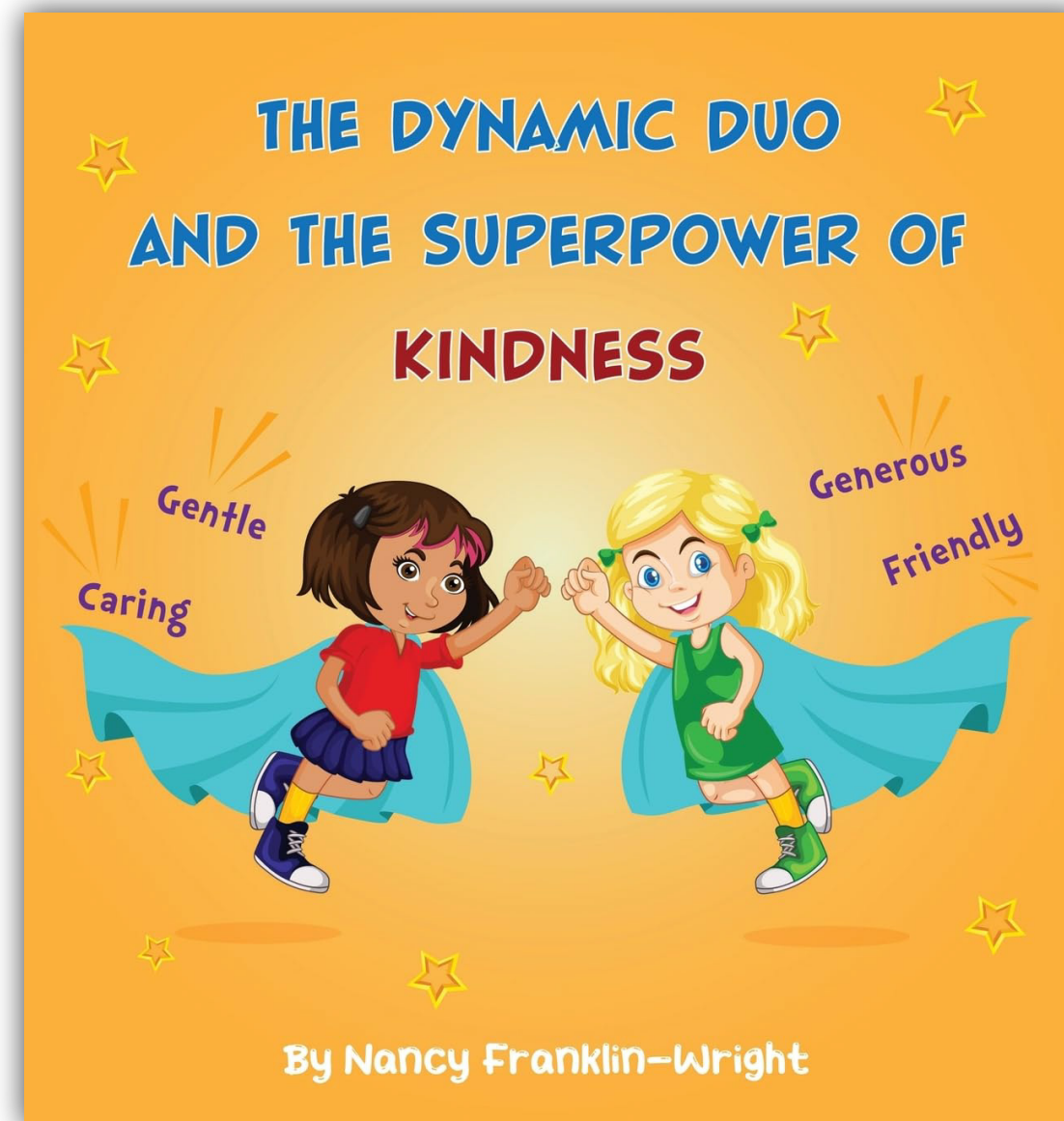
Q: Tell us something more about your book series.

Each of my books shares a common purpose—to inspire children to believe in themselves while learning important life values. Diva Magic encourages girls to recognize the beauty and strength they already possess. The Divatastic Be's inspires children to embrace positive character traits. My newest book, *The Dynamic Duo & the Super Power of Kindness*, reminds young readers that kindness is a real superpower that can strengthen friendships, build confidence, and positively impact others. Together, the series encourages children to lead with courage, compassion, and character.

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

Never underestimate the difference you can make. Your kindness, your voice, and your unique gifts matter. Be brave enough to be yourself, dream big, and treat others with compassion. Every act of kindness creates a ripple that can reach farther than you may ever know. Keep believing in yourself, because the world needs the special light that only you can bring.

The Dynamic Duo and The Superpower of Kindness



available at
amazon

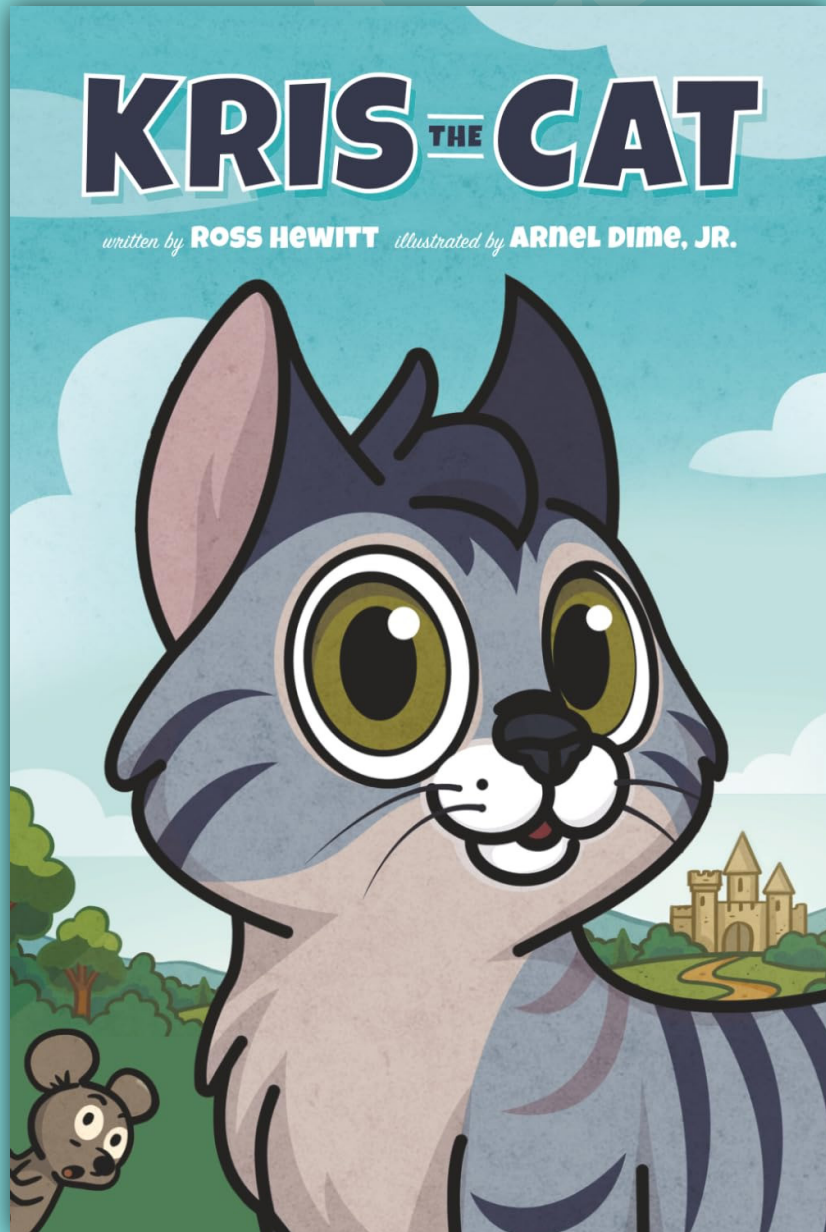
What if the greatest superpower of all is kindness?

In *The Dynamic Duo and the Superpower of Kindness*, two friends discover that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference. Whether at home, at school, or on the playground, the Dynamic Duo shows young readers how simple, caring actions can brighten someone's day—and their own.

Through relatable, everyday moments and thoughtful choices, children learn that kindness can be shared with friends, family members, animals, and even themselves. This uplifting picture book reminds readers that they don't need a cape or special powers to change the world—just a caring heart.

KRIS THE CAT

ROSS HEWITT



Some stories teach you about bravery. Some teach you about finding a new home. Kris the Cat by Ross Hewitt quietly does both – and wraps it in friendship, humor, and the warmth of unexpected connections.

The story begins in a castle. Kris is not just any cat. He has a very important job: protecting Queen Helga's grain from mice. He is diligent, proud, and completely devoted to his duty. But one day during a mouse chase, Kris loses his way back to the castle. What could have been a story about being lost becomes a story about finding home in unexpected places.

Kris meets a little girl who offers him kindness, a warm home, and a name. She calls him Kris. There, he also meets Freyza, another cat. What starts as curiosity quickly grows into a deep, playful friendship. Just when Kris thinks he's found a new family, his old one is looking for him.

Hewitt captures the language of cats beautifully, not with words, but through shared naps, chases, and quiet companionship. With warm illustrations and a gentle heart, this book teaches children that family can grow bigger and love can live in two places at once. By the last page, you don't just close a book. You feel like you've made two new feline friends.

A must-read for ages 3-8.

Grab your copy from Amazon.

<https://a.co/d/ObqKdmrB>



HELP the MOUSE to find CHEESE





THE REIGN: NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA



C.NICHOLE

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

Hi! I'm C.Nichole. I was born in Texas, raised in California, and I love traveling the world and discovering new places. I started writing songs when I was just 10 years old, and in college I began writing a blog. Later, I became a journalist and wrote for magazines and other publications. Writing has always been a big part of who I am. I believe words are powerful because they can inspire people, tell amazing stories, and leave a lasting impact for generations.

Q: How and when did your journey start as an author?

My journey as an author began in 2019 during a trip to Brazil, which was my 79th country. While visiting a favela, I learned that many young children there weren't being taught much about history or world geography. It made me realize that many children around the world don't have the opportunity to learn about their own culture, ancestry, or the cultures of others.

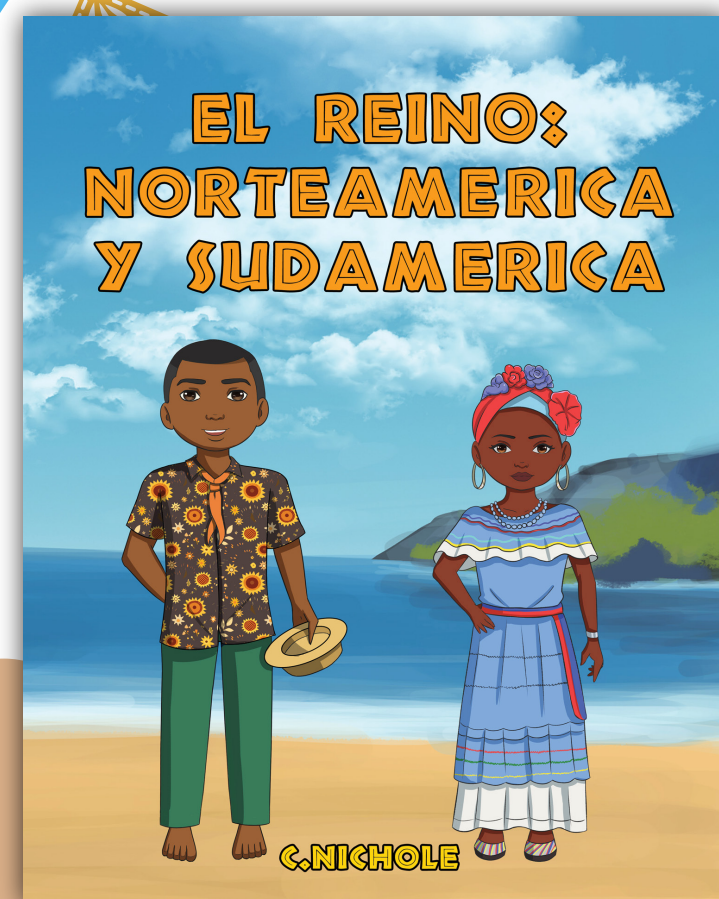
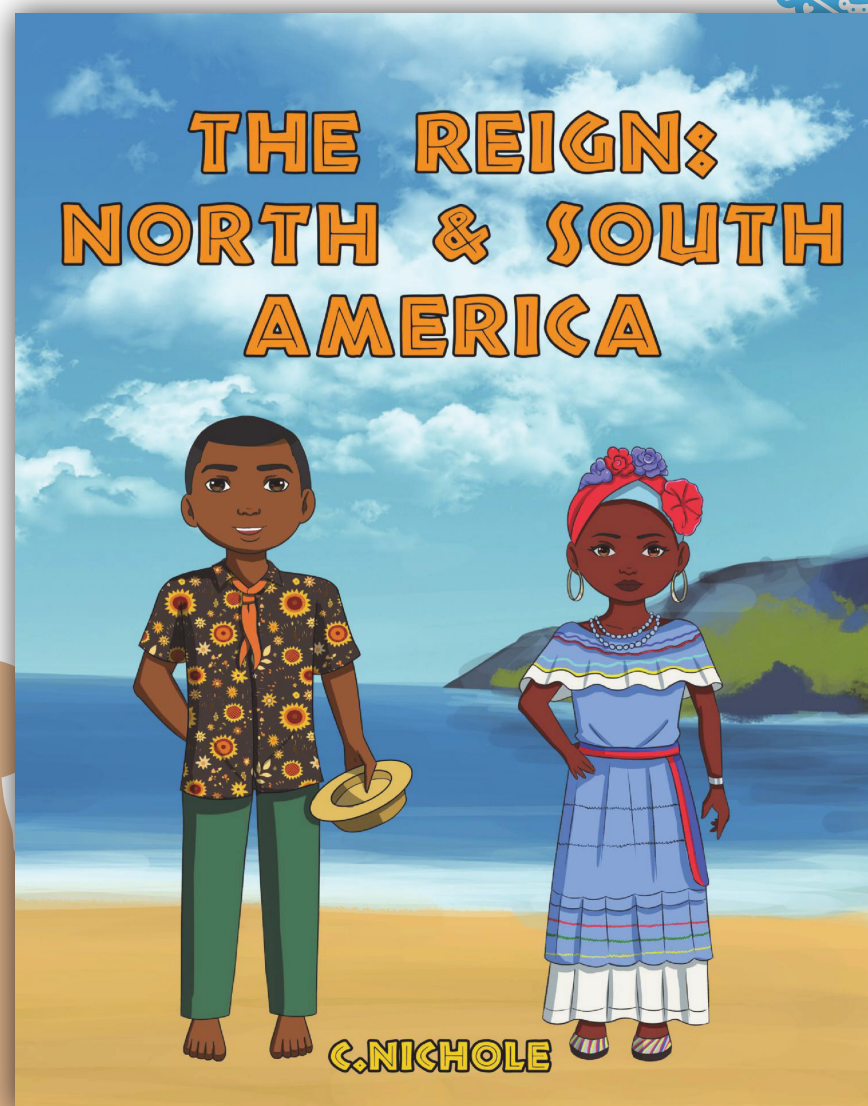
When I returned home, I asked my nephew, who was about the same age as the children I had met in Brazil, what he knew about his family's history and where his ancestors came from. He didn't know very much either. That really stayed with me. I realized I had the knowledge and experiences to help children learn about the world in a fun and meaningful way. That's when I decided to write "The Reign" series, to inspire kids to explore history, celebrate different cultures, and discover more about themselves and the world around them.

Q: Tell us something more about your book series.

The Reign series includes three books, with two also available in Spanish. Throughout the series, readers are introduced to more than 20 African and African Diasporan ethnic groups across different continents.

The journey begins with "The Reign: Africa" and "El Reino: África," where children explore the rich cultures and history of Africa, the birthplace of humanity. Next, "The Reign: North and South America" and "El Reino: Norteamérica y Sudamérica" introduce young readers to African Diasporan communities that emerged as a result of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, highlighting their resilience, traditions, and lasting contributions.

available at
amazon



PAN AFRICAN PUBLISHING HOUSE

The series concludes with "The Reign: Asia and Oceania," where children discover fascinating African-descended communities in parts of the world that are not often included in these conversations.

My goal is to make history exciting, accessible, and meaningful for young readers. Rather than running from history, we lean into it, because understanding the past helps us better understand ourselves and one another.

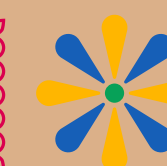
Q: Since this interview is being published during Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated from September 15 to October 15, what do you hope children learn from "The Reign: North and South America"/ "El Reino: Norteamérica y Sudamérica?"

Hispanic Heritage Month is a wonderful time to celebrate the many cultures, traditions, and histories that make up the Latino community. One thing I hope children learn is that there isn't just one way to look or be Latino. Latinos come in all skin tones, hair textures, and backgrounds, including Afro-Latinos, who are an important part of Latin American history and culture.

In "The Reign: North and South America" and "El Reino: Norteamérica y Sudamérica," I introduce readers to African Diasporan ethnic groups throughout the Americas so they can see how history, culture, and identity are all connected. My hope is that every child feels seen, learns something new, and celebrates the beautiful diversity that makes our world so special.

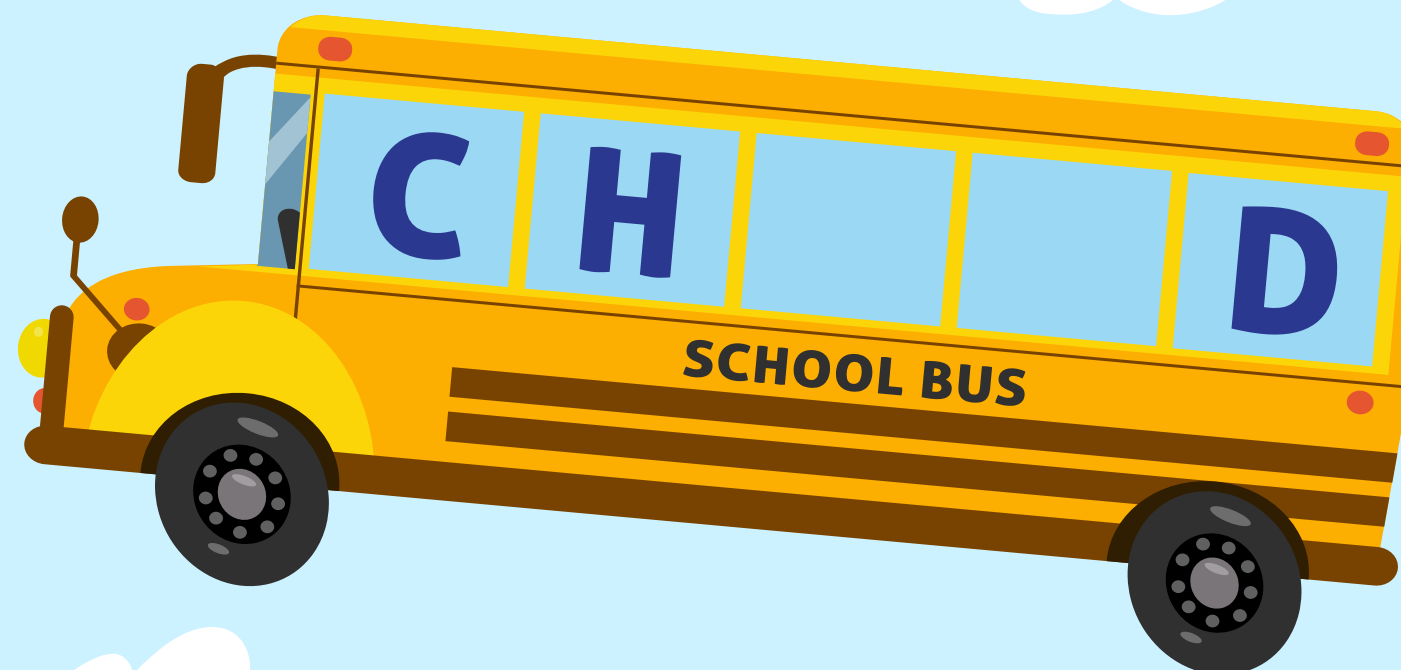
Q: Do you want to leave any message for your readers?

Reading is one of the greatest adventures you can ever have. Every book has the power to expand your imagination, teach you something new, and help you see the world through someone else's eyes. Stay curious, keep asking questions, and never stop reading. The more you learn about the world, the more you'll discover about yourself.



SCHOOLBUS

FILL IN THE MISSING LETTERS



The Adventures of Phoenix and Arizona BIG DAY AT SCHOOL



Jessica
Mascarenhas

Q. First tell us something about yourself.

My name is Jessica Mascarenhas from Edmonton, AB, Canada. I'm a mother, poet, animal lover and devoted dog volunteer who believes that some of life's greatest adventure begins with a little imagination.

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

I've always been a creative soul, which I believe I inherited from my mother. Although I don't have a professional background in writing, I had a deep interest in creative writing. My journey began in the 1990s when I was a teenager, where I discovered a love for writing poetry and found that putting my thoughts, emotions into words came naturally. Growing up surrounded by animals also played a significant role in shaping my creativity. They sparked my imagination and inspired me to create stories, imagine different worlds, and see life from unique perspectives. What started as a personal passion eventually became a meaningful way for me to express myself, connect with others, and share stories that inspire, entertain, and resonate with readers.

Q. Tell us something more about your book series.

Although The Adventures of Phoenix and Arizona: Big Day at School isn't a series just yet, it certainly has the potential to become one. I originally wrote the manuscript years ago, inspired by my love of animals and my desire to create a heartwarming children's story that celebrates friendship, courage, and new experiences through the eyes of lovable animal characters. I experienced a period of writer's block. The manuscript sat untouched for years until 2025, when, with the encouragement and support of my family, I rediscovered it and felt inspired to bring Phoenix and Arizona's adventure to life. Revisiting the story reignited my passion for writing and reminded me why I wanted to write for children. So, stay tuned, this may just be the first of many stories in The Adventures of Phoenix and Arizona.

Q. How did you create the magical system in your books and characters?

The magical world in my story was inspired by two very special cats, Phoenix and Arizona, who were siblings I grew up with. By watching their unique personalities and the way they interacted with each other, I couldn't help but imagine the conversations and adventures they might have if they could talk. That imagination became the foundation of the story, which is rooted in the wonder, curiosity, and sense of possibility that children naturally embrace. I wanted to create a world where animals have voices, friendships grow through shared experiences, and everyday moments can become magical adventures.

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

I hope readers, especially young ones, come away knowing that every adventure begins with one small, brave step. Just like Phoenix and Arizona, it's okay to feel nervous when trying something new. Their journey is a reminder of the importance of friendship, kindness, forgiveness, and believing in yourself. Above all, I hope to inspire young readers to dream boldly and explore fearlessly. If Phoenix and Arizona encourage even one child to embrace new experiences with curiosity, courage, and a kind heart, then I've accomplished exactly what I hoped to do.



Tomorrow is the first day of school, and Phoenix and Arizona are feeling a whole galaxy of jitters. But with a little imagination, anything is possible. Hallways become rocket tunnels, backpacks turn into adventure gear, and school feels less scary and a lot more magical.

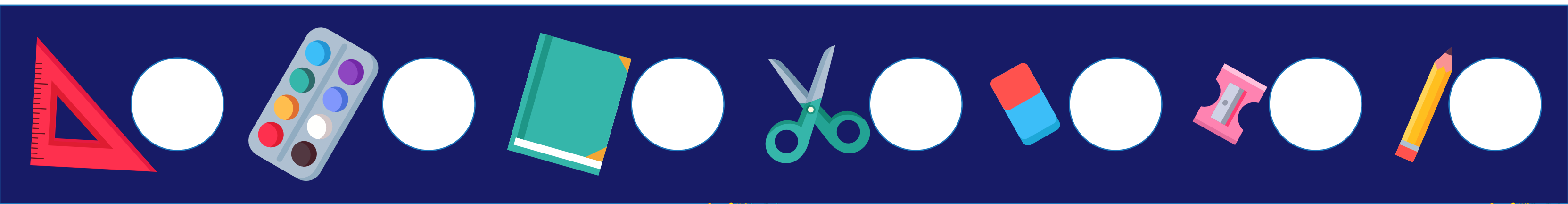
Join these lovable cat siblings as they navigate first-day nerves, make new friends, and discover that courage isn't about never being afraid. It's about taking that first brave step.

Author's Website

available at
amazon



BACK TO SCHOOL I SPY





CARISSA FLYNN

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

Sure! I'm Carissa Flynn, a newly published children's author from Long Island, NY. I am naturally optimistic and find happiness in the small treasures of everyday life. I've always had a love for the creative process. Long after college, I went back to school and earned a certificate in Interior Design. There is something beautiful about the design process—the way ideas, creativity, and individual pieces come together to create something meaningful. Writing feels like an extension of that same creativity that has always lived in me. Whether it is baking, arranging flowers, decorating for holidays or the home, I am happiest when I use my hands to tell a story.

My son was the inspiration for my story. I feel so lucky to experience life through his eyes and to see the world with a little more wonder because of him.

(Guess that's more than one thing!)

Q: How and when did your journey start.

I started writing at 8 years old! I would write and illustrate my books and bind them with my Mom's kitchen plastic wrap. Sometimes I'd bring them into school and read to my class but most of the time I just collected them in a folder (that I also designed). I recently found them in my parent's house and flipped through them with a smile. I always knew I'd publish a book I just didn't know when. So after decades of not writing I decided to pick it all back up again and I am looking forward to sharing more with you all. Life has a way of nudging us in the direction we were always meant to follow.

Q: Tell us something more about your book series.

If I Were A Fish is my first book but there are more projects in the works. I would like to have a "Wonder Series", just a few books centered on the imagination taking us somewhere special but finding joy in exactly where you are. I find inspiration every day. I could be on the boat, on walks with my dogs or on line in a grocery store. The key is to get them down to paper fast!

Q: How did you create the magical system in your books and characters?

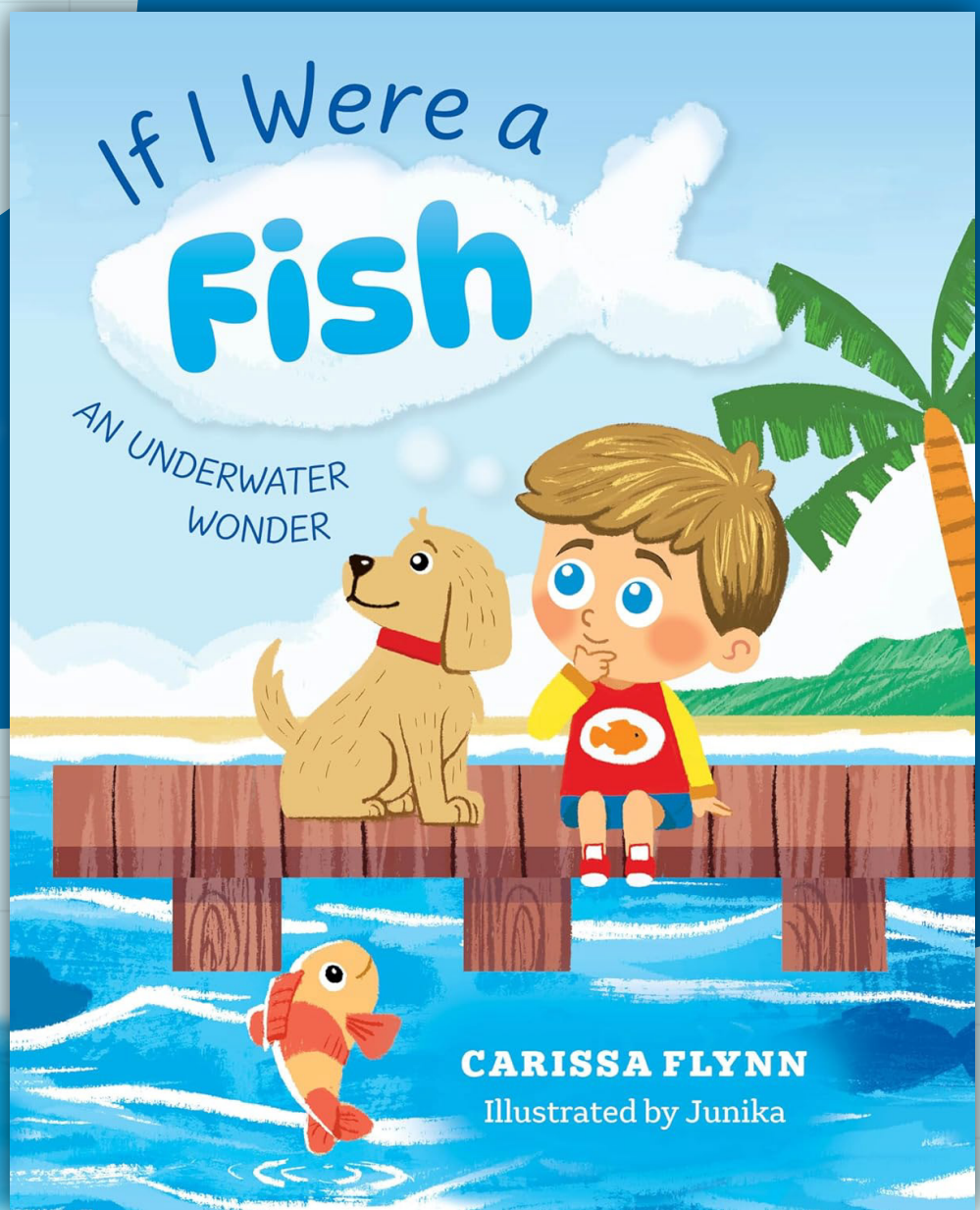
My character was based on my son and our days spent on the water where we live. At the time he was 5 and we had a conversation leaving the dock one day. He didn't want to leave and had the same curiosity and wonder that I always felt watching those sunset sparkles on the bay. On the drive home I asked him simply, "Tell me my son, what would you do if you were a fish and I were too?" That rhyme stuck with me and I listened to the ways he felt we could enjoy our day. The next few days I started building out what became my first draft.

The first draft was very descriptive and I actually joined him in this underwater adventure. Ultimately during the editing process I removed myself and let the character have his own adventure to explore his bravery and imagination. In the end the story was best told with a beautifully rhyming flow and incredible pictures by my illustrator, Junika, to help bring the story to life. The magical system came naturally and from the process of imagining how fish can have fun!

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

Yes! When I sign copies of my book I tell my readers to always be brave and full of wonder! There is something so special about watching a child read my story and then tell me what they would do if they were a fish for a day. And that's what I had hoped for.

If I Were A Fish



Have you ever wondered what it might be like to live beneath the waves?

Imagine waking up one morning with shimmering scales, swishy fins, and the whole ocean as your playground! You could race with dolphins, play hide-and-seek among coral castles, and even explore mysterious shipwrecks on the sea floor.

But after all the excitement, you might start to miss something important, like your family, friends, and the comfort of home. Being a fish is magical, but it isn't quite you.

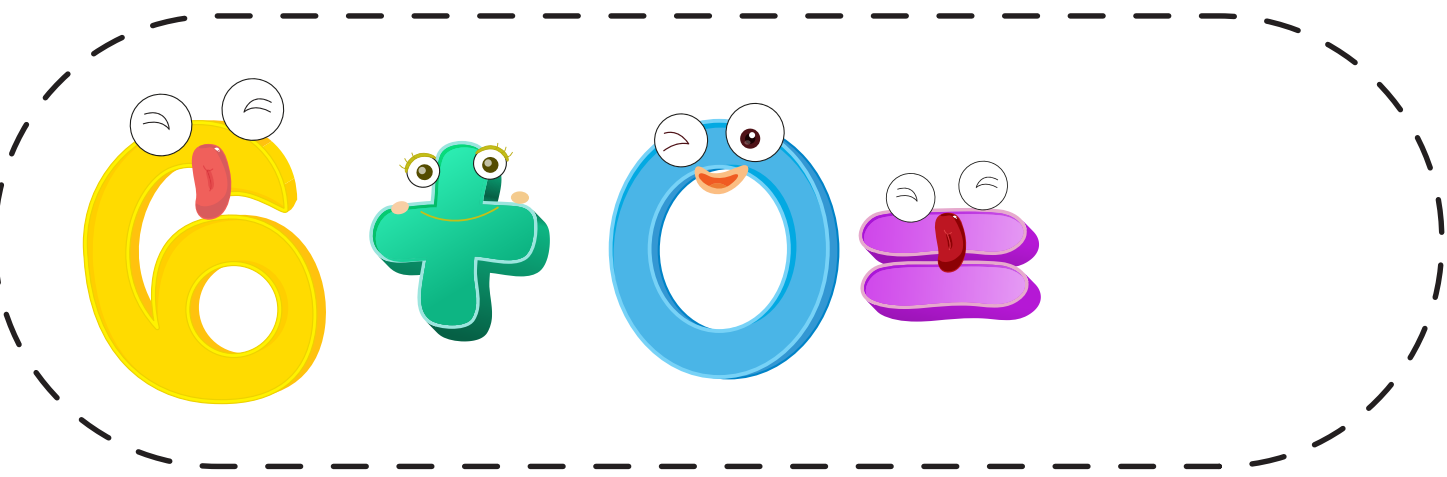
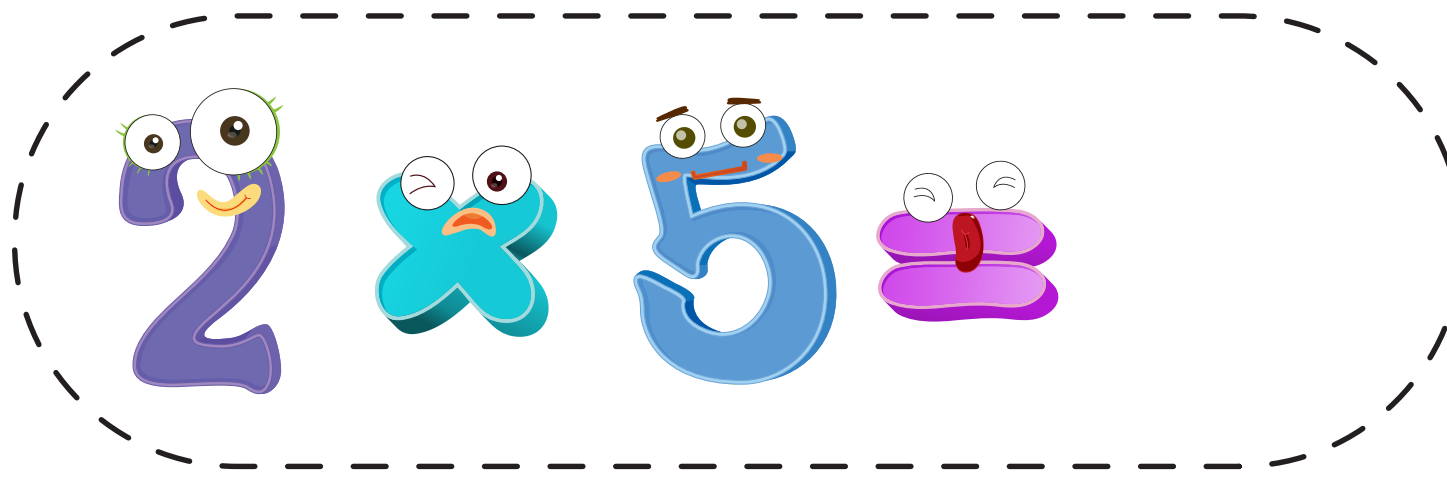
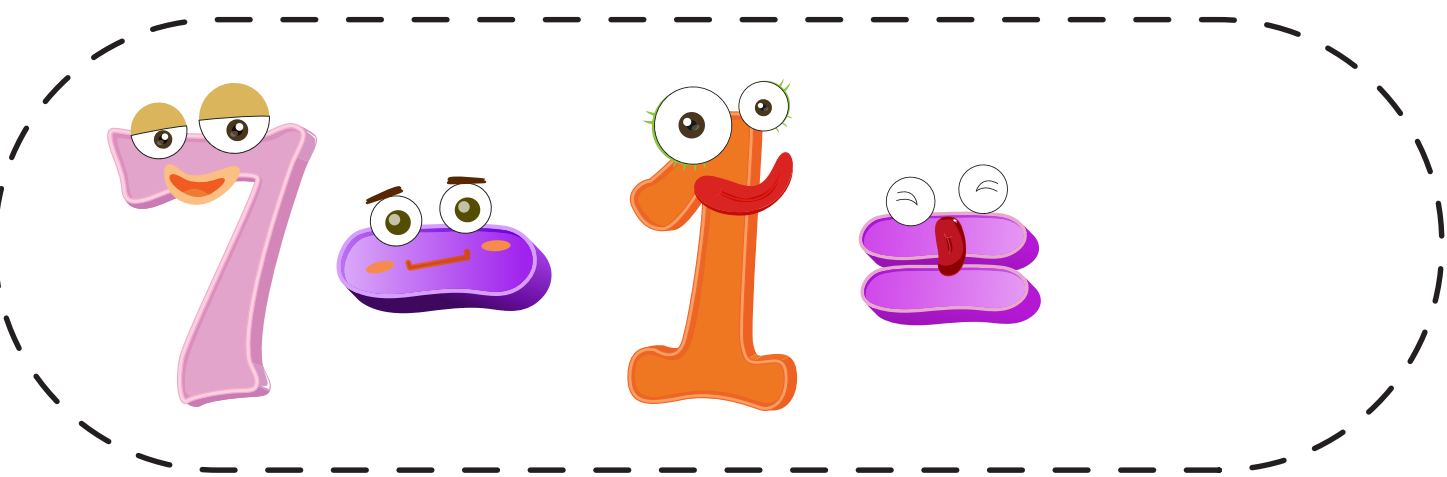
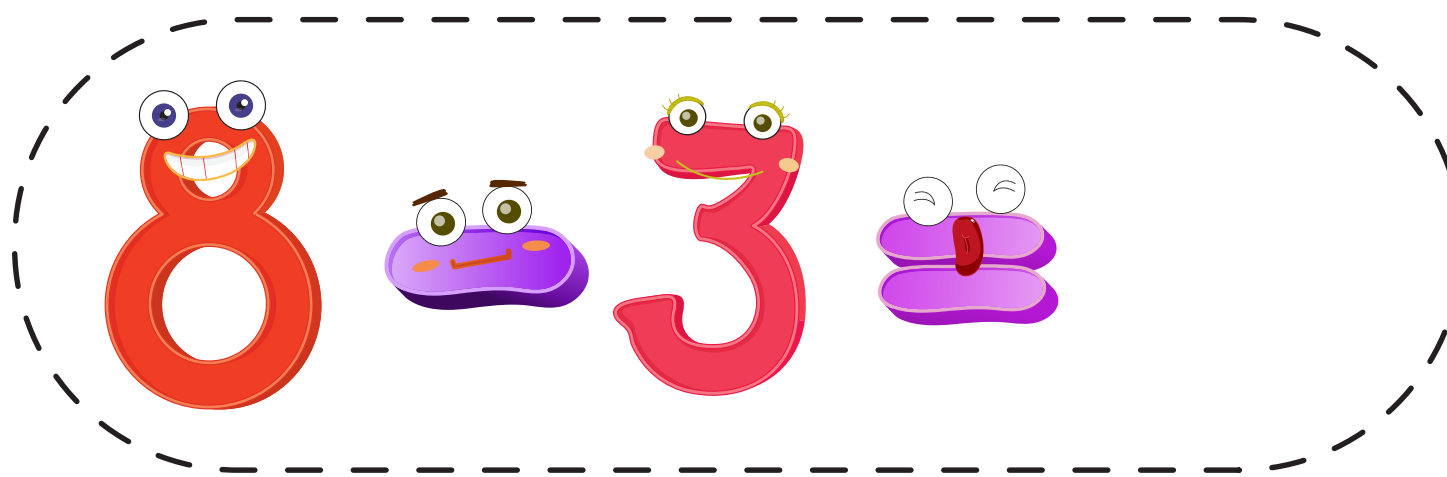
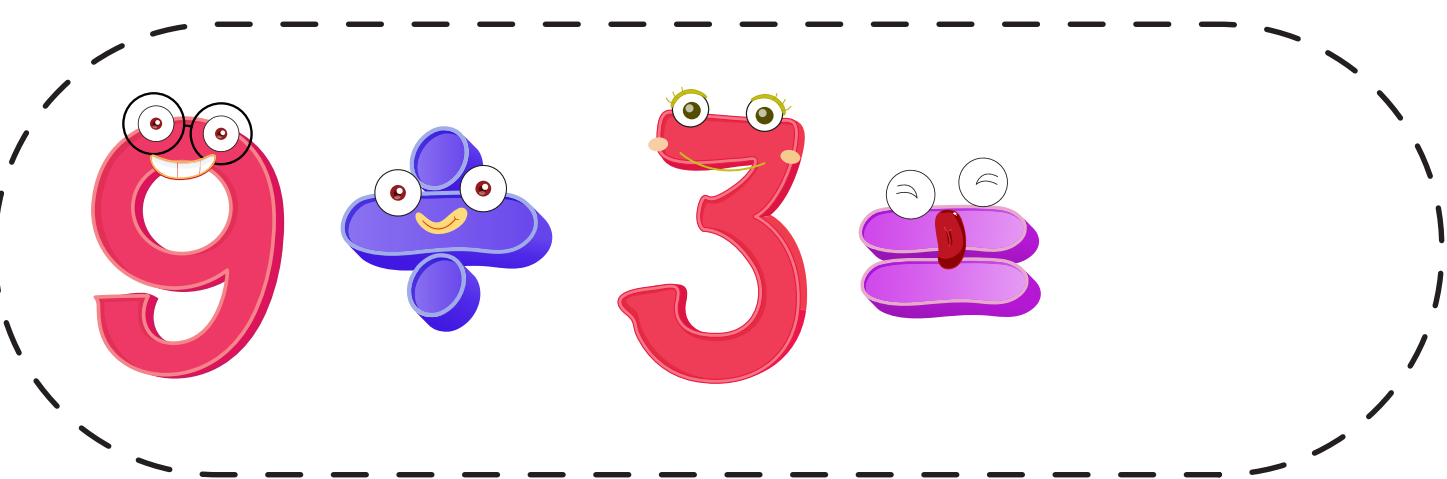
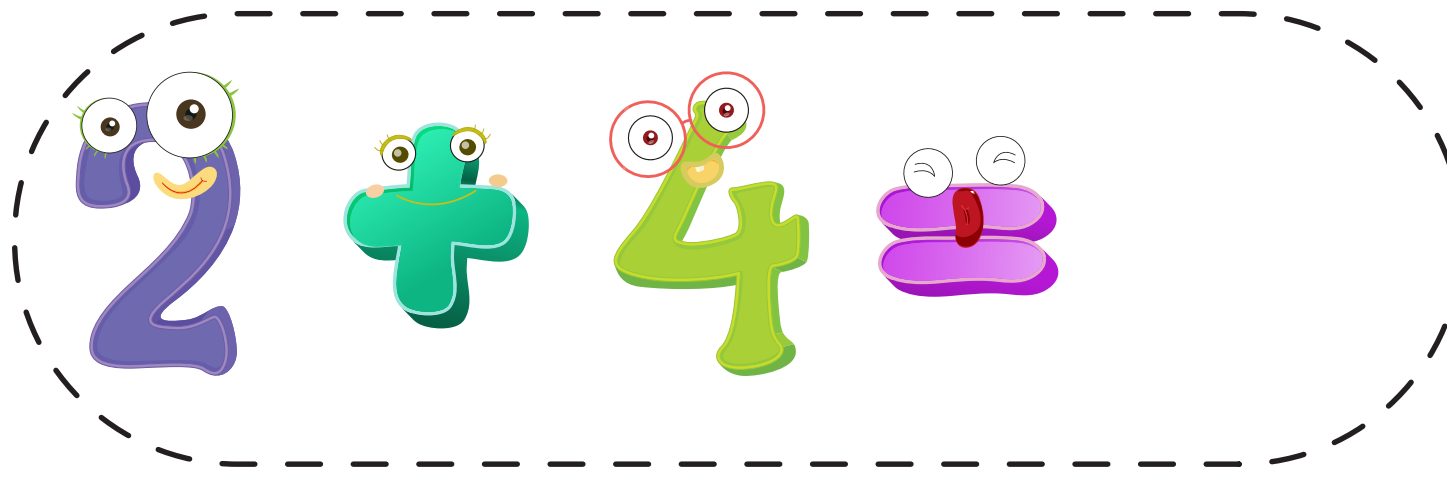
With a thankful heart, you may discover a big truth: Wishing to be something else can be fun, but being yourself is the greatest adventure of all.

Full of wonder, imagination, and heart, If I Were a Fish: An Underwater Wonder is a gentle reminder to celebrate who we are and where we come from, no matter where our dreams may take us!

MASCOT BOOKS

available at
amazon

Back to SCHOOL MATHS



1 First, tell us something about yourself.

I am an independent children's author, Appalachian storyteller, former librarian, and lifelong maker of little things. I grew up in West Virginia, in a holler where stories were as much a part of life as the mountains around us. I learned early that the most memorable stories aren't always the grand ones. Sometimes they're the stories about a place, a person, a rainy afternoon, or a small moment that stays with you. Today I live in Florida, but I still carry those Appalachian roots with me. They find their way into everything I create. I'm also a miniature builder, and that became an important part of Blackberry Creek. I build the houses, rooms, objects, and many of the characters in miniature, then photograph that world as part of the storytelling. For me, writing, building, and storytelling have always been intertwined. My hope is that when a child—or the grown-up reading beside them—opens a Blackberry Creek book, they don't simply feel as though they're reading a story. I want them to feel as though they've come home.



Tammy Lucille Curry

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

In some ways, I've been a storyteller for as long as I can remember. As a child, I was always making up stories and imagining the lives of the people and places around me. Later, my work as a storyteller and librarian gave me even more opportunities to share that love of stories with children. But Oliver and the Rutherford House began with something a little different: a miniature world woven together with pieces of my own childhood. As I built Blackberry Creek, I began imagining a little boy named Oliver. I wondered what he would notice if he could step into this world—what might make him stop and look that a grown-up might walk right past. And suddenly, Oliver had a story. His first adventure takes place in spring, with the sound of the creek, the smell of wet earth after rain, birds chattering in the trees, an old house, and an unexpected friendship. That became Oliver and the Rutherford House, the first book in the Blackberry Creek series. I think that's really what I do as a writer: I take ordinary memories, places, and moments—and let them become unforgettable stories.

3 How did you create the magical system in your books and characters?

The magic of Blackberry Creek isn't spells or enchanted kingdoms. The magic is wonder. It's being six years old and believing an ordinary day might become an adventure. It's noticing water running over rocks, wondering about an old house, finding something unexpected, or discovering that an older person has stories of their own. I also build Blackberry Creek in miniature. Oliver has Scout, his stuffed fox. Arthur has Charlie, his old green thermos. The Rutherford House has its own history and personality. Those details help me understand the people who live there. I often discover a character through their home, the objects they keep, and the stories they carry. I build Blackberry Creek with my hands, and I build it with words. Somewhere between the two, the characters begin to feel as though they're waiting for me to tell their stories.

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

I think we live in a world that asks children to hurry through childhood, and I would like Blackberry Creek to offer them a place to slow down. Look closely. Listen to the creek. Notice the birds. Ask questions. Listen when an older person tells you a story. Pay attention to the little moments, because someday those ordinary moments may become the memories you treasure most. Most of all, I want every child who visits Blackberry Creek to know that there is a place for them there. You don't have to be the loudest, bravest, or most adventurous person in the room to belong. Blackberry Creek is a place where everyone gets a place at the table. And for the grown-ups reading along, I hope these stories offer a few quiet minutes to remember what it felt like to be a child, when a creek could be an entire adventure and an old house could hold a thousand possibilities. My promise with every Blackberry Creek book is simple: When you close the book, I want you to feel as though you've been home for a little while.

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Oliver and the Rutherford House

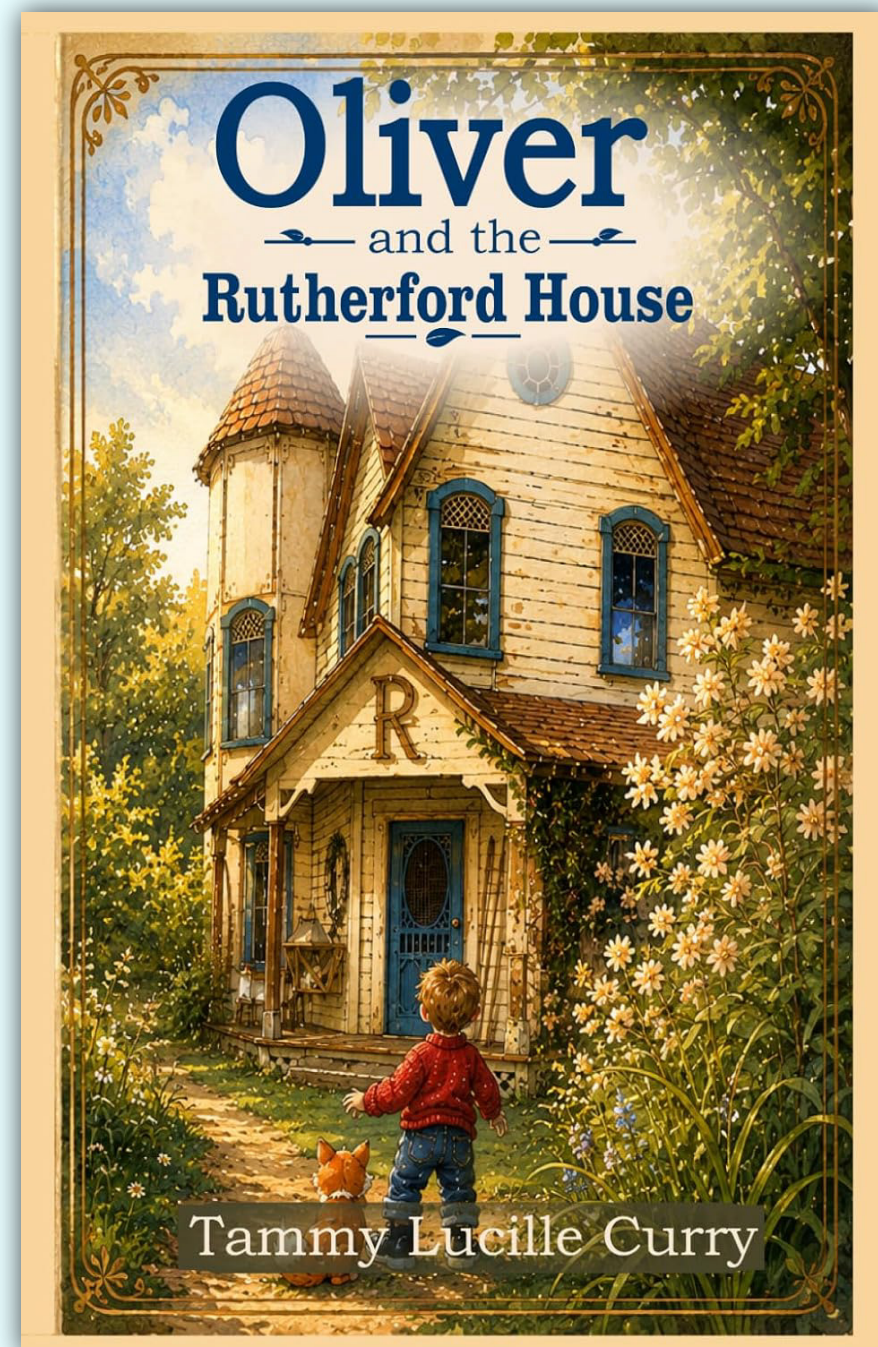
Oliver Quartermaine thought he was only following a map.

But deep in the woods beyond Blackberry Creek stands an old house with a blue door, a creaking porch swing, and more stories than anyone remembers.

When Oliver meets Arthur Rutherford, a quiet old man with a green thermos named Charlie and a knack for fixing things, an ordinary summer begins to feel a little extraordinary. Together they build birdhouses, share cupcakes on the porch, discover forgotten treasures, and uncover memories tucked away inside the old Rutherford House.

As their friendship grows, Oliver learns that some of life's greatest treasures aren't hidden in attics or locked rooms at all. They're found in stories, kindness, family, and the places that feel like home.

Filled with warmth, wonder, and the gentle magic of everyday life, Oliver and the Rutherford House is the first book in the Blackberry Creek series—a timeless chapter book celebrating friendship, imagination, and the memories that connect generations.



available at
amazon



Back To School

Find 8 Differences





Milli and Max Toddlers

The Adventures of Milli and Max:
Learn 1,2,3 & ABC



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

Growing up in Fiji, my childhood was filled with ocean adventures and a deep connection to nature. Our family home was just a short walk from the sea, and my siblings and I spent countless hours exploring reefs, swimming, and discovering marine life. The ocean was our playground, and storytelling was a big part of our family life. We spent weekends sharing stories with parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins, and friends.

The characters in Milli and Max are inspired by my siblings, cousins, and childhood experiences. Each character reflects different personalities and memories from growing up, making the stories both personal and meaningful to write.

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

The feedback from children has been overwhelmingly positive. Young readers love learning their ABCs through sea creatures, and many tell me how much they enjoy discovering the fun facts throughout the book. The illustrations are original and the Fun Facts of sea creatures was written by our Marine Biologist.

One of the most meaningful moments was hearing comments from Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia at the launch of Milli and Max.

His Excellency Ajay Bhai Amrit High Commissioner from Fiji to Australia, opened up the first Milli and Max launch at Florabel, Eden on Sat 16 March 2024. He said about Mili and Max ABC Kids book with 3 key elements.

Quote from the Current - His Excellency Ajay Bhai Amrit High Commissioner from Fiji to Australia, regarding the Milli and Max An ABC Journey Under the Sea: What makes this book so special is three things Number One: it is a learning experience and journey for children to engage through storytelling and nourishments of their minds.

Number Two: Millian has good fortune to draw on inspiration from the two islands, she calls HOME, been born in Fiji, and now living in Australia she has drawn upon her own experiences from these two beautiful countries to bring together, these unique and enduring book Number Three: With this imaginative learning instrument, Millian has incorporate the values of understanding the importance of protection and preservation of our oceans, which is a true gift of learning for all of us. UNQUOTE

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

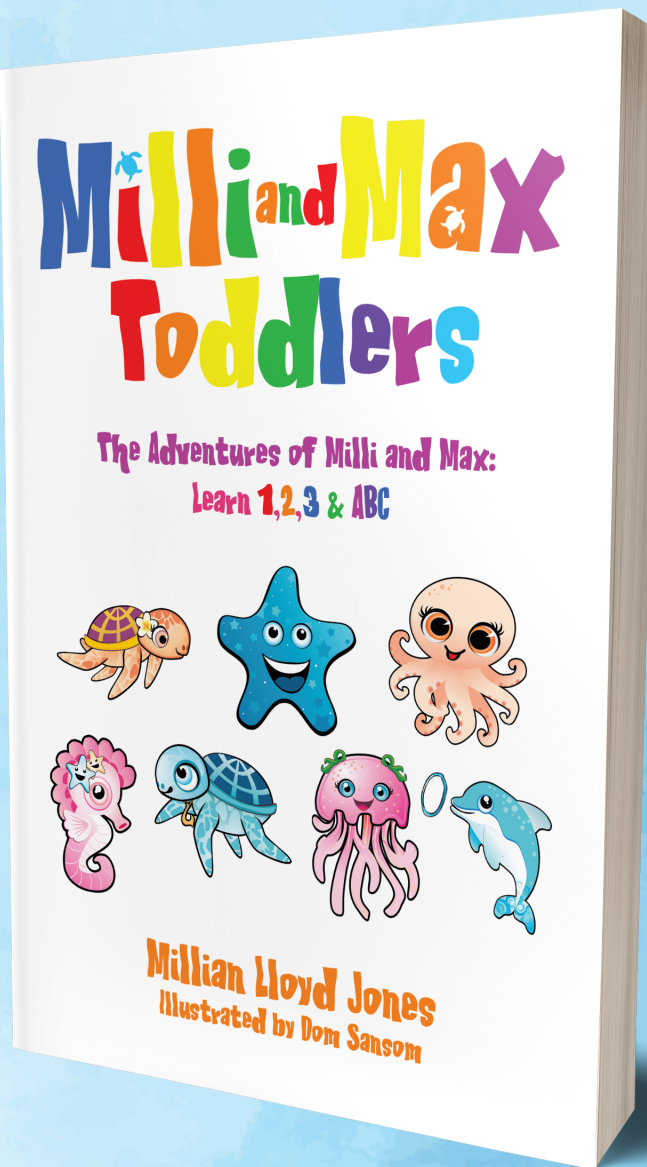
Writing children's books was never part of my original plan. Milli and Max began as a simple idea to create an alphabet book focused on sea creatures, but it quickly grew into something much bigger. My love of turtles also played a role in the journey. Many years ago, I created a business called Mini Milli, which featured a mother turtle and baby turtle as its logo. Looking back, it seems fitting that turtles eventually became the inspiration behind Milli and Max. Creativity has always been part of who I am, even if I didn't realise it would lead me to becoming a children's author.



SCAN QR CODE-



www.milliandmax.com.au



available at
amazon

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

The Adventure is already continuing! Get ready for more excitement with Milli and Max!

We currently have two Milli and Max books in production with Tellwell. They are Milli and Max learn to count 1,2,3 and Milli and Max Toddlers Learn 1,2,3 & ABC.



Millian Lloyd Jones

123 Counting Pack

Fun ocean activities to count, trace and learn!

Count 1-10

1 	6 
2 	7 
3 	8 
4 	9 
5 	10 

Trace Numbers

1 1 1 1	6 1 1 1
2 2 2 2	7 7 7 7
3 3 3 3	8 8 8 8
4 4 4 4	9 9 9 9
5 5 5 5	10 10 10

Count Shells

1 	
2 	
3 	
4 	
5 	

Count Turtles

1 	
2 	
3 	
4 	
5 	

Count Starfish

1 	
2 	
3 	
4 	
5 	

Match Number to Quantity

1 •	
2 •	
3 •	
4 •	
5 •	

Missing Numbers

1	2		4	5
6		8	9	10
1		3	4	5
6	7		9	10
1	2	3		5

Number Puzzles

	1
	2
	3
	4
	5

Count, Trace, Match and Have Fun!

JUST A DOT? I THINK NOT!

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

My four-decade career in global sales deeply shaped the heart of this book. Throughout my professional journey, I learned that success is never just about transactions — it's about people, relationships, and the magic that happens when we connect across differences. I became known as a “master dot connector,” someone who could bring individuals, teams, and communities together to create something greater than the sum of its parts. Those experiences taught me the power of collaboration, empathy, and inclusion, and they inspired Dottie's mission. This book is my way of sharing that wisdom with children, showing them that connection is a superpower they can carry throughout their lives.

I hope readers walk away from Just a Dot? I Think Not! A Book of Connection with a deeper understanding that every person—every “dot”—matters. My wish is that children see themselves reflected in Dottie's journey and recognize that their uniqueness is a strength, not something to hide. I want them to feel empowered to reach out, include others, and build bridges across differences. In a world that can feel divided, this book reminds young readers that connection is a superpower, kindness is a choice, and together we can create something brighter, braver, and more beautiful than we ever could alone.

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

Heidi Solomon-Orlick is a trailblazing sales leader, author, and advocate who proves that purpose has no age limit. After a four-decade career in global sales, she reinvented herself in her 60s to champion diversity, equity, inclusion, and active aging. As founder of GirlzWhoSell, she is building a powerful pipeline of diverse young women in B2B sales, opening doors to economic independence and opportunity. A multi-award-winning author, Heidi has published several books including Heels to Deals: How Women Are Dominating in Business-to-Business Sales and debuted her first children's book, I Have a Voice: A Book of Listening which was recognized with several literary awards. She recently released Just a Dot? I Think Not! A Book of Connection and the forthcoming book, More Than Pretty: A Book of Inner Beauty, will be released soon. Her work inspires confidence, connection, and courage in readers of all ages. Driven by impact over accolades, Heidi uses her platform to spark change, elevate underrepresented voices, and leave the world better than she found it.

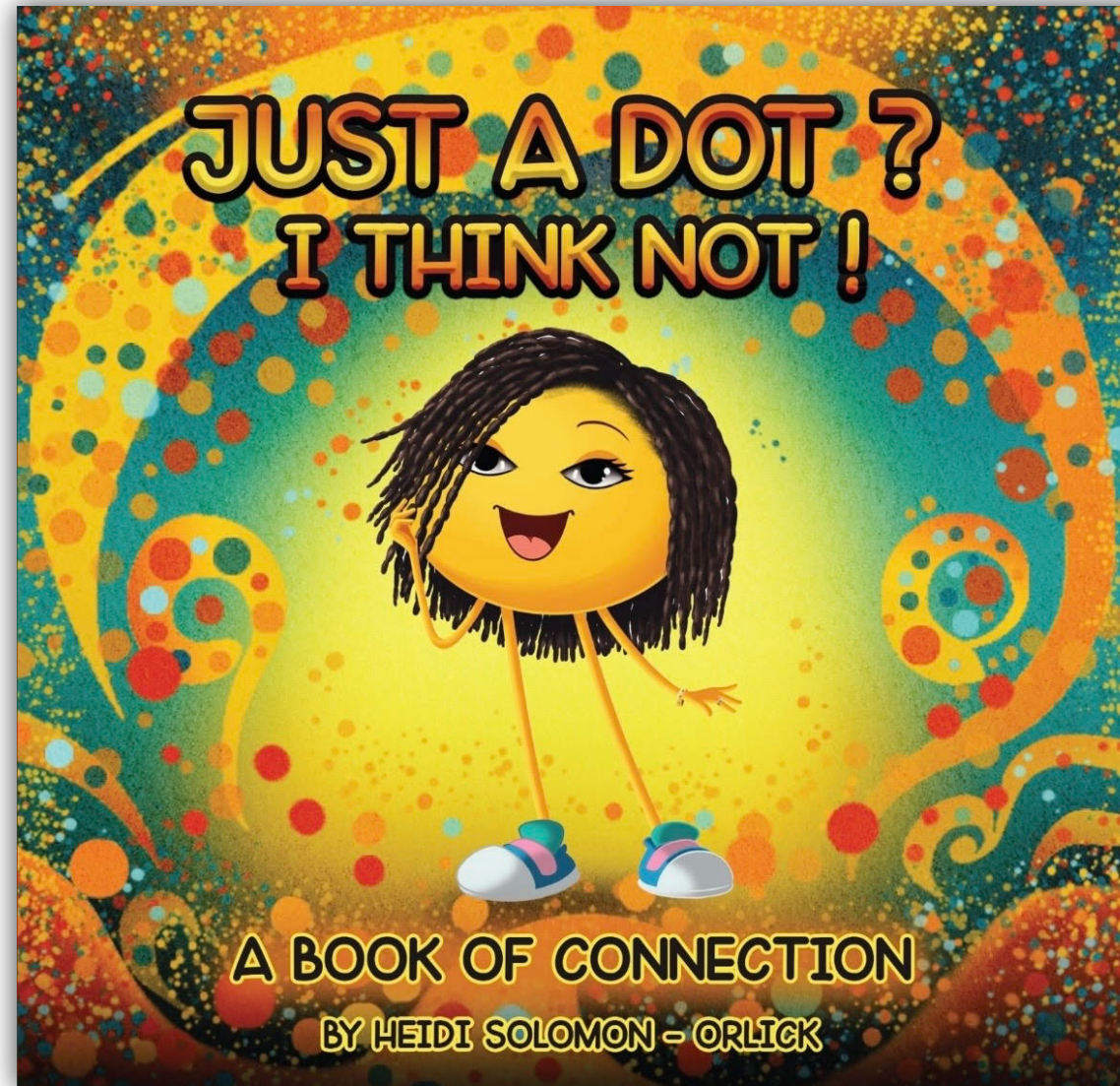
My journey as a writer began long before I ever published a book. I've always been a storyteller at heart, and my degree in journalism and speech communication set the foundation for a path I thought I would follow early in life. But my career took me in a different direction—into four decades of advertising, marketing, and global sales. Even though I wasn't writing professionally, the desire to create meaningful stories never left me. It wasn't until my early 60s, after launching GirlzWhoSell, that I finally stepped into the world of publishing. I began by co-authoring a chapter in Upward: Leadership Lessons for Women on the Rise, which reignited my creative spark. That led to Heels to Deals, and eventually to fulfilling a lifelong dream of writing children's books. In many ways, my writing journey started decades ago—but it blossomed when I finally gave myself permission to pursue it.

Q: Tell us something more about your book series.

Just a Dot? I Think Not! A Book of Connection is an invitation for every child to discover the extraordinary power hidden inside something small. At first glance, Dottie may look like “just a dot,” but her magic lies in the way she brings people together—showing young readers that when we connect, collaborate, and celebrate our differences, we create something far bigger and more beautiful than we ever could alone. This book shines a light on the truth children instinctively understand: community matters. Kindness matters. Every voice, every story, every “dot” matters. Through vibrant illustrations and heart-opening moments, Dottie guides children to see that our uniqueness is not something to hide but something to share. When dots unite, walls fall, bridges form, and a more compassionate world begins to take shape. More than a story, this book is a movement toward belonging. It encourages children to honor what makes them special, to welcome those who are different from them, and to recognize that connection is a superpower we all carry. Just a Dot? I Think Not! reminds every child that they are part of something meaningful—and that together, we can create a world filled with understanding, acceptance, and joy.

Dottie is the bright, spirited heart of your story—a tiny dot with a mighty purpose. She introduces herself with confidence and charm: “My name is Dottie. I am a dot. And while I was born a dot, just a dot I am not.”

Dottie's magic isn't about spells or wands—it's about connection. She sees the world not as scattered pieces, but as a vibrant tapestry waiting to be woven together. With her “magical powers” to bring people closer, she becomes a guide for young readers, showing them that unity, kindness, and curiosity can transform the world.



She is hopeful, wise, and endlessly encouraging. Whether she's reminding us that “dots come in all sizes and shapes” or celebrating the beauty of diversity, Dottie models what it means to lead with love. Her mission is simple yet profound: to help every child see that they matter, they belong, and they are part of something bigger.

The “Dot Squad” at the end of the book—Aria, Rowan, Kala, Parker, Green, Kade, Georgie, Aspen, Lux, Trey, Skai, Nico, Finley, Queenie, Galaxy, Sosie, Cosmo, Gemma, Meep, Satchel, Benson, and more—extends the message even further.

They represent a universe of identities, each one unique, each one valued. They remind children that a community is built one connection at a time, and that every dot—every person—has a place in the galaxy.

Q: How did you create the magical system in your books and characters?

I created the magical system in Just a Dot? I Think Not! by drawing directly from my real-life experience as a “master dot connector” throughout my four-decade sales career. In business, I learned that connection can feel magical—bringing people together, building trust, and creating possibilities that didn't exist before. I wanted to translate that feeling into a whimsical, child-friendly world where dots aren't just shapes, but symbols of identity, diversity, and community. Dottie's “magic” isn't about spells; it's the power of empathy, inclusion, and seeing the value in every person. By giving her the ability to unite dots of all colors, sizes, and personalities, I created a system where connection itself becomes the superpower—one that mirrors the real-world magic I've witnessed when people come together with kindness and purpose.

Meet Dottie, a magical dot with a mighty mission to connect the world! In Just a Dot? I Think Not! A Book of Connection, Dottie and her vibrant friends show young readers how unity, kindness, and respect can build bridges across differences. With joyful illustrations and five interactive worksheets to inspire imagination, this uplifting story celebrates what makes each of us unique and reminds us that, together, we can create something truly beautiful. More than a book, it's a movement toward a more compassionate and inclusive world.

available at
amazon

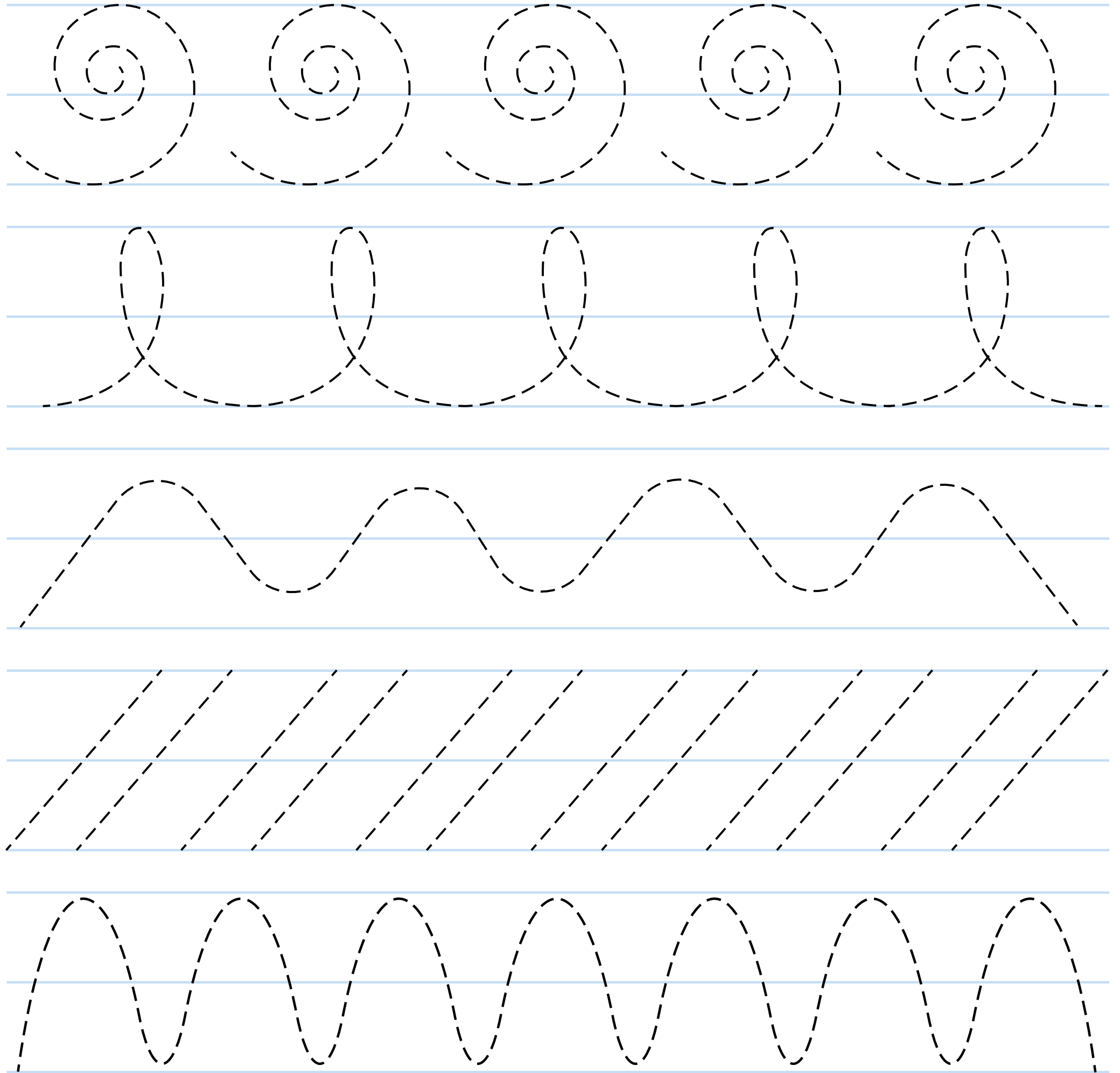


HEIDI SOLOMON-ORLICK

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

I want my readers—children, families, and educators alike—to walk away from Just a Dot? I Think Not! knowing one simple truth: you matter, and so does everyone around you. My hope is that Dottie's journey inspires readers to celebrate differences, reach out to others, and recognize the magic that happens when we choose connection over division. In a world that can feel increasingly disconnected, I want this book to spark conversations about kindness, inclusion, and community at a young age. If readers remember that every dot has value, that we are stronger together, and that even small acts of connection can create big change, then this book has done its job.

HANDWRITING PRACTICE



Red Velvet Fox Learns to Read

Montessori Life Skills Story Books

AUTHOR INTERVIEW



KERRY
HOWARD



Red Velvet Fox Learns to Read A Montessori Life Skills Story



Written By Kerry Howard • Illustrated By Jonathan Bobrow

In a peaceful Montessori environment filled with beautiful materials and caring guidance, Red Velvet Fox begins an extraordinary journey into literacy. Starting with sound games, letter sound songs, and sandpaper letters, he gradually learns to connect sounds, symbols, words, and meaning. Through Practical Life activities, Metal Insets, the Moveable Alphabet, object boxes, Pink Series reading, and sight words, Red Velvet Fox discovers that reading is not something to be rushed—it is something that grows naturally through concentration, repetition, movement, and joyful discovery.

available at
amazon

Q: How do you balance teaching life skills with allowing each book to feel like a story rather than a lesson?

My Montessori homeschool always comes first, and I am deeply involved in teaching the two children in my care.

Their enthusiasm helps keep the books lively, relatable, and centered on how children genuinely experience the world.

They are closely involved in choosing the animal characters' names, which are inspired by their favorite desserts and treats. Gia, who is seven, also collaborated with me on Red Velvet Fox Learns to Read. It is tremendously inspiring to see the exactness with which both children make sure I have every step correct.

The Montessori activities provide the authentic foundation, while the animal characters, gentle humor, and child-led ideas make each book feel like a story rather than a lesson. Children enjoy the characters and their adventures while learning naturally through what the characters do.

Q: What inspired you to write Montessori-based stories for children?

The idea for Montessori Life Skills Story Books™ came from over 40 years of observing children in the Montessori environment. These stories are all authentic Montessori lessons. I noticed their deep concentration, independence, and joy as they repeated activities until mastery.

Working with children from diverse backgrounds, I wanted to make authentic Montessori experiences accessible beyond the classroom. Through these stories, children can engage with real Montessori activities and experience purposeful work.

I also aim to keep the books inclusive and unbiased, which is why I use animal characters that all children can relate to. Children naturally reenact the stories, and through activities like pouring, cleaning, baking, planting, reading, and caring for their environment, they develop essential Montessori life skills.

Q: How do you choose which everyday activity to turn into a book?

The children lead me by showing me what they need. Through careful observation, I notice the practical, social, or emotional skills they are ready to develop, and those moments often become the inspiration for a new story.

For example, Biscuit Bunny Learns to Say No grew from an observed need for children to learn how to say “no” kindly, clearly, and confidently—without feeling guilty or worrying that they had done something wrong.

Each book begins with a genuine childhood need and offers a gentle, relatable way for children to understand and practice that skill.

Q: What message would you like to leave with your readers?

Every child is capable. When children are given time, respect, purposeful experiences, and the freedom to practice, they develop confidence from within.

Reading should not begin with pressure. It can begin with a song, a sound game, a letter traced gently with two fingers, and the joyful discovery that sounds can be joined together to create words.

To parents and educators, my message is simple: slow down, follow the child, and celebrate the small steps. Those small steps become the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

AUTHOR'S WEBSITE

THE MONTESSORI "I SPY" SOUND GAME

A Playful First Step Toward Reading

In Montessori education, reading starts before a child reads printed words. The "I Spy" Game helps children listen to individual sounds within words, building a foundation for writing and reading.

What You Need

Gather 3-5 familiar objects with distinct beginning sounds, such as:

- A cat
- A cup
- A spoon
- A shell
- A key

Choosing real objects enhances hands-on learning.

How to Present the Game

Sit next to the child and place a few objects in front of you. Name each object clearly. Then, say: "I spy with my little eye something beginning with /c/."

Use the pure sound, avoiding extra sounds. Allow the child to think and respond. If they choose correctly, affirm them warmly. If not, gently repeat the names and sounds. Follow the Child's Readiness

Start with one object, then gradually add more as the child gains confidence. Explore ending and middle sounds as they progress.

Play Anywhere

The game can be played in various settings, like at home or in the car. Keep it light and brief, stopping while the child is still engaged.

Why It Matters

The "I Spy" Game develops sound awareness, listening skills, vocabulary, and confidence, preparing children for further reading experiences.

Available on [Montessoristorybooks.com](https://montessoristorybooks.com)



ACTIVITY



Red Velvet Fox's Mystery Object Sound Game

You'll Need

A small basket or mystery bag and 4-6 familiar miniature objects, such as a cat, cup, spoon, key, or shell.

How to Play

Invite your child to choose one object without looking. Name it together and slowly emphasize the first sound:

"C-c-cup. What sound do you hear first?"

Continue with the remaining objects. As your child becomes more confident, invite them to group objects that begin with the same sound.

Montessori Tip

Say the sound of the letter rather than its name. This helps children connect spoken sounds with the written symbols they will later use for reading.

Skills Developed

Phonemic awareness • Vocabulary • Concentration • Listening • Early reading preparation

Inspired by Red Velvet Fox Learns to Read from the Montessori Life Skills Storybooks™ series.

Back to School!

First Day of School

Name: _____
Age: _____ Class: _____

All About Me!

Favorite Book: _____
Favorite Food: _____
Favorite Color: _____
Favorite Song: _____

School: _____

My Family _____

My Friends _____

My Birthday: _____

I Want To Be When I Grow Up: _____

Back To School Words Scramble

Look At The Pictures And Arrange The Words Carefully.



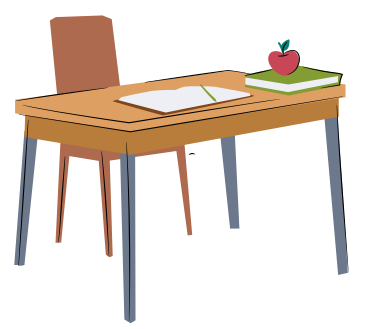
E N
P

Three empty boxes for writing the word.



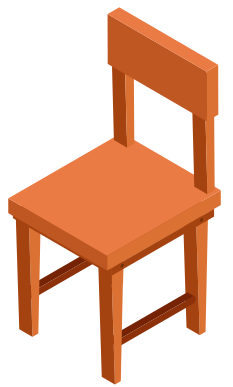
G
A B

Three empty boxes for writing the word.



E D
S K

Four empty boxes for writing the word.



A H I
R C

Four empty boxes for writing the word.



O K
B O S

Five empty boxes for writing the word.



M A
T E

Four empty boxes for writing the word.



E P I
N C L

Five empty boxes for writing the word.



U C
H N L

Five empty boxes for writing the word.

DO YOU KNOW?

Hummingbirds
are the only birds that
can fly **backwards**.

HUMMINGBIRDS
HAVE NO
SENSE OF SMELL

HUMMINGBIRDS HAVE
GOOD COLOR VISION

Hummingbirds Are The
Smallest Migrating Bird.
They Typically Travel Alone
For Up To 500 Miles At A Time

There Are Over
330 Species Of
Hummingbirds In
North And
South America.

The Name, Hummingbird, Comes From The
Humming
Noise Their Wings Make As They Beat So Fast



LOL

WHAT DO YOU GET
WHEN YOU COMBINE
AN ELEPHANT WITH
A **FISH**?

**Swimming
Trunks!**

What Is It Called When
Worms Take Over
The World?

**GLOBAL
WORM-ING**

A Bin That You
Can Empty With
A Click?

Recycle Bin

WHAT HAS
FOUR WHEELS
AND FLIES?
**GARBAGE
TRUCK**

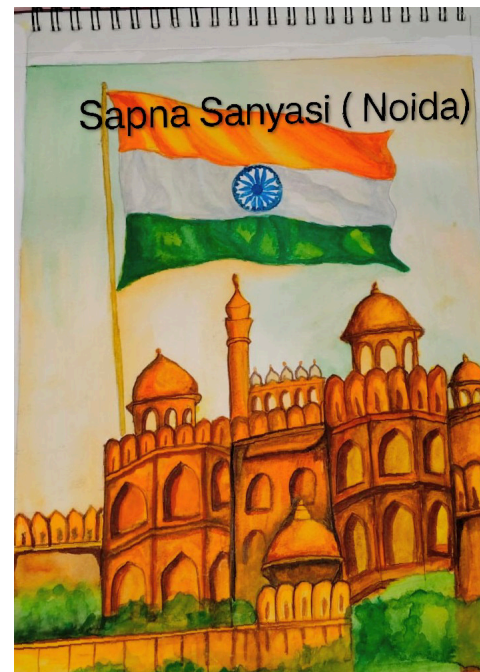
WHAT WORMS
SAID TO
ORGANIC WASTE?
**LET'S
COM-POST**

Creative Corner

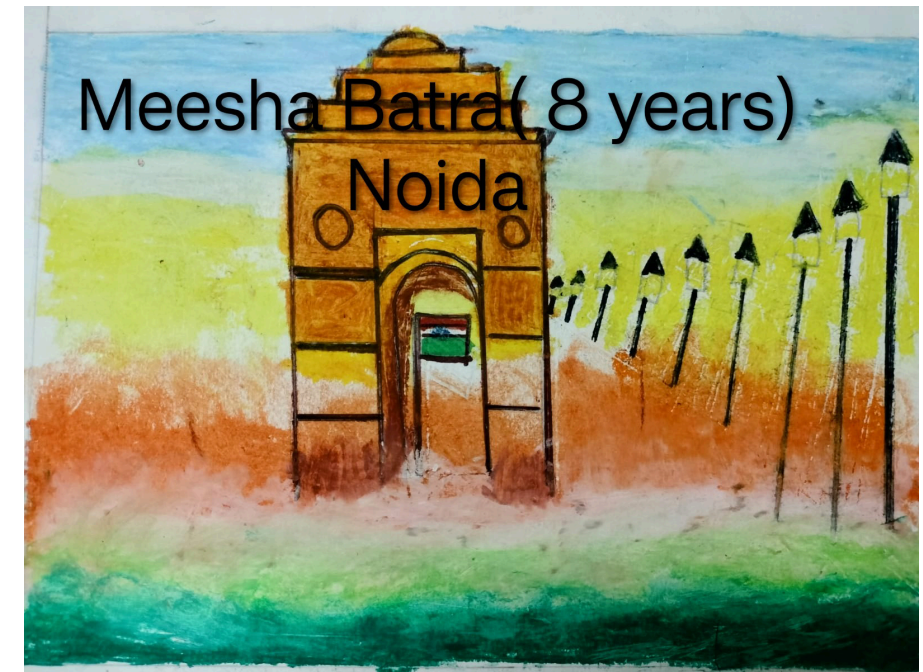
Inaya (9 years) Canada



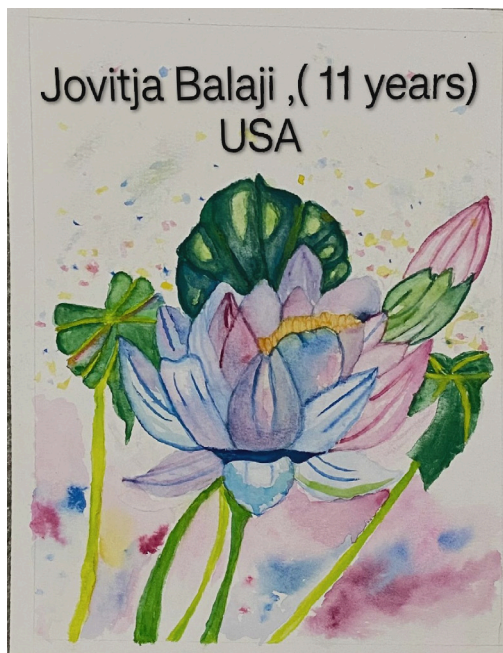
Sapna Sanyasi (Noida)



Meesha Batra (8 years)
Noida



Jovitja Balaji ,(11 years)
USA



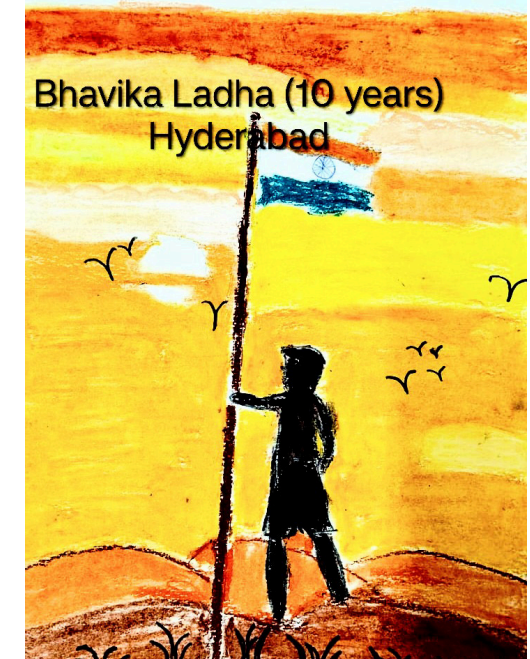
Takshini Sampath kartik (7
years) Canada



Devang Batra (5 year)
Noida



Bhavika Ladha (10 years)
Hyderabad





www.Kidliomag.com

A Kid's Literary Magazine

KIDLIOMAG

BACK TO

SCHOOL

ARE YOU READY?

