

October Issue 2026 **Free**

A Kid's Literary Magazine

KIDLITOMAG

Get Lost, Zoomer!
Katina Nadebaum

Hummer & The Boy
VIENNE REA

The Adventures of Monty
Karen Scicluna

**Bamboo Baskets
and City Streets**
Cathy Wentworth

Miya's Mooncakes
Crystal Z. Lee

Cicada Sing-Along
Daria Marmaluk-Hajioannou

Milli and Max Toddlers
Millian Lloyd Jones

A Gift of Love
Tony Cointreau

Polymers Among Us
Conrad J. Storad

**Cinnabun Bunny
Learns to Be Kind**
Kerry Howard

JULIE BRANGERS

Cover Story



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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the October issue of Kidliomag! As the leaves turn golden and a chilly breeze fills the air, we are diving headfirst into the most magical, mysterious time of the year—Halloween!

This entire edition is dedicated to all things spooky and fun. Inside, you'll find hair-raising tales, frightfully fun Halloween crafts, and interactive trick-or-treat story prompts designed to spark every young reader's imagination. Whether it's friendly ghosts, clever witches, or pumpkin-filled adventures, we have plenty of literary treats—and no tricks—packed into these pages.

So put on your favorite costume, grab a flashlight, and settle in for a delightfully spooky read!

Happy Reading & Happy Halloween!

Dhruvin Dharmendra

Dhruvin Dharmendra





JULIE BRANGERS

GHOST AND BAT

Come Along And See The Friendship Of Ghost And Bat!

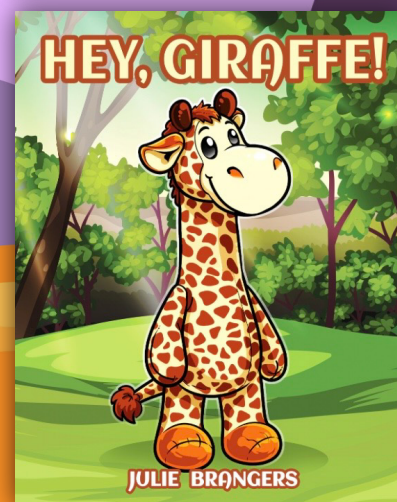
available at
amazon

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

I am a native Texan and love my home state. I have two wonderful kids and an obsession with dachshunds. I have been writing almost my whole life, from journaling to poetry and now children's books.

Q: Tell us something more about your book series.

My book series shares the bond between two friends. How their bonds grow and how they become inseparable at the end.



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

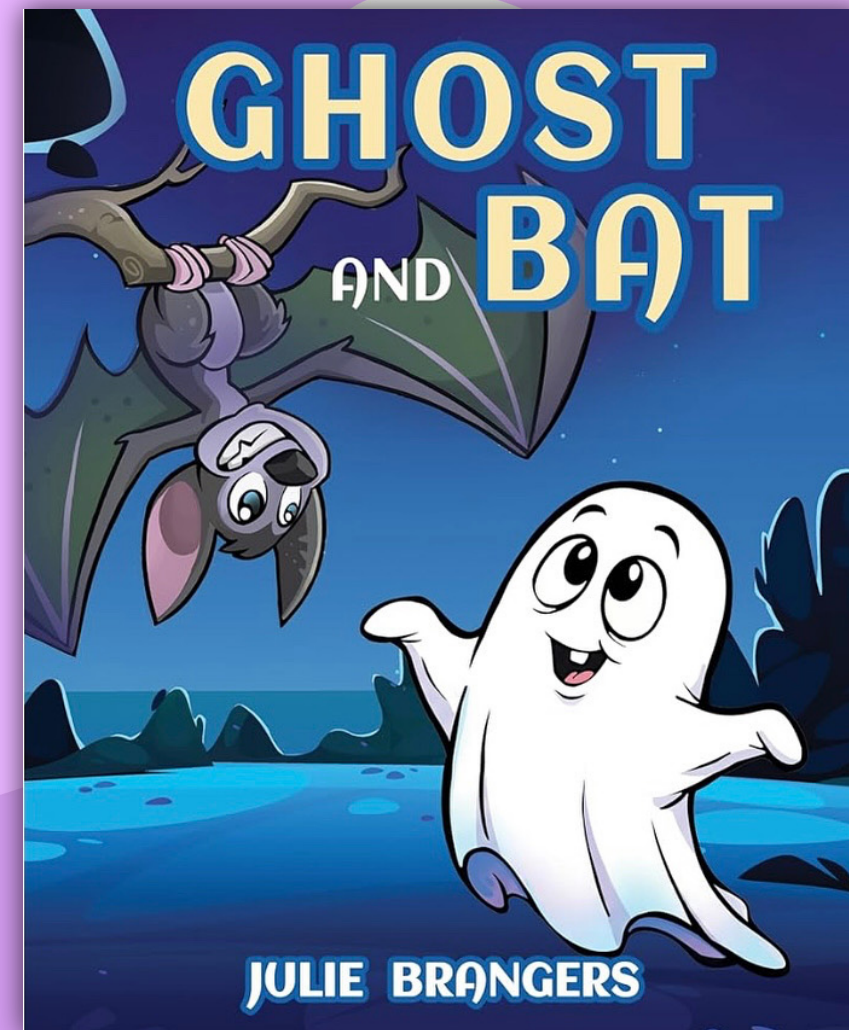
In the one book, Dog and Butterfly it is inspired by my dachshund, Parker. I loved these stories and bringing the characters to life.

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

My first book came out about 15 years ago. I wanted to be able to say I was a published author. Then, the series came to life and I started to write again.

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

I love sharing my books. I love receiving pictures of kids reading my books. It brings such joy to my heart.



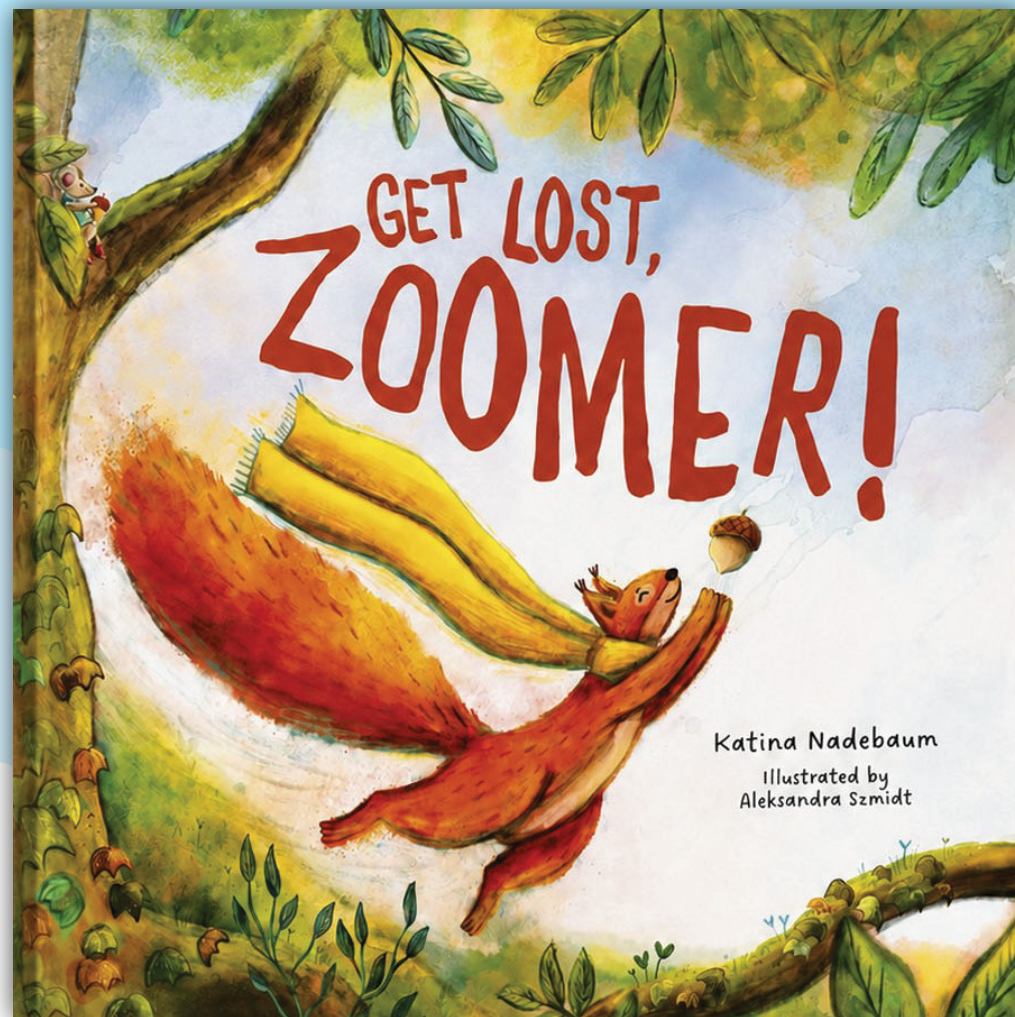
SPIDER HUNT!



FIND 10 HIDDEN SPIDERS IN THE PICTURE



GET LOST, ZOOMER!



Zoomer is a lively, fast-moving squirrel in Moonbeam Forest, whose impulsive energy often causes chaos, until it becomes exactly what's needed to save the day.

Get Lost, Zoomer! speaks to every child who has ever been told they are 'too much'. It invites young readers to see their differences as strengths, while offering gentle reassurance to parents, educators, and therapists.

available at
amazon

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

After years in the corporate world, I now write picture books for children that explore the messy, marvellous reality of neurodiversity, without labels. My stories feature characters with big feelings, misunderstood behaviours, and wonderfully different ways of experiencing the world. My writing is inspired by lived experience, specifically ADHD, my advocacy for neurodiversity, and a belief that stories can help children feel seen and understood.

Alongside writing, I'm proud to serve as a Director of the nationally recognised ADHD Foundation Limited and as a member of the Neurodiversity Advisory Board at Scope Psychology. I'm also a Role Model for Books in Homes Australia and a former CYA Conference Judge.

When I'm not writing, I love spending time with my family, reading, gardening, discovering great coffee spots, and planning new adventures. I'm often inspired by the small, everyday moments that have a way of finding themselves into my stories.

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

I've always loved the craft of storytelling and the extraordinary power stories have to shape how children see themselves. A story can comfort, inspire, spark imagination, and help a child believe they belong. To me, that's one of the greatest gifts a book can offer.

That's what drew me to writing children's books.

My lived experience with ADHD, together with my advocacy for neurodiversity, has shaped the stories I want to tell. I don't write as an expert with all the answers. I write from personal experience and from a belief that stories can build understanding in a gentle way, without needing to explain everything.

I especially write for children who have been told they're too loud, too busy, too emotional, or too different. I want them to recognise themselves in my characters and begin to see that the very traits others may misunderstand can also be strengths.

I'm also passionate about reaching children who find reading challenging. I want my books to be engaging, confidence-building, and fun, so that children can experience the joy of getting lost in a story.

Q: Tell us something more about your book.

Get Lost, Zoomer! follows Zoomer, a lively, fast-moving squirrel in Moonbeam Forest whose impulsive energy often causes chaos—until that same energy becomes exactly what's needed to save the day.

At its heart, Get Lost, Zoomer! speaks to every child who has ever been made to feel they are "too much." It's a story about belonging, friendship, and discovering that the things others misunderstand about us can sometimes become our greatest strengths.

The book is written for children aged 3–8, but they're chosen by the adults who support them, parents, caregivers, educators, librarians, and allied health professionals. I wanted Zoomer to give those adults a gentle way to open conversations about big feelings, empathy, difference, and belonging. While the story is inspired by neurodiversity, I wanted its emotional journey to be universal. We all know what it feels like to make mistakes, to be misunderstood, or to wonder where we fit. Ultimately, Zoomer discovers that he doesn't need to become someone else to belong—he already has something valuable to contribute.

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

The idea for Zoomer began with a squirrel. Squirrels are curious, clever, and always on the move, leaping, exploring, and discovering the world in their own unique way. They remind me of the children I write for: those who notice the little details, think in wonderfully unexpected ways, and move through life with imaginative energy. They don't travel in straight lines. They leap, pause, change direction, and somehow still help forests grow. That felt like the perfect metaphor for a child who experiences the world a little differently.

From that idea, Zoomer was born. He's a fun-loving squirrel with an infectious enthusiasm for life. He throws himself into every adventure with energy, curiosity, and a heartfelt desire to help. He's playful, sensitive, and caring, but his good intentions often lead to unexpected chaos. When he's told to "get lost," he begins to wonder whether he really belongs.

But Zoomer never gives up. His kindness, empathy, and determination are matched by his unique way of seeing the world. He notices things others overlook, and ultimately, it's those qualities that help him solve problems.



KATINA NADEBAUM

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

More than anything, I hope children close my books feeling a little more confident about who they are. Children hear so many messages about who they should be, how they should behave, and where they should fit. I want my stories to offer a different message: you don't have to become someone else to belong.

If a child recognises themselves in one of my characters and feels understood, encouraged, or simply less alone, then I've achieved what I set out to do.

And for the adults supporting them, I've learnt that understanding often begins with listening. Parents and caregivers can be powerful advocates for children. By sharing what we know, building strong relationships with educators, and speaking up for what our children need, we can help create environments where they can thrive. Our role is to stand beside them, helping them understand and value who they are, and supporting them to find their own voice until they're ready to use it for themselves.

HOW MANY?

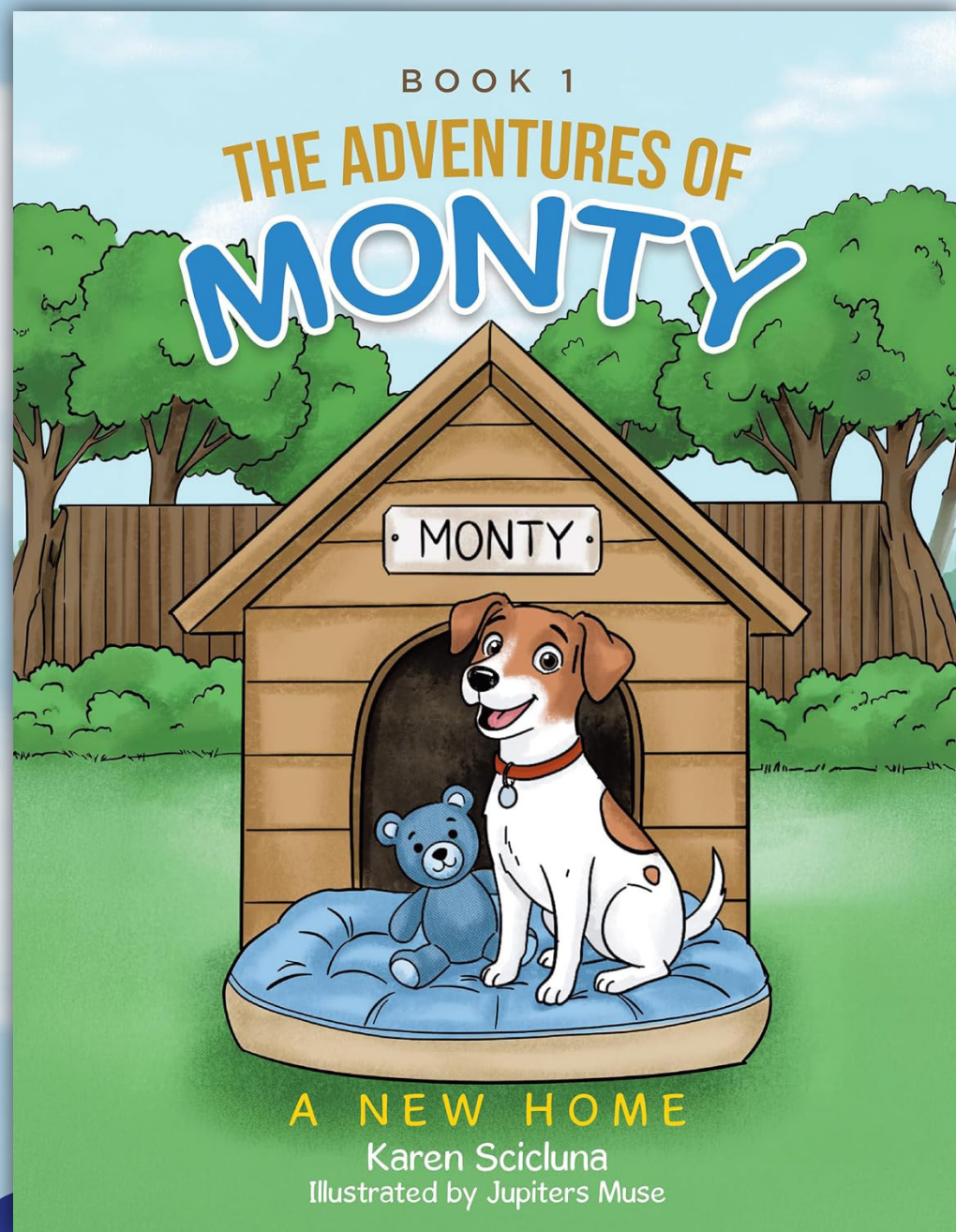
SEARCH AND FIND THE CREATURES





THE ADVENTURES OF MONTY



available at
amazon



The Adventures of Monty is a series of playful, lovable and mischievous stories about a small Jack Russell with a HUGE personality of imagination and a curious nose for adventure.

No matter what the day brings, Monty always turns an ordinary day into an unforgettable escapade.

Even the smallest of dogs can have the biggest of hearts and adventures. Join him on his trail of experience packed with love, laughter and mischief. Reading these stories and the included educational activities, your young reader will also grasp valuable lessons of hope, forgiveness, change, acceptance, and above all, love and care.

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

My name is Karen Scicluna, I live in Melbourne Australia, and I am a first time author. Reading with my three children has always been one of my most precious memories. From the time they were born, reading together became a part of our daily routine. I loved watching their faces light up as they became captivated by the illustrations and developing reading skills. Later, welcoming Monty into our family, together with my experience working with children, inspired me to begin writing my own children's book, the first in a future series. As with my work in education, I want to encourage children to read, write and spark imagination. Each story starts with a simple thought, scribble and idea, which grows into a story of its own.

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

My writing journey began when Monty came to stay with my family. Every day seemed to bring a new adventure, and I found myself imagining how these stories would look in the form of a children's book series. Over the years, those ideas grew into **The Adventures of Monty** Book 1. What began as a simple thought grew into a dream of creating stories that inspire imagination and foster a love of reading for families to share together.

Q: Tell us something more about your book series.

As the idea of a children's book came about, I began to envision a series of books that could be enjoyed as a collection. Each book will have its own message while also exploring everyday values of family, kindness, change, belonging, forgiveness, team work to name a few. We don't always see the lessons learnt in our everyday experiences and I wanted those meaningful realisations to come to life through my books. Each book also includes comprehension and activity sheets to further develop literacy skills, so learning and retaining information goes beyond just reading.

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

The Adventures of Monty is based on my family's experience with Monty, so developing his character came naturally. His playful and curious nature inspired the main character of Monty himself. The other characters are based on my three children, my husband and myself.

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

To my readers, a heartfelt thank you for welcoming Monty into your home. I hope his adventures bring smiles, laughter and meaningful moments to families as you read and learn together. May you be inspired with imagination, encouragement, kindness and enjoy the activities within the book as well as those you can download from my website. **www.karensiciclunaauthor.com.**



Karen Scicluna

Halloween Puzzle



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Cathy Wentworth

Q: Tell us something about yourself.

I'm Cathy Wentworth, a first-time author, from Downs, Illinois USA. I have traveled the world reveling in other cultures and excited to meet people, listening to their personal stories. I have stayed in tents, grass huts, hotels, and ships. Before writing this book, I was a science teacher, winning the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship for Illinois. I am past president of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra Guild, our community zoo and on several foundation boards.

I'm passionate about sharing the stories of other cultures with friends, family and students because I feel we are a lot more alike than different.

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

My writing journey began long before I put pen to paper. As I mentioned, traveling played a big part in it. Coming home after a long trip, people would often ask about a favorite place or event. Whether it was driving the streets of Beijing's Hutong, walking through the Maasai Mara, or climbing Huayna Picchu, I was enthralled with people and their lives. And I used these moments to tell stories of the trip. This story has been rattling around in my head for a long time. In fact, the basket sits in a prominent place in my home. People would tell me, "You should write a book". Eventually, the desire to share the story grew strong enough, I knew it was time to share it, in book form.

Q: Tell us something more about your book.

One thing I want readers to know is the book is built from a real moment. This is a true story of a meeting in Beijing. The boy selling the baskets is a very common sight. Having shared the book with some of my Chinese friends, they often chuckle, remembering back to a time when they or a family member had a cricket as a pet. I also want American children to know a little of Chinese culture and to actually see the country on a map, which is why the title page contains a world map. China is far away but, the boy, his dress, his expressions, and his job are all very similar to our own lives.

Q: How did you develop the characters in your book?

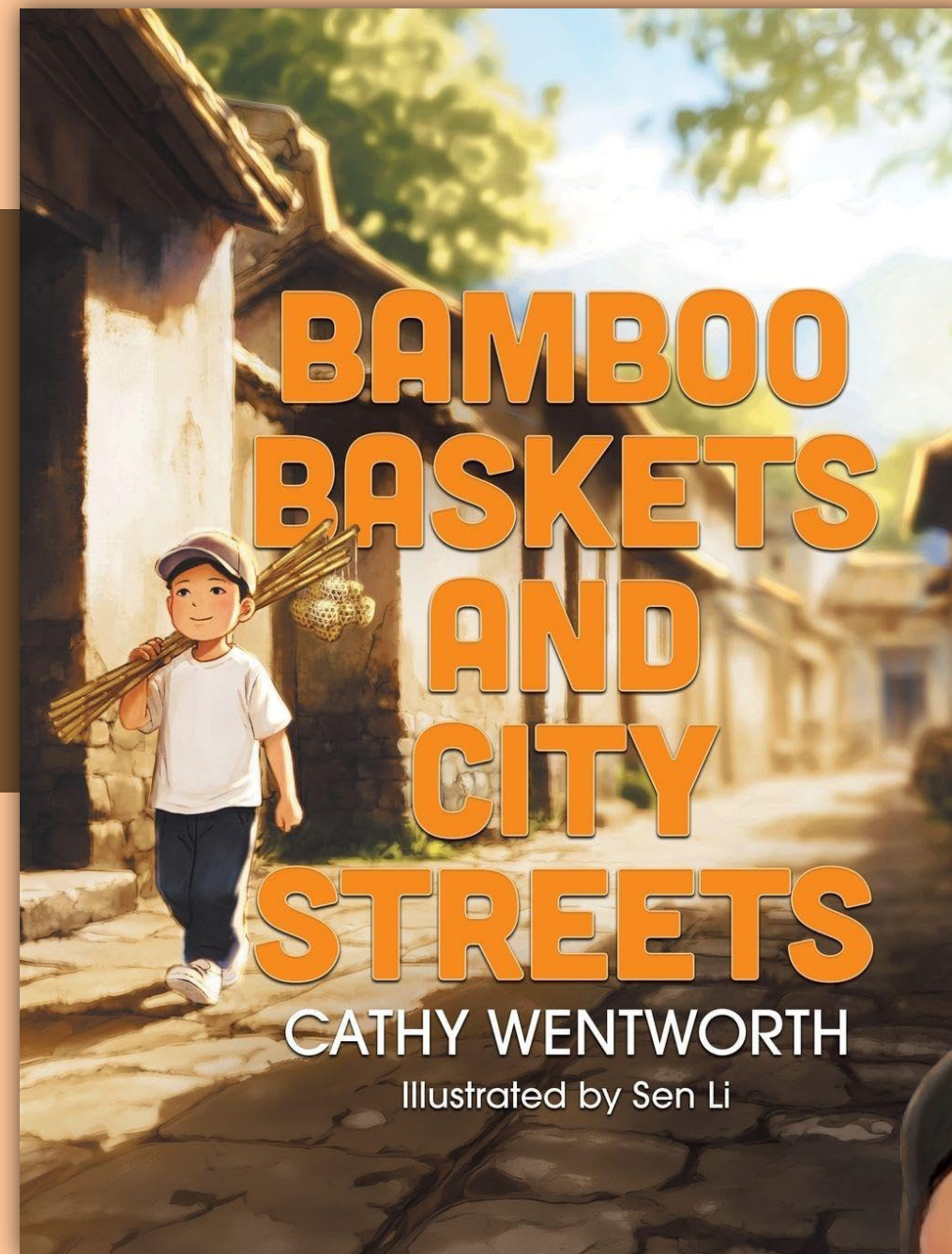
The Chinese boy and the characters in the book were all part of this day in Beijing. The boy spoke only Chinese and we spoke only English which brought us to the incredible help of our tour guide. The conversations were in both Chinese and English. The illustrator, Sen Li, used my descriptions for the pictures.

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

Yes, my message to readers is "Travel". See the world and meet the people. Laughter and tears are often the same in any language.

Website: <https://www.cathywentworthwrites.com>

BAMBOO BASKETS AND CITY STREETS

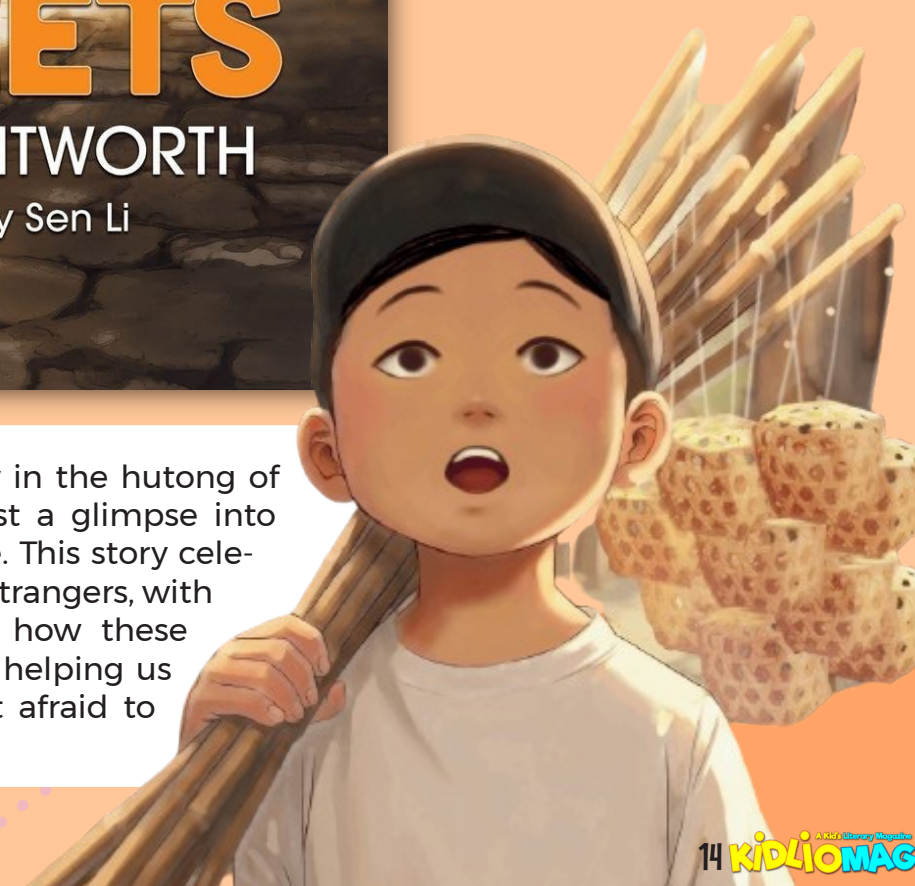


NOW AVAILABLE



cathywentworthwrites.com

A chance encounter with a Chinese boy in the hutong of Beijing, China, gives an American tourist a glimpse into another's life and an experience to share. This story celebrates the connections we have, even as strangers, with cultures different from our own. And, how these exchanges leave long-lasting memories, helping us to see the world differently if we aren't afraid to stop and meet someone new.



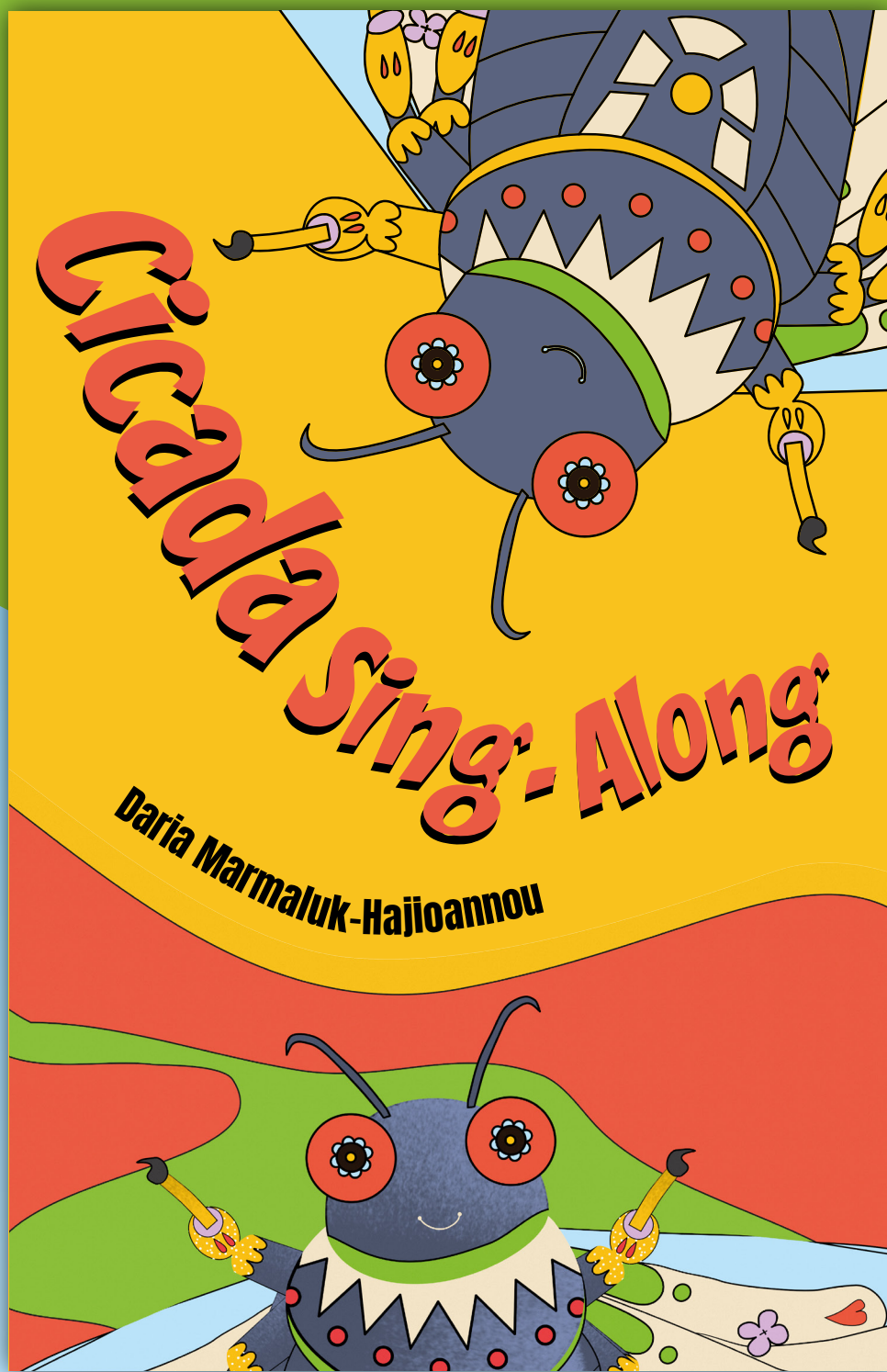
Halloween Match

Match All The Halloween Masks With Their Identical Pair.



Cicada Sing-Along

Daria Marmaluk-Hajioannou



About The Author-

Daria Marmaluk-Hajioannou - also known as DARIA - grew up playing in the woods by her home, fascinated by bugs, snakes, salamanders, native plants and trees. She has spent over 40 years making music around the world and many of her songs are about the beauty and wonder of nature. DARIA is the author of songs heard across the globe including the Earth Day Song (We've Got The Whole World In Our Hands), the World Oceans Day Song (Wild And Free), Beautiful Rainbow World, I Have A Dream and many more songs that have become anthems for a kinder and greener world.

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

I've been singing since I was a little girl. I especially loved songs about nature and about peace. I loved hearing songs in new languages and finding out what they meant. Essentially, I loved nature and learning and as I grew I found a way to incorporate the things that I love into what I do for a living.

For many years I was a traveling and performing world musician. I visited many different countries and even more world cultures respectfully learning what they were willing to teach me. Each time, I would leave I would be able to tell my next location about the wonders of the places and the people where I had been. Often I would share the musical instruments from different cultures and helped kids and classes learn how to make these instruments and sing new songs.

Now that I'm writing books, I'm excited to take many of my popular songs you can find on my Youtube channel and turn them into colorful and fun learning experiences. My first children's picture book is Cicada Sing-Along but there are many more to come!

www.dariamusic.com

www.youtube.com/DariaMusic

available at
amazon

Q: Tell us something more about your book series.

My next book is Tingalayo and there will be a version in English and one with my new lyrics in Spanish. The song is a favorite of mine and it's about a magical donkey that can do many things that donkeys can't usually do. In the English version, Tingalayo likes to dance and sing and wears a diamond ring. In the Spanish version, Tingalayo likes to eat breakfast in the dining room with a fork. His favorite foods are rice and beans and even guacamole!

Silly and fun, the new Tingalayo book will have you singing along with that song in no time.

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

I've chosen to create stories around original songs as well as beloved folk songs. The characters seem to appear on their own and write themselves. My job is to make sure the story flows well and that the illustrations take you into these characters own special worlds.

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

Yes! There has always been a message behind all my music and the same is true with my books. That message is simple - that love, curiosity and an open heart are a beautiful way to experience life. The more we see other cultures (and even other creatures, like cicadas) through eyes of kindness and empathy, the more peace we'll be adding to this world. And doesn't this world need so much more kindness and peace?



FIND 6 DIFFERENCES



Q: First, tell us something about yourself.

All of my work centers around building connections with viewers and readers through subjects that build emotional intelligence and awareness. I think a lot of that comes from the way I've always experienced the world. I've always been a very sensitive and perceptive person—not sensitive simply in the sense of being easily affected, but in the sense that I notice things. I notice subtleties in people, in conversations, in what is said and what isn't said. I can walk away from a seemingly ordinary interaction and find myself thinking about something small that happened in it, wondering what was underneath it or what that person might have been feeling.

That sensitivity has probably shaped me more than I realized for much of my life. It's made me deeply curious about people and about the things we all experience internally but don't necessarily talk about. I'm interested in why we hold onto certain experiences, why we judge ourselves and one another, why some things stay with us for years, and what allows us to see them differently. Those questions naturally find their way into my work.

I also genuinely value openness and sincerity. I'm much more interested in conversations where people can put aside the polished version of themselves and say what they actually think or feel. I suppose that's what I hope to do in my work as well—to create that kind of connection with someone I may never meet, but who might recognize something of themselves in what I've created.



VIENNE REA

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

HUMMER & THE BOY

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

I think, in many ways, I've always been a writer. More than that, I've always been a storyteller. I see the world in stories. Whether I'm holding a camera or a paintbrush, creating a sculpture, designing a piece of jewelry, or putting words on a page, I'm really doing the same thing: I'm trying to communicate an experience, an emotion, or something meaningful about being human.

Much of my sculpture, for example, is autobiographical or biographical. So, although I'm working with physical materials instead of words, I'm still telling a story. My jewelry can tell stories, too. Often, my work begins with an emotion I've experienced or something I've gone through that I'm trying to understand or process. Creating something from that experience can be healing for me, but my hope is that someone else might recognize something of their own experience in it as well.

Writing is really another extension of that same creative impulse. I've written poetry since my twenties, although I wasn't publishing it or necessarily thinking of myself as a writer in the traditional sense. It was simply something I did because I needed that form of expression.

So, becoming a writer now doesn't really feel like I've suddenly become something different. It feels much more like a natural progression of who I've always been. I've been telling stories my entire creative life. The difference now is that instead of keeping the writing mostly to myself or expressing those stories through other mediums, I'm ready to put the words on the page and share them with other people.

Q: Tell us something more about your book series.

Hummer & The Boy is a standalone, although I did write a special epilogue that continues the story beyond the book and offers readers a little more after the final page. It's available to readers who join my newsletter.

My next project is quite different. It's an historical fiction series spanning eight generations of women through American history. It begins with Annabelle, a young woman who grew up an orphan in Baltimore and, newly married, sets out with her husband on the Oregon Trail. Her early experiences have shaped her, particularly her sense of family and belonging, but her journey west is only the beginning. Annabelle's story launches a much larger one, with each generation taking us into another period of American history.

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

If I were to interpret your phrase 'magical system' as the heart and soul I create in my books and characters, then I'd say my intention is always to connect with people. I do that by creating emotionally aware themes that speak to our shared human experience.



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

I would have to say it'd be a message about freedom from guilt. That is really at the heart of what I hope readers take away from this book.

Guilt is so prevalent in our lives, and it can begin when we're very young. It can come from something seemingly small—a child accidentally breaking something that belongs to a parent and immediately feeling that they've done something terribly wrong. Or it can come from an emotional moment, like a child becoming angry and saying, "I hate you, Mommy," and then feeling guilty afterward. One is a physical rupture, and the other is an emotional rupture, but either way, those experiences can stay with us.

And as we grow, we accumulate more and more of them. There are so many opportunities throughout a lifetime to feel that we've disappointed someone, hurt someone, made the wrong choice, or failed in some way. By the time we become adults, I think most of us have a history with guilt—a long list of experiences, judgments, and regrets that we may not even realize we're still holding onto. The more we can release ourselves from that guilt, the freer we become. And that, to me, is one of the core messages of this book. When we release guilt, we become freer to love and freer to accept that we are loved. We also become more capable of extending that same compassion to other people.

I think there's a ripple effect to that. When we stop burdening ourselves with guilt, we become less likely to blame, shame, or burden other people with it. We can teach one another, by example, that it's possible to acknowledge our mistakes and take responsibility for them without carrying guilt forever.

Ultimately, I think releasing guilt gives us the freedom to live with more love, compassion, and joy. If there is one message I would want readers to take from this book and keep with them, it is that we can let go of guilt—both the guilt we bear ourselves and the guilt we assign to others—forgive ourselves and one another, and become more open to loving and being loved.

Halloween Words Scramble

Look At The Pictures And Arrange The Words Carefully.



S P D
E R I



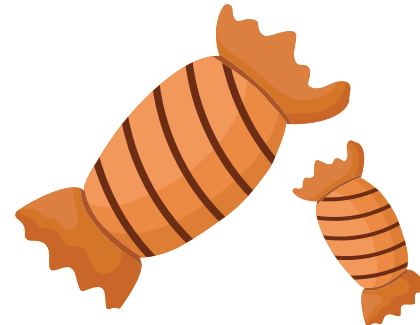
I O E
Z B M



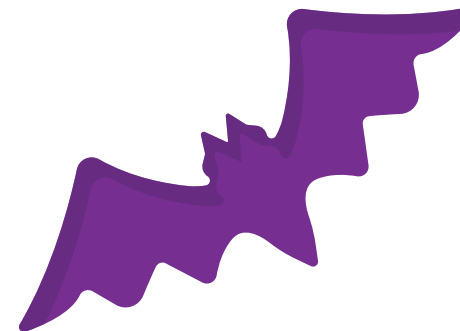
O B L
N G I



H C W I
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D A Y
N A C



T A
B



E R T
A T



S O
T H G

Crystal Z. Lee

Q: First tell us something about yourself.

I've written nine books, six are published and the rest are scheduled for release in 2027-2028. I moved around a lot growing up. Books were my escape and a way for me to stay grounded, thus I've always been a voracious reader. I grew up in Taiwan and in California, later residing in New York and Shanghai with frequent travels to Singapore and business trips to Paris. I consider myself an immigrant and a traveler. Much of my writing is inspired by my journeys.

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

My first novel was published during the covid pandemic. But I've been writing long before that. Prior to writing books, I had worked as a public relations manager in the fashion, beauty and technology industries. One of my roles was composing press releases. I'd written countless press releases but yearned to write creatively instead of for corporations. So I started working on some manuscripts, enrolled in publishing courses at Stanford University, then transitioned into writing books full time. Now I write novels, short stories, poetry and children's books.

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

The settings of my children's books are an important component of the story. In Mei's Mermaid Mission, readers are transported to picturesque islands and oceanic underworlds in Asia, such as the Malacca Strait and Jeju Island. These are real places, yet I infused them with the local mythologies of mermaids. In A Unicorn Named Rin, readers experience Tang Dynasty China along with a host of Chinese mythical creatures. Kai the Dancing Butterfly and Pei's Pineapple Cakes are about the beauty of Taiwan and its rich culture. Miya's Mooncakes is set in a multicultural town full of whimsy and heart. In each of these world-building efforts, the illustrator and I take the time to research and collaborate on creating a setting that is not only magical, but full of educational value as well.



Q: Tell us about your books.

I write picture books, novels and I've dabbled in poetry. Most of my books deal with subjects pertaining to Asian and Taiwanese culture in some way or form. I've written about the Taiwanese purple crow butterfly migration, marine ecosystems and ocean animals in Asia, Chinese mythologies, beloved Asian pastries such as pineapple cakes and mooncakes. The running theme in my children's books is Empathy --- a characteristic that I think is essential in making our world a better place.

Q: A message for your readers?

I'm very thankful for my readers, some of whom have been with me since my first book! I once had a reader tell me she did a school animal report on the endangered dugong after reading Mei's Mermaid Mission, another student started studying Indigenous Taiwanese tribes after reading Kai the Dancing Butterfly. A woman told me she loves the relationship between the grandmother and granddaughter in Pei's Pineapple Cakes because it reminded her of her family. These are the moments I appreciate the most as a writer!

MIYA'S MOONCAKES



It's almost time for Miya's favorite holiday, the Mid-Autumn Festival. She loves all the holiday traditions: moon gazing, lighting lanterns, and best of all, baking and eating mooncakes! Miya notices that many in her town seem to have lost the holiday spirit lately, including her father. She has an idea to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival in a more meaningful manner this year. It will involve some extra special mooncakes and the entire neighborhood.

Can Miya pull it off in time for the festival?

This is a story of ingenuity, empathy, creating new traditions while honoring old ones. It's also an ode to neighbors, immigrants, and all those that make up a community!

available at
amazon

**BARNES
& NOBLE**

B
Bookshop.org

BOOKS
Kinokuniya

FLASHCARDS

Download the
Milli and Max
flashcards for free!

www.milliandmax.com.au





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



Millian Lloyd Jones

Milli and Max Toddlers

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



Millian Lloyd Jones
Illustrated by Dom Sansom



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.

Polymers Among Us

Conrad J. Storad



Ever tried explaining what a polymer is to a 7-year-old? This book actually does it in a fun way.

Polymers Among Us follows the little green Story Monster who is super curious and asks the exact question every kid would ask: "Wait, what's a Polymer anyway?"

To find the answer, he meets Paul Polymer – the big, red, super-friendly blob – who takes him on a trip to River City, which is Akron, Ohio. And that's where it clicks. Akron is the rubber capital of the world, so it's the perfect playground to discover polymers.

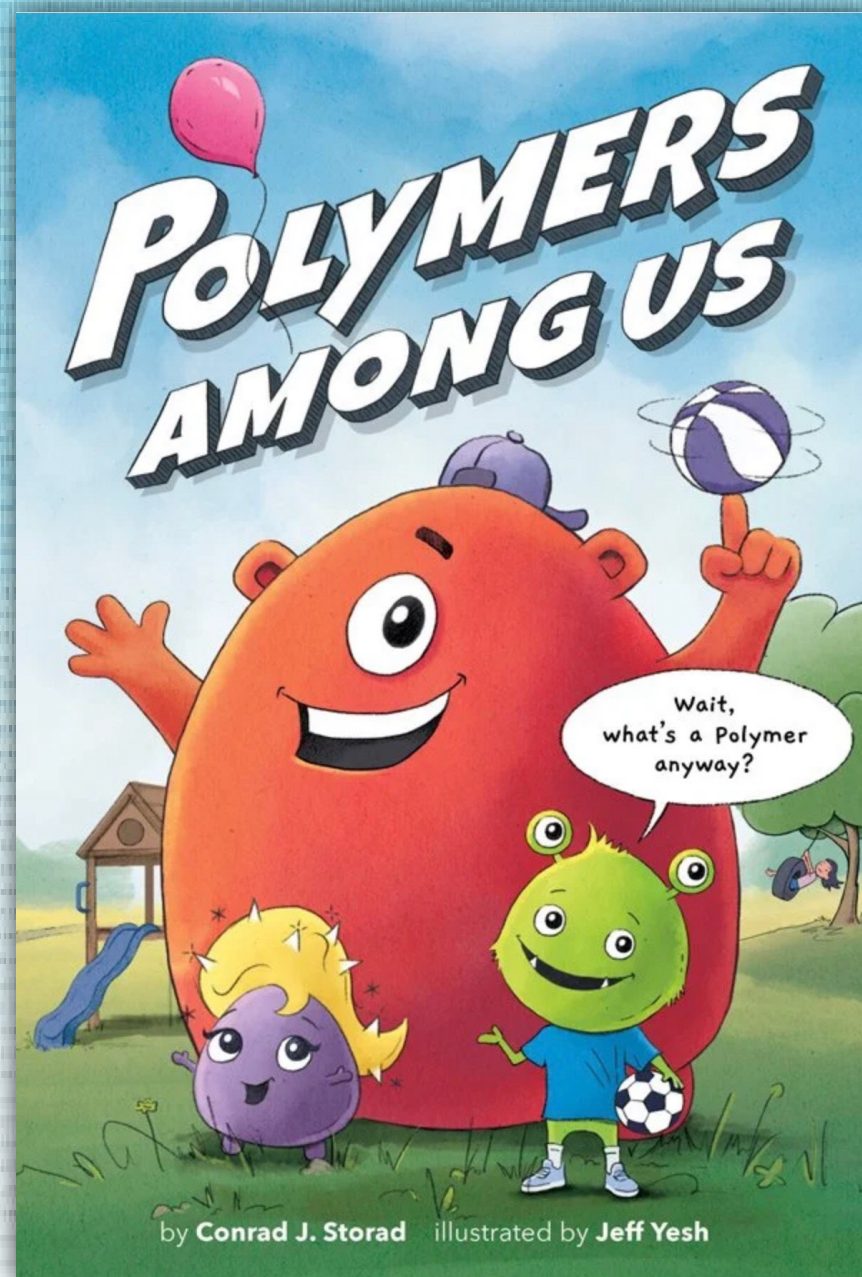
What I loved about it is that it never feels like a science lesson. Pauly doesn't provide boring definitions; he simply shows you. Your bouncy ball? That's a polymer. The tires of cars, trucks, and bicycles? Those are polymers too! Your toothbrush, balloon, playground slide, and even you—because our DNA, hair, and skin are all made of natural polymers.

The art is bright, comic-style, and full of science fun and facts. My favorite characters are Pauly and Penny, who pop up and make the science super visual. Kids get the idea that polymers aren't some scary lab chemical – they are literally hiding everywhere in everyday life.

It's the kind of book that makes a kid look around the room after reading and go, "Whoa, that's a polymer too?"

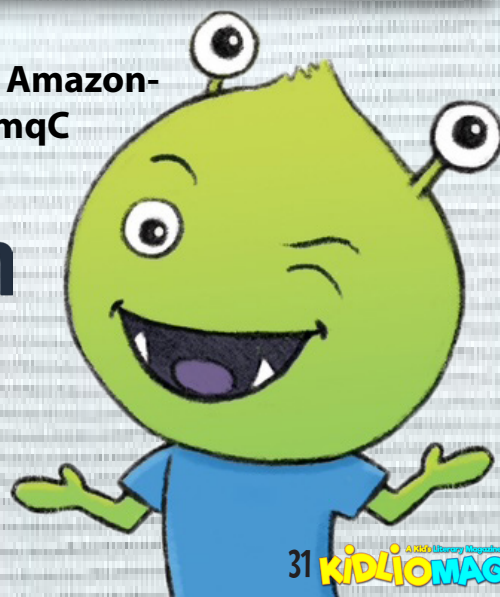
Perfect for 5-10 year olds, teachers, and any parent who has ever been stumped by a "why is this stretchy?" question.

Fun, clever, and surprisingly informative even for adults.



Grab your copy from Amazon-
<https://a.co/d/OfEnYmqC>

available at
amazon



Halloween Quiz

Match the words with the correct descriptions:



Werewolf

Vampire

Witch

Ghost

Mummy

Zombie

Frankenstein

Skeleton

Scarecrow

Troll



Mythical creature often
found under bridges

Bandaged undead
figure

Reanimated
corpse

Bony framework of a
person

Magical spellcaster with a
broomstick

Human-like scarecrow
protector

Immortal creature that
drinks blood

Spirit of a departed
person

Reconstructed human
with bolts

Half-man, half-wolf
creature



A Gift of Love

Lessons Learned from My Work
and Friendship with Mother Teresa

Tony Cointreau



A Gift of Love



Lessons Learned From My Work
and Friendship with Mother Teresa

Tony Cointreau

This book didn't just teach me something - it touched me.

A Gift of Love is not a book about death. It's a book about how to truly live.

Tony Cointreau warmly invites you into his poignant memories of the Gift of Love, a home founded by Mother Teresa. Within its walls, he found himself sitting alongside individuals facing the twilight of their lives—those grappling with AIDS—men who had been cast aside by society. And what he learned there is so simple and so profound that we have forgotten it in our busy lives. He learned that people at the end don't need big speeches. They need three things: someone to listen, a hand to hold, and to know they are loved.

I will never forget how he writes about just being there. Not fixing, not advising, just offering his ear, his touch, his presence, his comfort. As a caregiver, he shows you that the greatest healing isn't in medicine, but in making someone feel seen in their last moments.

His stories are both heartbreaking and beautiful. The chapter about his beloved Aunt Tata and her final days moved me to tears. You can sense that everything he learned from those facing death—dignity, humor, grace, and surrender—he applied to his own family and his own life.

This is the kind of book that slows you down. After reading it, I found myself listening more patiently, holding a hand a little longer, saying "I love you" a little more often.

Mother Teresa's spirit is on every page, but this is Tony's story. A story of how sitting with death taught him how to give love more fully.

If you are a caregiver, if you have lost someone, if you just want to be a more compassionate human please read this. It's a 10th Anniversary Edition, but its message is timeless.

A quiet, powerful, unforgettable gift of a book.

Kindle edition here:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0HDQ5W8YC>



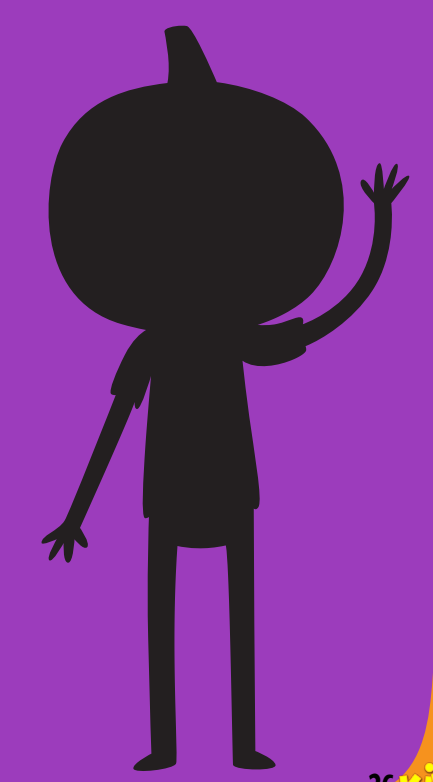
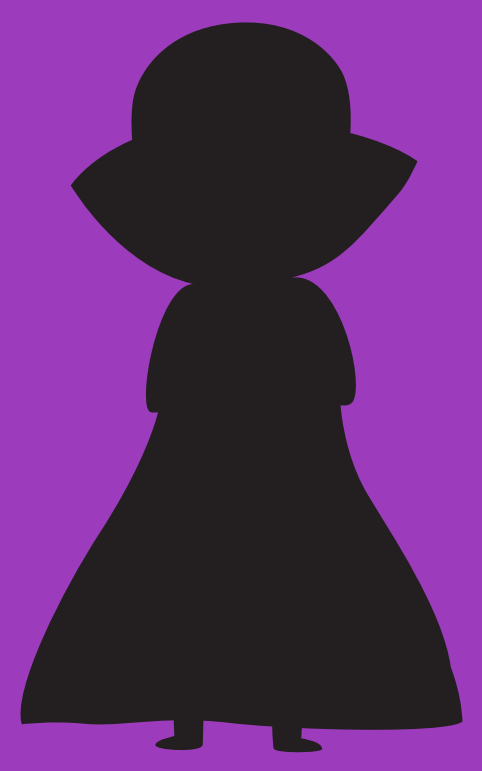
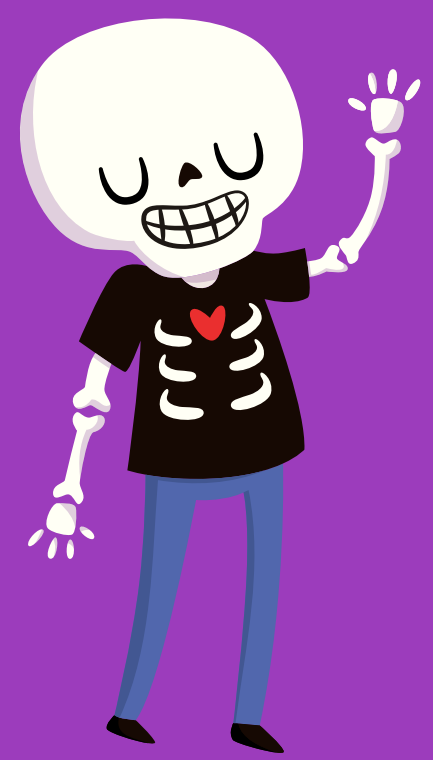
Grow kindness not hate!

Write some kind things you' ve done for yourself or others in the bubbles below



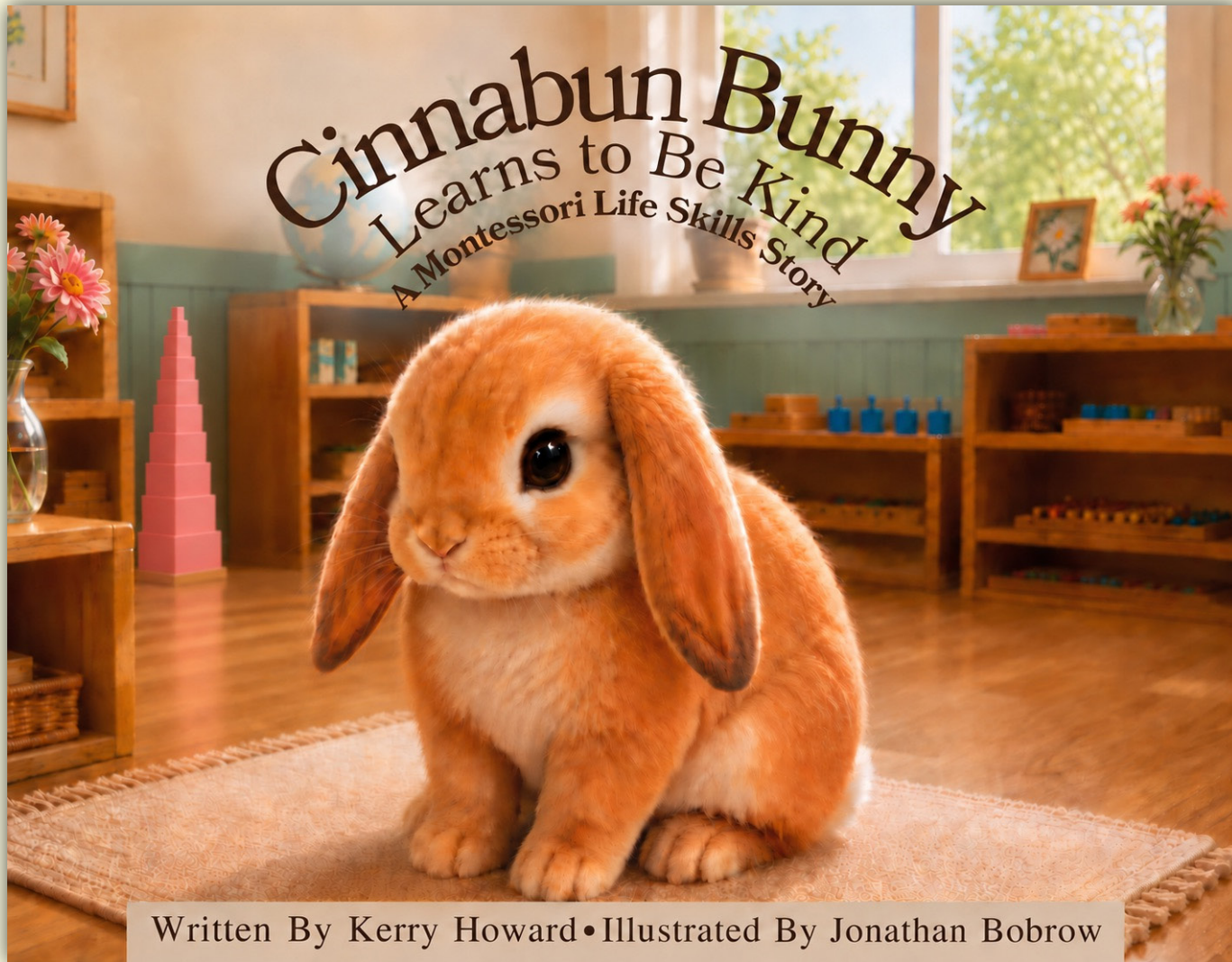
Halloween Shadow Match

Match The Creatures To Their Correct Shadow



Cinnabun Bunny Learns to Be Kind

Montessori Life Skills Story Books



Written By Kerry Howard • Illustrated By Jonathan Bobrow

Kerry Howard

is an AMI-trained Montessori educator with more than 40 years of experience working with children and families internationally. She is the creator of the Montessori Life Skills Storybooks™, a growing collection of children's books designed to introduce authentic Montessori principles through calm, engaging stories for young children.

Her mission is:
To give every child, everywhere, the opportunity to learn Montessori life skills.

The Montessori Life Skills Storybooks™ introduce children to Practical Life, Grace and Courtesy, early literacy, mathematics, science, geography and everyday independence—helping families bring Montessori principles from the classroom into daily life.

Cinnabun Bunny Learns to Be Kind
Montessori Life Skills Storybooks™
For ages 3–6

<https://a.co/d/0ajKPq83>
www.Montessoristorybooks.com

Calm stories. Real skills. Authentic Montessori.



available at
amazon

**Kerry
Howard**

Kindness Is a Life Skill

Cinnabun Bunny Learns to Be Kind

A Montessori Story for Raising Kind, Confident and Independent Children

What if we taught kindness with the same care that we teach children to read, count, pour, dress themselves, and care for their environment?

That idea is at the heart of *Cinnabun Bunny Learns to Be Kind*, the newest title in the *Montessori Life Skills Storybooks™* collection by AMI-trained Montessori educator and author **Kerry Howard**.

Created especially for children ages 3–6, this gentle Montessori-inspired children's book introduces kindness not as an abstract idea, but as a **practical life skill that children can practice every day**.

Learning Kindness Through Everyday Moments

In Montessori education, **Grace and Courtesy** are an important part of the early childhood classroom. Children learn how to move respectfully within a community, wait their turn, offer help, communicate thoughtfully, care for their environment, and recognize the needs of others.

Cinnabun Bunny Learns to Be Kind brings these principles into a warm, engaging story that young children can understand and relate to.

Through Cinnabun's experiences, children discover that kindness can be something very simple:

noticing when someone needs help,
including another child,
taking turns,
using gentle words,
caring for living things,
and making thoughtful choices.

Rather than simply telling children to “be kind,” the story shows them what kindness looks like in real life.

Raising Capable Children

For more than 40 years, Kerry Howard has worked with young children through Montessori education internationally. Her *Montessori Life Skills Storybooks™* grew from a simple observation:

Children want to be capable.

They want to participate in real life.

They want to pour their own drink, clean up their work, prepare food, dress themselves, plant seeds, learn to read and count—and understand how to live alongside other people.

When adults give children the opportunity to practice meaningful skills, we communicate something powerful:

I trust you. You are capable. You belong here.

Cinnabun Bunny Learns to Be Kind extends that philosophy into a child's social world. Because kindness is not simply good behavior. **Kindness is a life skill.** And like every important skill, it begins with practice.

Montessori Learning Beyond the Classroom

The Montessori method recognizes that young children are developing far more than academic skills.

Between the ages of three and six, children are building the foundations for independence, confidence, concentration, self-regulation, empathy, social-emotional development and executive function skills.

That is why Montessori education places such importance on Practical Life and Grace and Courtesy.

These everyday experiences help children learn:

independence • responsibility • empathy • respect •
cooperation • concentration • confidence • problem-solving •
emotional awareness • care for others

These are skills children carry far beyond the classroom.

A Story Children Can See Themselves In

The Montessori Life Skills Storybooks™ intentionally use lovable animal characters so that children from different families, cultures and backgrounds can connect with the stories.

The goal is simple: every child should be able to feel that the story belongs to them.

Cinnabun Bunny's world is gentle, beautiful and child-centered, reflecting the calm and purposeful atmosphere associated with an authentic Montessori environment.

For parents who are new to Montessori, the story offers an accessible introduction to Montessori parenting and Montessori education.

For Montessori teachers and schools, it provides another way to reinforce familiar principles of Grace and Courtesy, Practical Life and respect for the child.

THE CONCH CASTLE

Pearl City

Hundreds of kids thronged at the beach for sea breeze, seafood and amusements. Shaun and Seth yearned to go to the beach for one reason, the seashells. At the age of four Shaun had a sharp eye for shells and a curiosity for everything he saw on and under the beach sand. Soon after his little brother Seth was big enough to join him in the fun, Shaun's enthusiasm increased twofold. He was determined to teach his brother all he knew about shells.

'Hey Seth, the ones you like are olive shells,' grinned Shaun.

'Not just these,' Seth replied taking out few more from his pouch. After a careful look at them Shaun said, 'Oh you've got limpets too'

Seth wasn't as keen as his big brother to learn names and didn't care to find out what olive shells and limpets meant. Their happy feet brought out the shells that lay hidden under the sand. At times they found sand dollars and shark teeth too.

'Come on Seth, someday may even discover a **Treasure**,' chuckled Shaun and his little brother shrieked in delight, 'Oh yeah we are beachcombers.'

Mommy Sridevi suggested that Shaun carry two pouches instead of one and he politely refused saying, 'Birds also need shells to build nests.'

The boys talked non-stop as they collected **SHELLS** of various shapes, colours and designs. Sridevi overheard their conversations and was proud of Shaun's strong memory for details. Only after their pockets and pouches were filled, the boys sat down to enjoy other sights and sounds. like the Calls of sea birds, ships at the horizon, kids on amusement rides screaming with glee, the glow of the sun, murmur of the waves and the different hues of the distant skies mesmerized them.

Shaun was fond of cockle and conch shells. Sridevi can't forget the day Shaun came running to her screaming, 'Mom it's a Conus, can you believe, it's a Conus'. Only a fortnight before Sridevi had shown Shaun pictures from 'The book of Shells' and taught him that Conus also called as 'Glory of the sea cone' is an expensive and rare shell. From then on, he was always on the look-out for a Conus or a nautilus or a cowrie. Shaun was determined to gift his mom with rare seashells and so he had a drawing of these rare shells in his pocket to look over. After convincing Shaun that what he gave her wasn't a Conus, Sridevi decided to wear it as an ornament since it was given to her with love and it vaguely resembled a Conus.



The brothers became popular in their school. Everyone admired their shell crafts. On special days, teachers looked forward to receiving seashell wall hangings from Shaun and Seth and the brothers never disappointed them.

Known as the little **Conchologists** of Pearl City, Shaun was brilliant and outgoing enough. He was always ready with lengthy explanations for his friends who were eager to know more. Funny as it was, day after day Seth tried hard to pronounce terms like conchologist, tritons and crustaceans correctly.

When Shaun was busy with his friends teaching them, clarifying doubts, little Seth disappeared into their

coconut grove where he built a small castle with shells, sea glass and glue. Almost always, Shaun too gave him a helping hand. Mommy dearest was ever ready with her ideas and imaginations of making the castle bigger to look better. Sridevi helped the boys with carrying some rocks, on top of which, the shell castle was built. While carrying the rocks Shaun sang aloud, 'The wise man built his house upon the rock' Windows of the castle was made with sea glass that had a nice buttered look. Since Shaun was a fan of

Harry Potter, Sridevi and Seth made sure the castle had few turrets and towers too. When it was all done, it wasn't too tiny.

'A little smaller than the Cagle Castle, right mom?' said Shaun slowly and loudly.

Sridevi hugged Shaun 'Oh yes!'

'Now, what's a Cagle **CASTLE** mom', asked Seth, looking a bit annoyed about his ignorance.

'Nothing but a **dwarf** castle honey', answered Sridevi as she helped Seth with spreading seaweeds around the conch castle. 'It's in Georgia. It's our bedtime story for today'.

'You can tell me the story when we walk back home, can't you?', Seth asked politely.

Beaming, Sridevi seized Seth by his shoulders 'Well, all right'.

On a rainy morning, as mommy and boys went to check on the castle, they saw a **Kitten** rushing out of it.

'Wow, our shell castle is waterproof too, a refuge for small animals'

'Don't call it shell castle mom', snapped Seth. 'Call it the conch castle'.

Soon after the table roses and periwinkles around the conch castle began to bloom, the brothers invited their teachers and friends to take a look at their creation. Many friends got down on all fours to take a peek inside and found it stunning.

'How did you manage to build pillars inside?' asked Shaun's bestie.

'Look through the windows', replied Seth enthusiastically, bounding forwards 'you can see furniture and lamps'

'Lamps made of seaweed?', a girl asked incredulously.

Then on, every evening Conch castle had visitors and the brothers were busy taking them on a tour around their coconut grove as well as embellishing the castle.

Sridevi smiled, 'Larger and stronger the base, bigger and better your castle will be'.

Written by Elsa Lycias Joel



Lost In Halloween

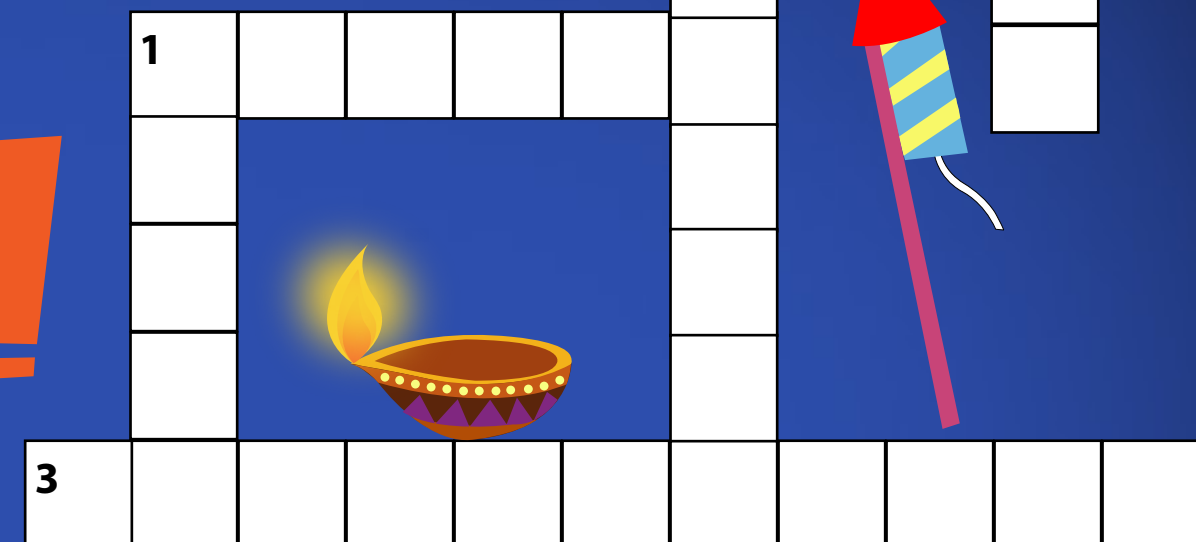
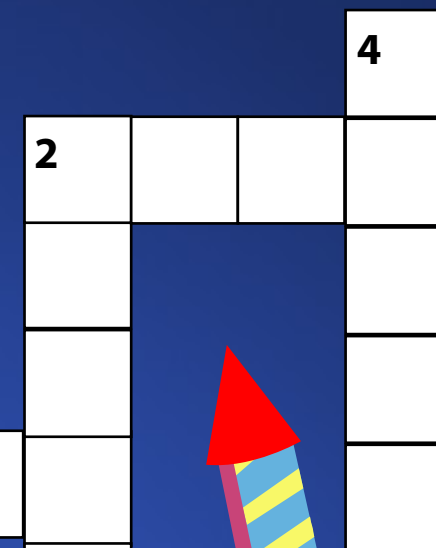
ACTIVITY

Help The Ghost To Reach the Haunted House





Dussehra & Diwali Crossword

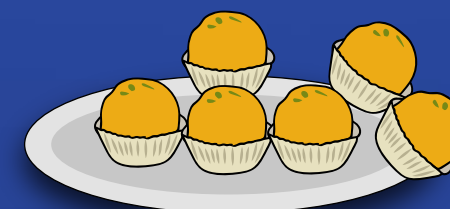


FESTIVALS OF INDIA!

1. Take 1 tbsp of ghee in a pan and roast the peanut on low flame for a few minutes.
 2. Now take another pan and heat the remaining ghee and sesame seeds until the rawness is removed on low flame.
 3. Now mix the crushed peanuts and grind **sesame** seeds paste and mix well keeping on low flame.
 4. Now add the **CHOCOLATE** to it and mix well.
 5. Then add half of the jaggery and mix.
 6. Now add cardamom powder and mix well. Keep on low flame for a few minutes and off the stove.
 7. Take the mixture out of the stove and let it cool for some time.
 8. Now take some dough into your hand and put some chocolate and make it in the form of a laddoo.
 11. Mix the sesame seeds into **coconut** powder.
 12. Now roll the laddoo in this mixture and coat it.
 13. Do the same with remaining dough and serve them. **Enjoy!**
- 

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup white sesame seeds
1 cup Dark Chocolate
1/2 cup dry coconut grated
1/4 cup peanuts
1 cup jaggery
4 tbsp ghee



Across

- 1 Diwali is festival of _____.
- 2 What Is Lit To Decorate Houses?
- 3 These Are Burst To Celebrate Diwali.

Down

- 1 What is Hindu Goddess called?
- 2 Which Festival Celebrates The Victory Of Rama Over Ravan(Good Over Evil)
- 3 Which Festival Celebrates The Birth Of Lord Krishna?
- 4 The Name Of The Evil 10 Headed Demon.

Do You Know?

THE AUTUMN SEASON GOES BY THREE DIFFERENT NAMES: FALL, AUTUMN, AND HARVEST

AUTUMN IS SOMETIMES CALLED HARVEST OR HARVEST SEASON BECAUSE FARMERS ARE HARVESTING THE FIELDS.

AMERICANS CALL AUTUMN FALL BECAUSE OF THE LEAVES FALLING FROM TREES

SCARECROWS HAVE BEEN USED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS TO PROTECT CROPS.

THERE IS LESS SUNLIGHT DURING AUTUMN, SO DAYS ARE SHORTER AND NIGHTS ARE LONGER.

PEOPLE WHO LIVE NEAR THE EQUATOR DON'T HAVE AN AUTUMN SEASON

LOL



How did the zombie become great a trick or treating?
DEAD-ICATION

WHAT SONG DO VAMPIRES HATE?

You Are My Sunshine!

Where do ghosts go on holidays?
Boohamas

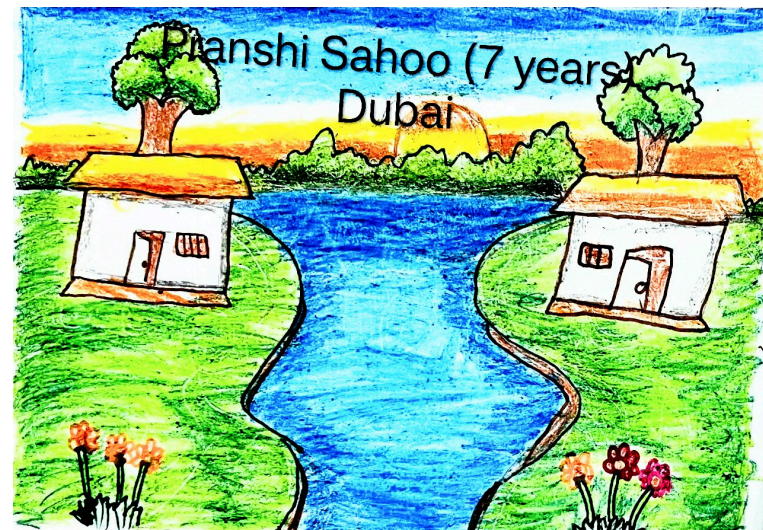
What do birds say on Halloween?

"Trick or Tweet!"

WHY DIDN'T THE GHOST DANCE AT THE PARTY HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY BODY TO DANCE



Creative Corner



★ Happy ★
Halloween



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A Kid's Literary Magazine
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