

KAPLAN/
DEFIORE
RIGHTS

Kaplan/DeFiore Children's Guide
London Book Fair
2025

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PICTURE BOOKS

GILBERT AND THE GHOST

Heather Pierce Stigall, illustrated by Jess Mason

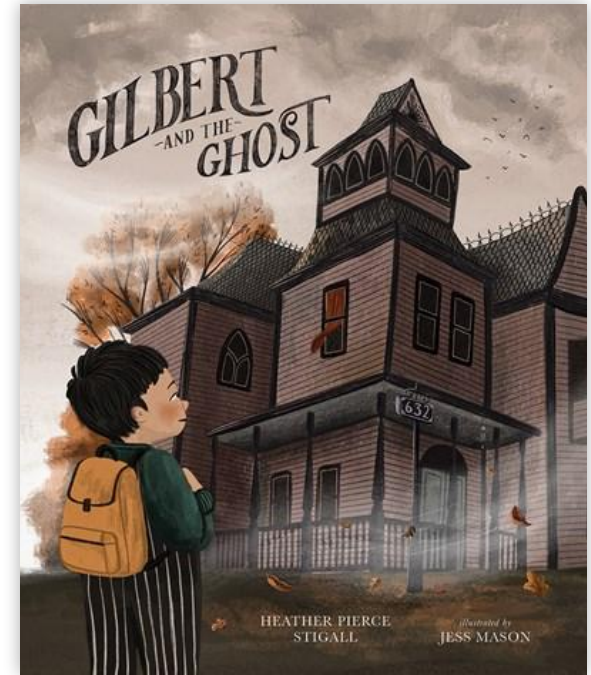
Beaming Books, August 2025

This charming story will appeal to kids who identify with the shy protagonist and to kids who have "invisible friends." The Halloween tie-in with the story's spooky house and ghost theme will make it great for sharing around Halloween.

The ghost at 632 Savannah Street is real . . . right?

Gilbert often feels invisible, just like the ghost living at 632 Savannah Street. Despite his family's disbelief, Gilbert leaves gifts for the ghost: a friendship bracelet, a plate of cookies, even a drawing with a note. When each disappears one by one, Gilbert finds that believing and friendship are worth the effort.

For kids who might often feel unseen, *Gilbert and the Ghost* is a ghostly tale of overcoming obstacles and finding friendship in mysterious places. Gothic, whimsical illustrations make this picture book perfect for spooky season, while its earnest themes make it worth a read all year round.



Kaplan/DeFiore Controls:

Translation

Category:

Picture Book

Rights Sold on Behalf of:

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Format:

Full Color Throughout

Materials:

Layouts

Heather Stigall uses her experience with children and her degrees in child development, psychology-based human relations, and social work to create stories that speak to kids. Heather is the Critique Group/Meet & Greet Coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania chapter of SCBWI and the author of *Paisley's Big Birthday* (Clavis Publishing) and *Gilbert and the Ghost* (Beaming Books). Born and raised as a beach-loving, corn-and-tomato-snob Jersey girl, Heather now lives in southeastern Pennsylvania with her husband, pup, and five children. When she's not writing, you can find her reading, relaxing (hopefully at the beach), working out, eating chocolate, baking, or creating all sorts of treasures.

VERA LA VALIENTE IS SCARED

Ana Siqueira, illustrated by Teresa Martinez

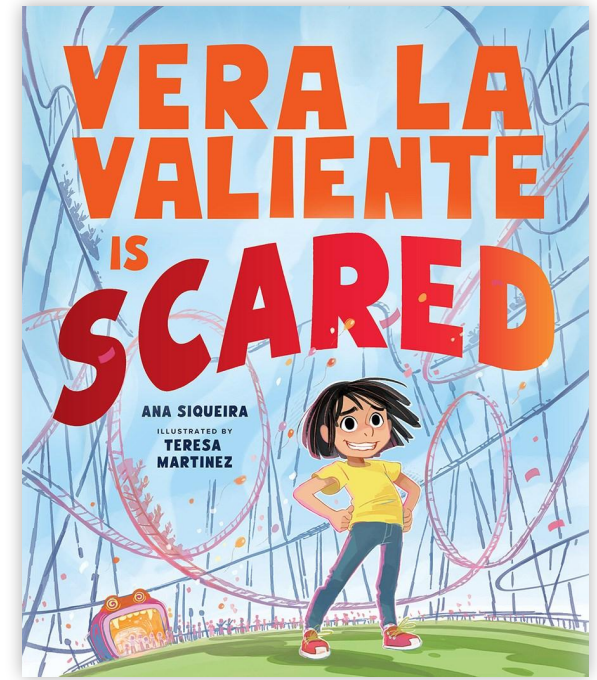
Beaming Books, August 2025

This bilingual social emotional learning story by author Ana Siqueira, a strong promoter, will appeal to those looking for stories about fear, bravery, self-awareness, and boundaries.

A hilarious story about what it really means to be brave.

Meet Vera the Brave--La Valiente! She dives like a dolphin, climbs like a mountain goat, and defends her amigos like un león. But she trembles when she hears her teacher say, "We're going to Rocking Roller Coasters!" Oh no! Vera tries to convince the teacher her plan is not the best, but Ms. Rodríguez does not change her mind about the field trip. Now if Vera can't face her fears, everyone will discover she's not that brave after all! But what if being brave is much more than she expected?

Vera La Valiente Is Scared redefines what it means to be brave. It's okay to show your feelings and fears! And maybe, with some help, you can even face some of them.



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Ana Siqueira is a Spanish-language elementary teacher and an award-winning Brazilian children's book author based in Tampa, Florida. Her picture books include *Bella's Recipe for Success*, *Vera La Valiente Is Scared*, *If Your Babysitter Is a Bruja*, and *Abuela's Super Capa*, among many others. Ana is also a global educator, a PBS Media innovator, and an SCBWI member. She lives in Palm Harbor, Florida, with her husband and loves to play with her Cuban-Brazilian-American grandkids.

ONE CAN BE

Pat Zietlow Miller

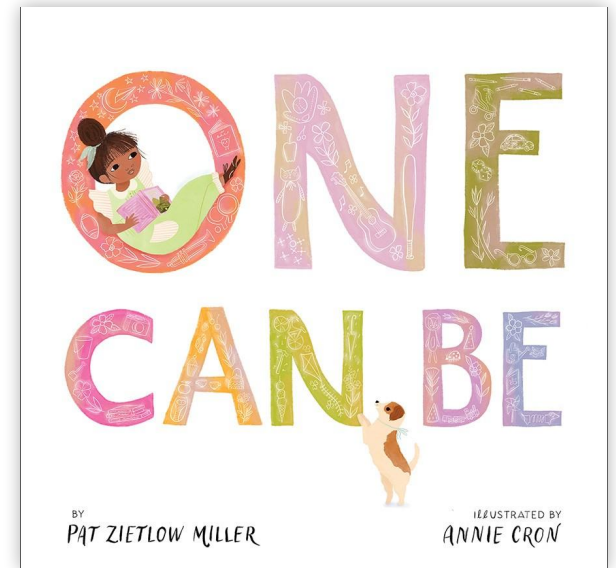
Beaming Books, September 2025

An ode to introverts and quiet leaders who love books, libraries, and creating community.

Sometimes you need to be alone--to think and breathe. Other times you need to be with friends--those you know and those you've only just met. And sometimes everyone works together to create something wonderful.

What can one person do all alone? Quite a lot, actually. Even so, there are times it helps to work with others. With spare, lyrical text, bestselling author Pat Zietlow Miller celebrates the power of being alone--and of coming together with others--centered on the love of reading and creating community around books. This is a book about trusting yourself and your ideas, seeing a need, and connecting with others to meet it.

Perfect for introverts, quiet leaders, and anyone who loves books and little libraries.



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Pat Zietlow Miller is the author of more than twenty picture books. *Sophie's Squash* won the Golden Kite Award, an Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor, and a Charlotte Zolotow Honor. *Be Kind* was a *New York Times* bestseller, and *In Our Garden* is a two-time Dolly Parton Imagination Library selection. Pat has one wonderful husband, two delightful daughters, and two pampered cats. She lives in Wisconsin.

UNIQUE LIKE YOU

Allison and Rafael Rozo

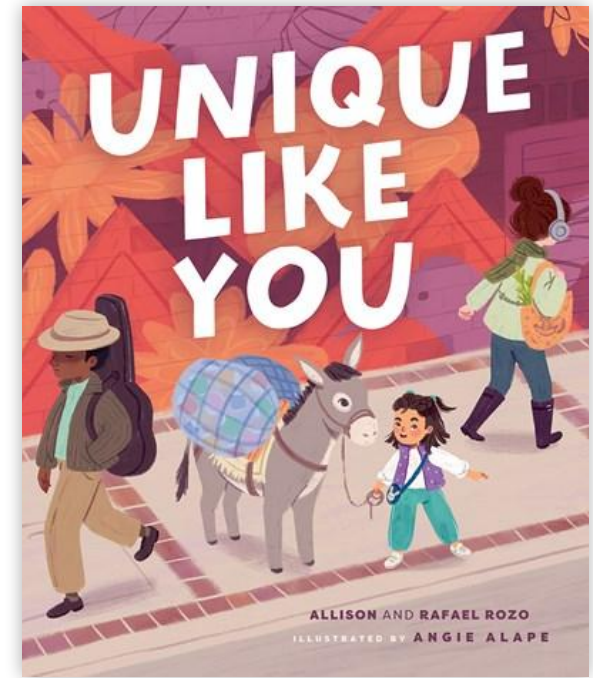
Beaming Books, September 2025

With text that incorporates both Spanish and English, this celebration of recycling and ingenuity is a great choice for parents and teachers.

What makes you unique?

While helping her mama collect empty cans, old newspapers, and other recyclable treasure to sell, Lina discovers a wall of graffiti with the words ÚNICO COMO TÚ, UNIQUE LIKE YOU. This discovery sends her on a quest through Bogotá, Colombia, to find treasure where she least expects it, and to discover what makes her unique.

With Spanish vocabulary woven throughout the story, Unique Like You transports readers to the colorful streets of Bogotá and encourages them to look at the world with curious eyes. What unique treasures wait to be discovered around us? What makes each of us unique? A helpful glossary in the back of the book makes it an accessible read for all.



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Allison Rozo is a picture book writer, illustrator, and designer. She and her Colombian husband, Rafael Rozo, write bilingual stories in English and Spanish for their children to weave together their two cultures. She also writes stories in English, as well as creating illustrations. Allison received her bachelor of fine arts from Miami University of Ohio and studied graphic design at Harrington College of Design in Chicago.

Rafael Rozo is a native of Colombia who immigrated to the United States. He and his wife, Allison Rozo, write bilingual English and Spanish picture books to weave together their Hispanic and American cultures. He is proud to create books that represent himself and his two children. Rafael graduated from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia with a degree in information systems, computer science. He received a master of business administration from Universidad de La Salle. Rafael is co-owner of the Quimera Group, a US-based consultancy firm.

THE LITTLEST SOLSTICE TREE

Lisa Varchol Perron, illustrated by Ahya Kim

Beaming Books, September 2025

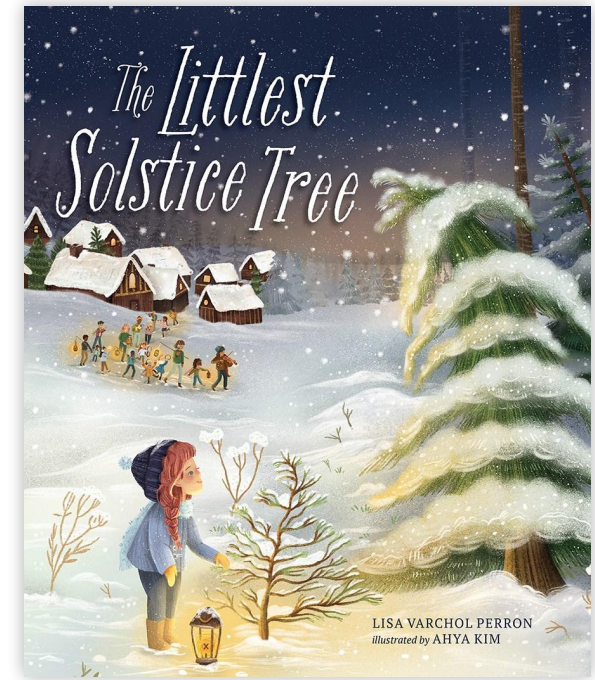
This cozy holiday story will appeal to those who celebrate the solstice and to educators and librarians looking for a non-holiday-specific story.

Deep in the forest, where giant pines grow . . . Eager, young Sapling stood covered in snow.

Every winter solstice, one evergreen is crowned Tree of the Year, and this year, Sapling wants nothing more than to win. Her chances are as small as her stature, but when she befriends an overlooked neighbor, she wonders if they might reach new heights together.

Poetically told from the point of view of a small tree in the forest, *The Littlest Solstice Tree* brings together themes of intergenerational friendship, challenging the status quo, and youth bringing about change--all within a charming, cozy tale about holiday celebration.

An author's note brings more context to the story, highlighting how trees have been used in winter solstice--and Christmas--celebrations for centuries.



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Lisa Varchol Perron is a children's author and poet based in Boston, Massachusetts. She is passionate about spending time outdoors, and many of her books reflect her interest in and appreciation of our natural world. She has written several books for children, including *My Love for You* and various nonfiction titles, such as *Wonder Why*, *All the Rocks We Love*, and *Patterns Everywhere*. When she is not writing, Lisa works as a psychotherapist. She is endlessly impressed and inspired by the curious kids she meets at storytimes and school visits, and is a big believer in asking questions.

VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE VILLAGE

Phyllis Alsdurf

Beaming Books, December 2025

This charmingly rustic story celebrating small-town and village life makes for a perfect read in the lead-up to Valentine's Day.

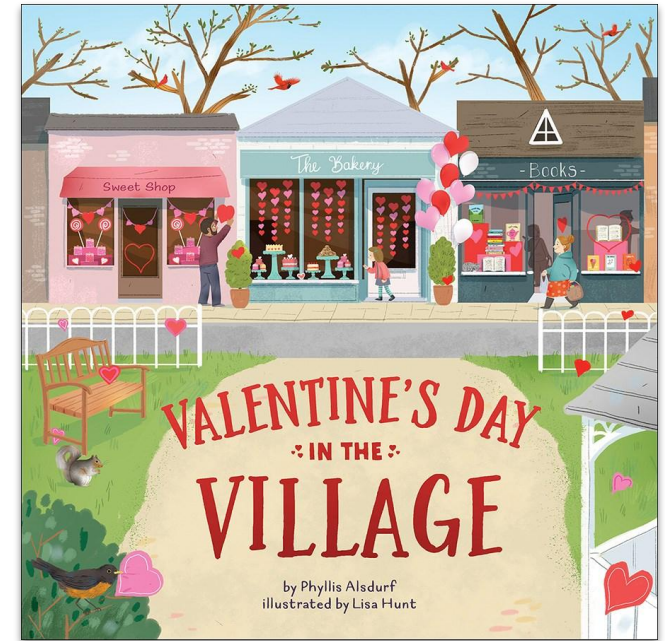
A Valentine's Day story about community, belonging, and kindness, set in an idyllic small town.

From the author of *Thanksgiving in the Woods* and *A Simple Christmas on the Farm* comes a new countryside holiday tale for Valentine's Day about community, belonging, and kindness.

A girl notices that not everyone is looking forward to Valentine's Day. Some people are new to the community, some are lonely, others are missing loved ones. But then she comes up with a brilliant idea! With the support of her baker grandfather and her classmates, she organizes a town square hunt for valentine cards that people can exchange for a cookie. Soon everyone wants to help, and a new town festival is born. Food trucks, bingo, and live music bring it all together for a fabulous Valentine's Day in the village.

Featuring the rural nostalgia of small-town Americana, this beautiful story centers on the power of community, belonging, and kindness.

Backmatter includes craft and recipe ideas for celebrating Valentine's Day with your own community.



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Phyllis Alsdurf is a former journalism and creative writing professor. She is the author of *It's Milking Time* and the *Countryside Holiday* series, which includes *Thanksgiving in the Woods* and *A Simple Christmas on the Farm*. Phyllis lives in Minnesota.

WILL AND KRILL

Stacey Byer

Beaming Books, June 2025

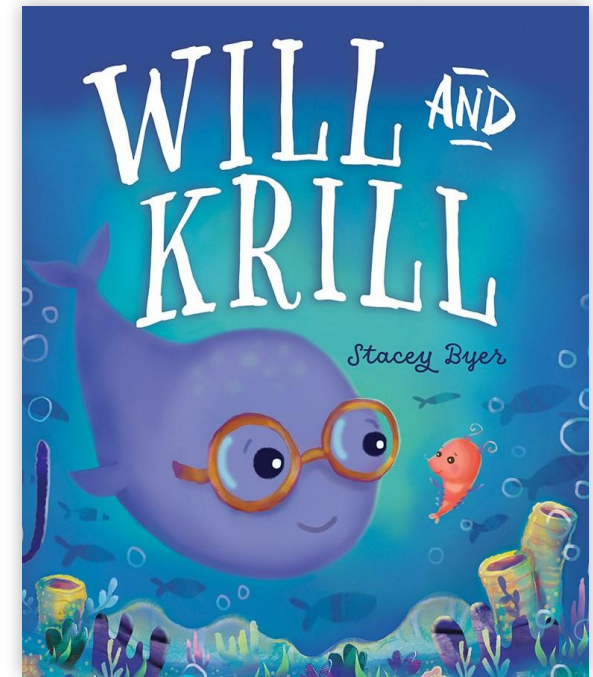
“A plucky tale in which bravery wins the day over size.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

Discover the power of finding your voice in this enchanting undersea tale about a tiny, shy whale named Will searching for friendship.

Deep in the Caribbean Sea lived a tiny, timid whale named Will.

Will wants nothing more than a friend. But she is so teeny-tiny that no one ever seems to notice her. She is ignored at finball practice, never chosen to play in the orca-stra, and always forgotten in a game of shell-and-peek. After plucking up all her courage, she sets out to find a friend. But when she finally finds the friends she's been dreaming of, who will stick up for them?

Through enchanting, under-the-sea illustrations, *Will and Krill* tells a tale for shy and quiet kids, encouraging them to find where they belong--and use their voice when it really matters.



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Stacey Byer grew up on a Caribbean island filled with folktales and adventure, feeding her imagination. She wrote stories about giant possums living in mango trees and drew many pictures of what lurked in bougainvillea hedges. After graduating from Ringier College of Art and Design with a degree in Illustration, Stacey used her skills to promote art education and literacy on her island and worked with organizations such as Room to Read, UNDP, and Harper Collins UK. Stacey's experiences working with children have inspired her to write and illustrate stories all kids can enjoy.

THE RAINBOW SHEEP

David Hayward

May 2025

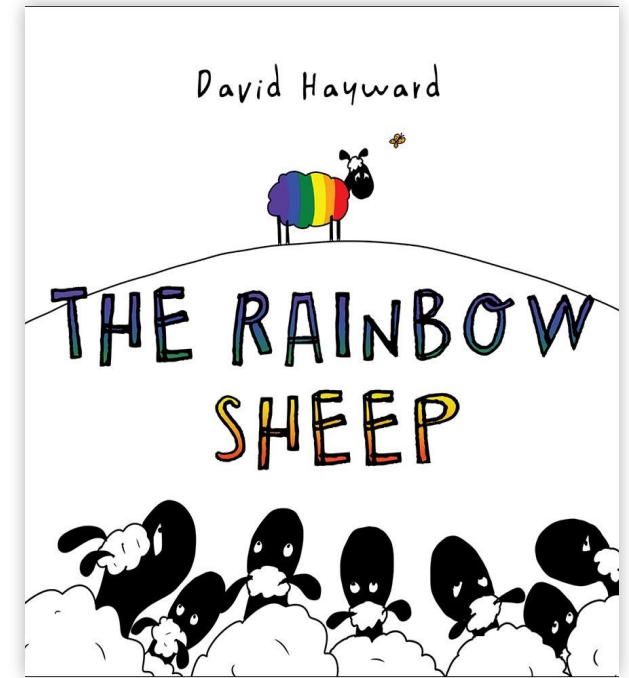
A delightfully humorous and heartwarming tale that celebrates the joy of being different, self-acceptance, and the power of friendship to challenge conformity.

A humorous story about inclusion, self-acceptance, and the joy of being different.

Ricky lives with a flock of sheep that prizes conformity. When one sleeps, they all sleep. When one eats, they all eat. When one ba-a-a-s, the all ba-a-a-a. And they all dress the same too. Every single day.

Until a rainbow sheep joins the flock and everything changes! Rainbow is so fun and so free! Ricky becomes friends with Rainbow and starts becoming her true self too. How will the rest of the flock react?

Find out in *The Rainbow Sheep*, a humorous story by cartoonist David Hayward.



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David Hayward, who draws and writes as @NakedPastor, reaches wide audiences with fanciful and hard-hitting cartoons about spiritual abuse, the church's exclusion of LGBTQ+ people, feminism, and faith and doubt. With degrees from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and McGill University in Montreal, Hayward served as a pastor for most of his career, but in 2010 he left the professional paid clergy to pursue his passion for spirituality, community, and art. His cartoons and artwork have found their way all around the world. David and his wife live near Saint John, New Brunswick.

HUCK AND LOONA

Emily Kilgore, illustrated by Florence Weiser

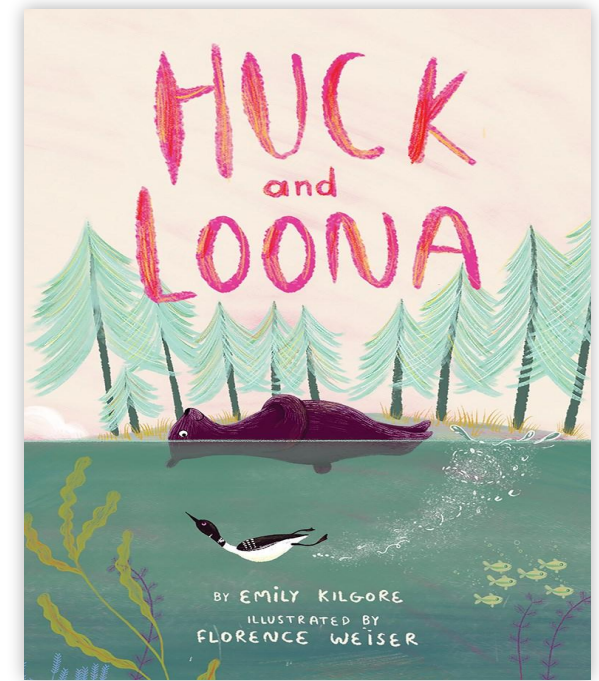
Beaming Books, October 2024

Best friends Huck the bear and Loona the loon do everything together--until they don't. Preserving their friendship will take creative thinking for this lovable pair in the Northwoods.

A story about friendship, conflict, and finding a path forward after disagreement.

Huck and Loona love spending time together in the Great Northwoods. From cloud-watching to fishing, the two want to do everything together. When they realize they sometimes want to do different things or that there are some activities the other simply cannot do, they worry that their friendship is over.

With themes of friendship, individuality, compromise, and grace, *Huck and Loona* equips children to embrace their uniqueness and communicate with others for healthy relationships that help them grow and thrive.



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Emily Kilgore is an educator and writer of picture books. She strives to share books that bring people together. She is also the author of *The Whatifs*, *The Iheards*, and *The Christmas Book Flood*. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband, their son, and their kitty.

Florence Weiser is a French illustrator based in Belgium. She grew up in Luxembourg and studied illustration in Brussels, followed by specialized studies in graphics and web design in Paris. She has illustrated numerous children's books for publishers around the world.

PING'S PERFECT POT

Helen H. Wu, illustrated by Zihua Yang

Beaming Books, January 2025

"Her [Ping's] embrace of all aspects of the creative process makes for a delightful holiday tale. A charming story of encouragement, illustrated with life and movement."

—*Kirkus*

"A gentle, relevant holiday story and a welcome addition to Lunar New Year collections."

—*School Library Journal*

An endearing tale about perseverance, the value of practice, and embracing cultural traditions as a young girl attempts to craft the perfect pot for Lunar New Year.

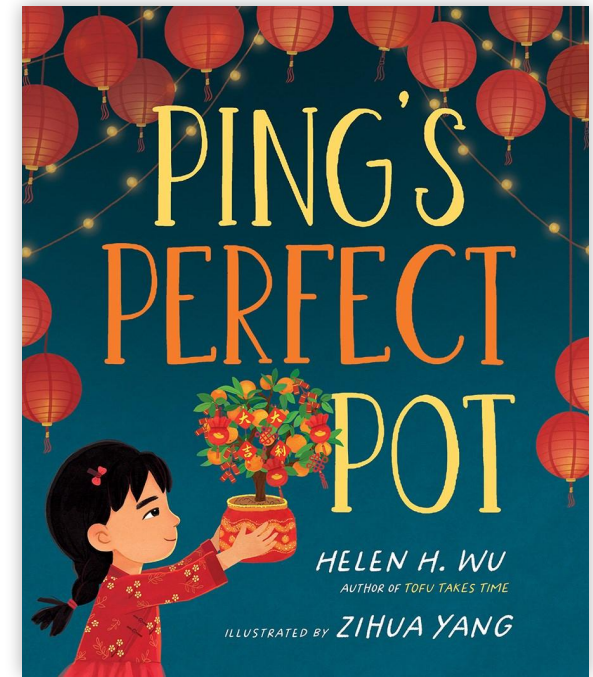
***KNEAD, MUSH, MASH.* Ping molds a pot for Lunar New Year.**

When Ping and Grandpa bring a tangerine tree home for Lunar New Year, Ping decides to make the perfect pot to go with it. But making a pot is hard. With Grandpa's encouragement, she tries again and again to get it just right. The first is too clumsy, the second crumbles, and the third is too flimsy. What if she can't make the perfect pot? Will it ruin the new year?

For anyone feeling discouraged over learning something new, *Ping's Perfect Pot* reminds them not to give up when something isn't immediately easy. Perfection takes practice, patience, and, in the end, the love and effort you put into it. Backmatter provides more context and the deeper meaning of Lunar New Year traditions and symbols found within the story, as well as around the world.

Tofu Takes Time was sold to:

Beijing Cheerful Century (**simplified Chinese**)



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Helen H. Wu is a children's book author, illustrator, translator, and publisher. Helen is the author of *Tofu Takes Time* and *Long Goes to Dragon School*. Fascinated by the differences and similarities between cultures, Helen loves to share stories that empower children to understand the world and our connections. Helen was born and raised in Hefei, China, and now lives in Southern California with her family.

Zihua Yang is a New York-based artist specializing in illustration and storytelling. She started drawing when she was a little girl, always finding ways to express herself creatively. When she's not making art, she's finds inspiration in being with her children, family, and friends.

THE TIDE IS RISING, SO ARE WE!

Shoshana Meira Friedman, illustrated by Kiki Kita

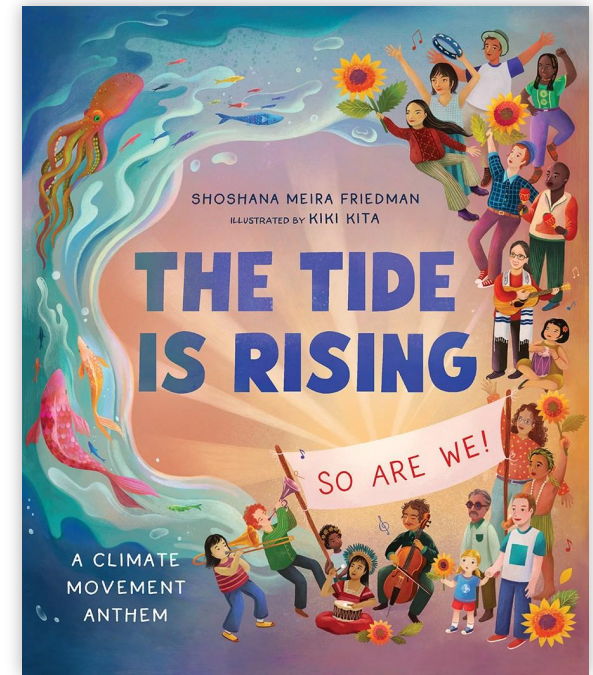
Beaming Books, March 2025

Discover hope and inspiration to join the vibrant climate justice movement through this uplifting picture book in verse with stunning illustrations and an empowering climate anthem.

The Tide Is Rising, So Are We! is an inspiring picture book in verse that invites readers into the sweeping story of the climate justice movement and offers a framework for hope and action. Written by climate activist Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman, this book speaks to readers' spiritual and emotional needs. How do we grieve, organize, and express our love for the world all at once? How do we find our own place in the climate movement at this late hour?

With climate anxiety at an all-time high, this book does not put the solution to the environmental crisis on the child-reader's shoulders. Instead, it tells the story of an already-vibrant movement the child can join in their own way. Readers will discover a sense of interconnection--with the natural world and the millions of people around the globe fighting for a livable planet. Friedman's uplifting text and Kiki Kita's lush illustrations will propel readers to move into action from a place of joy.

This book is an indispensable companion for new and seasoned activists of all ages, and for anyone concerned about the climate crisis. It is based on the song "The Tide Is Rising," a popular climate anthem Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman co-wrote with her husband, Yotam Schachter. Simple sheet music is included in the back matter so readers can learn to sing the original song too. "The Tide Is Rising" has been sung at countless protests, marches, religious conferences and congregations, and community gatherings. From Standing Rock to holding cells in police stations and across at least three continents, "Tide" spreads a message of radical empowerment, devotion, and active hope.



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Shoshana Meira Friedman is a rabbi, coach, writer, and climate activist whose writing has appeared in publications such as the *New York Times*, *YES! Magazine*, and *Rooted & Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019). Her song "The Tide Is Rising," which she co-wrote with her husband Yotam Schachter, has spread widely as a climate justice anthem, and she is recognized as a leading spiritual thinker, inspirational speaker, and activist in the Jewish climate movement. She lives in Boston with her husband and son

Kiki Kita is an illustrator and designer working primarily in editorial, children's books, and portrait illustration. Currently living in Brooklyn, New York, she grew up in Dallas, Texas, and Nagoya, Japan. Kiki is an avid podcast listener, an aspiring baker, and a bookworm. She studied illustration and art history at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Her work has been recognized by *American Illustration* and by the Society of Illustrators West.

BROWN BOYS RULE

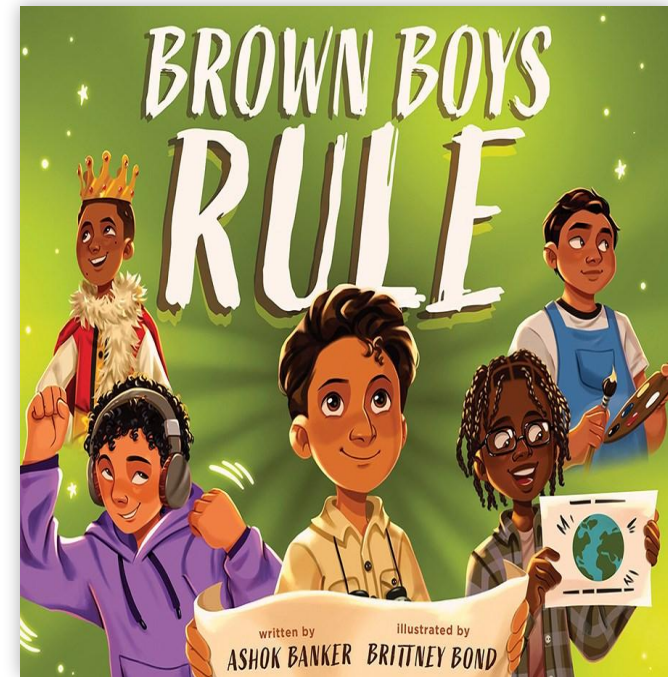
Ashok Banker, illustrated Brittney Bond

Beaming Books, January 2025

From the acclaimed author of *I Am Brown* and *Brown Girls Rule* comes an inspiring love letter and anthem about brown boys and their ability to triumph in whatever they choose to do.

"We are brown. We are handsome. We are excellent."

An inspiring anthem for boys bearing melanin of all kinds, *Brown Boys Rule* centers and celebrates boys of color. Ashok Banker and Brittney Bond bring this uplifting poem to life showcasing the empowering diversity of brown boys as engineers, artists, peaceful protesters, adventurers, kings, and leaders in their communities. One part love letter, two parts battle anthem, this picture book is a powerful reminder for boys of color that they may be kids, but they are strong and tough--as well as joyful and kind.



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Ashok Banker is widely acknowledged for pioneering English-language genre fiction in India, having authored more than eighty books in various categories. As a neurodivergent (AuDHD) and nonbinary writer, they are passionate about inclusivity and representation. Their debut picture book, *I Am Brown*, won the Bank Street College Prize, made the Book Trust Great Books list, and was translated into several languages. They currently live with their family in southern California.

Brittney Bond was born in sunny South Florida to a Jamaican family. She is currently based on the East Coast. A self-taught artist, she works primarily digitally with a passion for using appealing color palettes, intriguing lighting, and a magical and positive aura throughout her illustrations.

PEG GETS PLUCKY

Jo Renfro

Beaming Books, March 2025

"The story serves as a fitting example of just how much little ones are capable of when they stick to it, especially those who struggle with doubt.... A meaningful journey featuring a relatable, adorable protagonist." —*Kirkus Reviews*

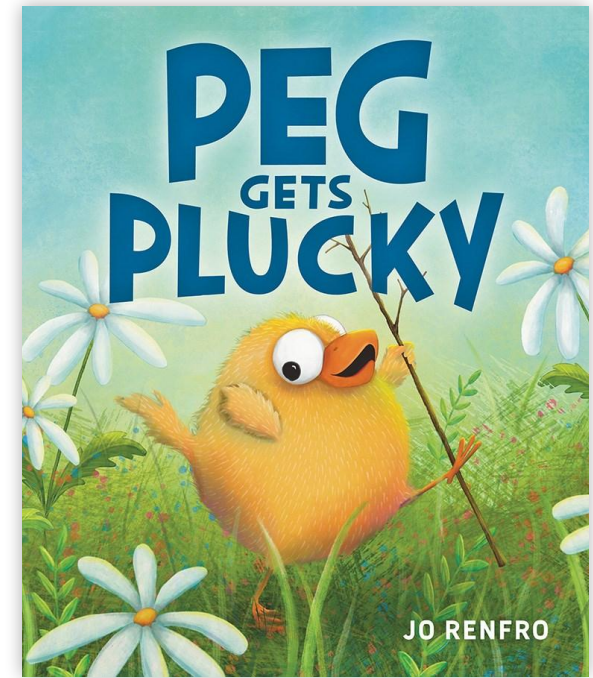
With hilarious barnyard humor and an inspiring "I think I can" message, *Peg Gets Plucky* is an adorable picture book that encourages kids to persevere and find their can-do spirit on any adventure.

"It's foo far! I'm too tired! I'm too smaaaaaallll!"

Peg the chick is bold and ready for adventure. But when she sets off on a hike with the other barnyard animals, she is quickly overwhelmed. Adventures are hard! "I can't do it!" Peg declares. Or can she?

In this follow-up to Jo Renfro's story *Peg Gets Crackin'*, Peg follows in the footsteps of every kid who has ever gone on a hike--or a walk around the block. With a hilarious storytelling voice and adorable illustrations, *Peg Gets Plucky* is perfect for any kid who's wondered if they have what it takes to keep going on an adventure.

Also available: **PEG GETS CRACKIN'**



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Jo Renfro is an author and illustrator based in Colorado. She uses her sense of humor--cultivated from raising three kids, several dogs, numerous cats, and a potbellied pig named Matilda--to create stories that are lighthearted and inspirational. Her picture books include *Peg Gets Crackin'*

PEG GETS CRACKIN'

Jo Renfro

Beaming Books, February 2024

"Peg Gets Crackin'" combines expressive illustrations with a very funny story that gently nudges readers to break out of their shell." *-The Reading Eagle*

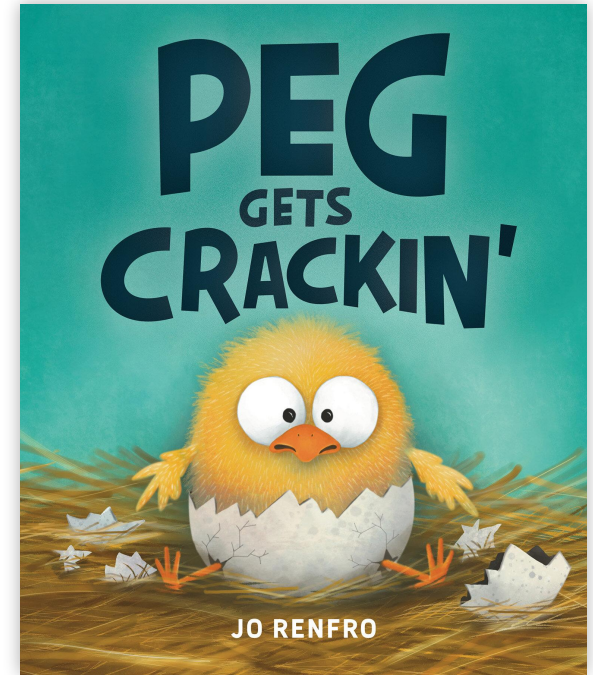
Peg the egg isn't sure about cracking out of her shell into the big, scary world, but maybe being a chicken will actually be pretty great?

Time to get crackin'!

Peg is perfectly content within the safe, contained shell of her egg. While her siblings hatch around her, she imagines all the scary things waiting in the outside world--things that make her happy to stay an egg.

But even Peg must hatch. She grows, and grows, and one day . . . CRACK! Peg takes her first hesitant steps into the big, frightening world and discovers . . . the world isn't so bad after all. In fact, it's actually pretty wonderful!

Bursting with spirit and humor, *Peg Gets Crackin'* is packed with entertaining illustrations and perfect for read-aloud storytime. Young readers will giggle at Peg's antics and resonate with her journey to conquer her fears. You never know what exciting adventures are waiting just outside of your shell!



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Jo Renfro is an author and illustrator based in Colorado. *Peg Gets Crackin'* is her debut picture book.

WE ARE A CLASS

Rob Sanders, illustrated by Hannah Abbo

Beaming Books, July 2024

“Offering warm, embracing assurance that the reader will feel comfortable and safe in a new classroom, it’s a welcoming title for first days and any day.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“An enthusiastically inclusive treatise for kids wondering—or worrying—about what to expect from school.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“A fitting book to set a positive tone for the first day of school, and a fabulous story for homes, classrooms, and libraries.”

—*School Library Journal*

If every class read this inspiring poem celebrating teachers, students, and all the amazing experiences they will have together, the world would be a better place!

A celebratory declaration of what it means to be part of a diverse class of students.

We're movers and shakers. Mammoth change makers. Friends. Learners. Achievement earners.

An icebreaker and friend-maker, *We Are a Class* is an inclusive, aspirational story to be read aloud responsively, collectively, or as spoken-word performance. In rhyming verse, *We Are a Class* is a pledge, a commitment, a promise among the members of a single class and every class.

Perfect for the first day, the 100th day, the final day, and any day of school.

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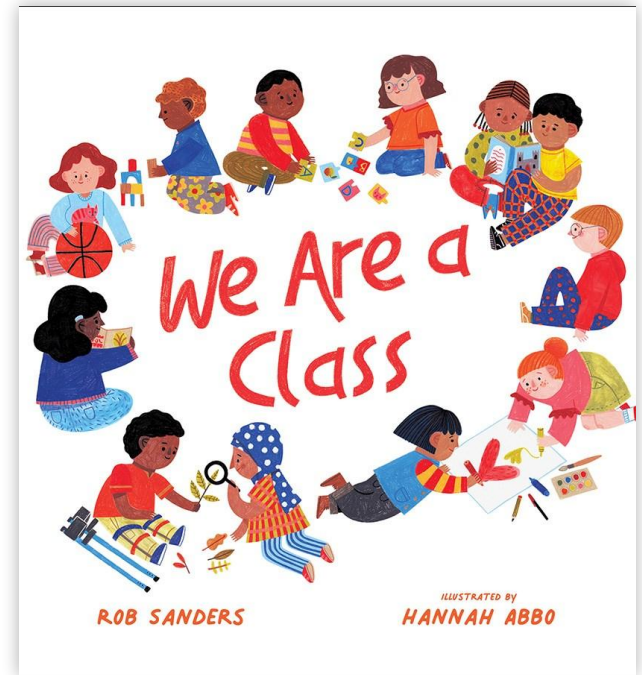
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Rob Sanders is a teacher who writes and a writer who teaches. He is known for his funny and fierce fiction and nonfiction picture books and is recognized as a pioneer in the arena of LGBTQ+ literary nonfiction picture books. He is the author of dozens of picture books, including *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*, *Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights*, and *Stonewall: A Building An Uprising A Revolution*. *Blood Brothers*, his first middle-grade novel, was selected as a 2023 NCTE Notable Novel in Verse. A native of Springfield, Missouri, Rob has lived and worked in Texas, Alabama, and Tennessee. He now lives in Florida and writes books full-time.

Hannah Abbo is an illustrator from the United Kingdom, currently living and working in Lisbon, Portugal. She lives with her partner and child, and their cat. When she's not drawing, she loves making ceramics in a local studio, visiting the botanical gardens, and baking bread.

WINTER SOLSTICE WISH

Kate Allen Fox, illustrated by Elisa Pagnelli

Beaming Books, October 2024

“A bright spot of hope on a day where darkness is dominant.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

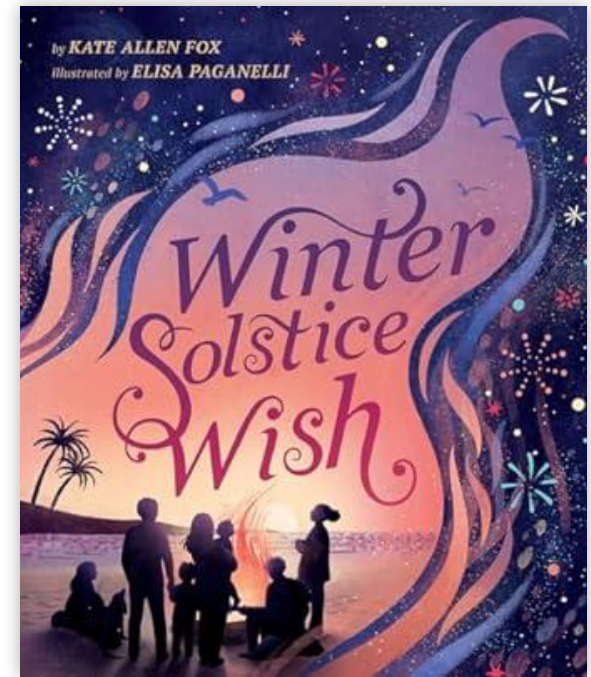
An ode to the shortest day of the year and the hope of renewal, *Winter Solstice Wish* weaves together lush art, scientific concepts, and the intangible longing for connection and togetherness.

On the shortest day of the year, people reach out for light--and one another--in this luminous, lyrical winter solstice story.

Today we stretch the daylight as much as we can, trying to make it last.

On the shortest day of the year, when daylight slips by like sand through one's fingers, people savor the light. As night falls, a community collects driftwood to build a bonfire of hope. *Winter Solstice Wish* is an ode to the winter solstice, human connectedness, and the hope of renewal.

Inspired by winter solstice bonfires built on a San Diego beach near the author's home, *Winter Solstice Wish* combines scientific concepts with the intangible longing for connection and togetherness that people all over the world reach for on the shortest day. Backmatter includes information about global winter solstice celebrations and a brief scientific explanation of what's happening on a solstice.



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Picture Book
Full Color Throughout

Kate Allen Fox is the author of *Pando: The Living Wonder of Trees* and *A Few Beautiful Minutes: Experiencing a Solar Eclipse*. After working in public health, she combined her passions for science and the written word and began writing inspiring nature-based picture books. She lives, hikes, and homeschools in California with her family.

Elisa Pagnelli was born in Italy. After completing artistic studies, she made a career in advertising and has been the founder of a small award-winning design/trade business. She now lives and works in the UK as an illustrator and creative designer, accompanied by her beloved pets. Elisa loves quietness and feels truly at home in nature.

EACH DAY IS A GIFT

Lisl H. Detlefsen, illustrated by Nadia Vasilica

Beaming Books, October 2024

“The tenderly reassuring text will help kids learn to weather storms, secure in the knowledge that better days are around the corner . . . Gentle guidance for life’s inevitable ups and downs.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Whether gifts are surprising or expected, thrilling or practical, or even something you never wanted at all, they all have value.

With a yawn and a stretch, another day is delivered to you.

Each day brings the possibility of new gifts. We welcome some gifts with delight. Others are the kind we’d rather return. Lyrical and explorative, *Each Day Is a Gift* gently reveals how gifts’ purposes are not always clear immediately, and while we can’t choose what gifts we receive, we can choose how to use them.



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Lisl H. Detlefsen is the author of a growing number of picture books, including her most recent title, *Farm Boots*. She lives in a restored farmhouse on a family-owned cranberry marsh near Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, with her husband, two sons, and two cats.

As a child, **Natalia Vasilica** spent most of her time in the countryside, surrounded by fields and farms. She loved to draw the surroundings and capture nature's beauty. Natalia mixes traditional mediums with digital tools to create a unique feeling in her illustrations. Nature, animals, and children are her main inspiration.

MIDDLE GRADE & CHAPTER BOOKS

ALL ABOUT GRIEF

Lora-Ellen McKinney, illustrated by Sophia Touliatou

Beaming Books, April 2024

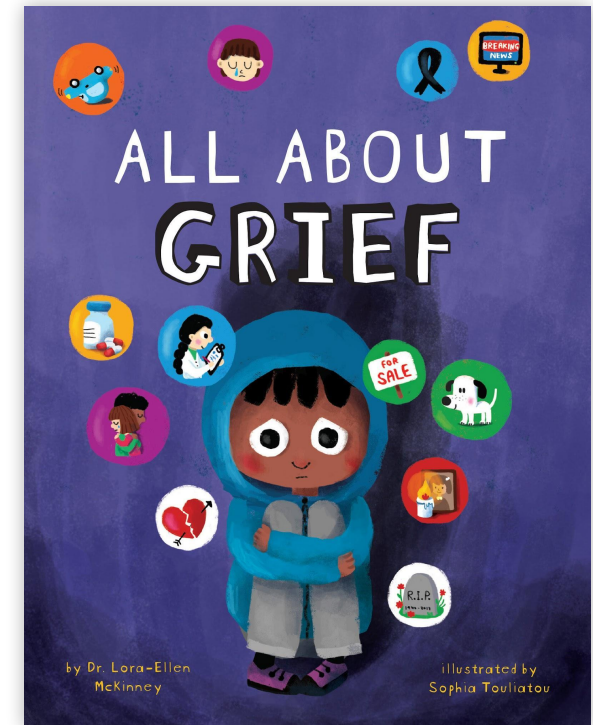
"Nicely supported by the illustrations of Sophia Touliatou, "All About Grief" is thoroughly 'kid friendly' in commentary, style, organization and presentation. *-Midwest Book Review*

As youth mental-health struggles continue to rise, this engaging guide is an important resource for preteens looking to better understand grief and loss, with helpful tools and strategies for navigating grief and moving forward with hope.

What is grief? Where does it come from? Will I ever be OK again?

Grief. It is a normal, natural response to loss. Everyone experiences it in different ways. You can't avoid it. Grief can be hard to understand and difficult to talk about.

Dr. Lora-Ellen McKinney, a psychologist who has worked with children experiencing grief, answers the big questions that surround feelings of loss. This engaging handbook looks at grief from many different angles, examining how it influences our emotions and relationships, our brains and bodies, and our behavior. Preteen readers will get to know when and why we are most likely to grieve, what purpose grief serves, and strategies for healing and finding hope moving forward.



Also available: ALL ABOUT ANXIETY

Rights sold to: Curtea Veche (**Romanian**), Koc University (**Turkish**)

<i>Kaplan/DeFiore Controls:</i>	Translation	<i>Category:</i>	Nonfiction
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<i>Materials:</i>	Layouts		

Dr. Lora-Ellen McKinney is a psychologist who has worked with, researched, and taught about children, families, and supportive or harmful systems. She worked in public health policy, conducting research and writing legislation. Dr. McKinney graduated from Vassar College, the University of Washington, and the Harvard Kennedy School.

Greek-born and Athens based **Sophia Touliatou** has studied Graphic Design and works as an illustrator, doing mostly children books, many of which have gained merits and awards.

FINDING CALM IN NATURE

Jennifer Grant, illustrated by Erin Brown

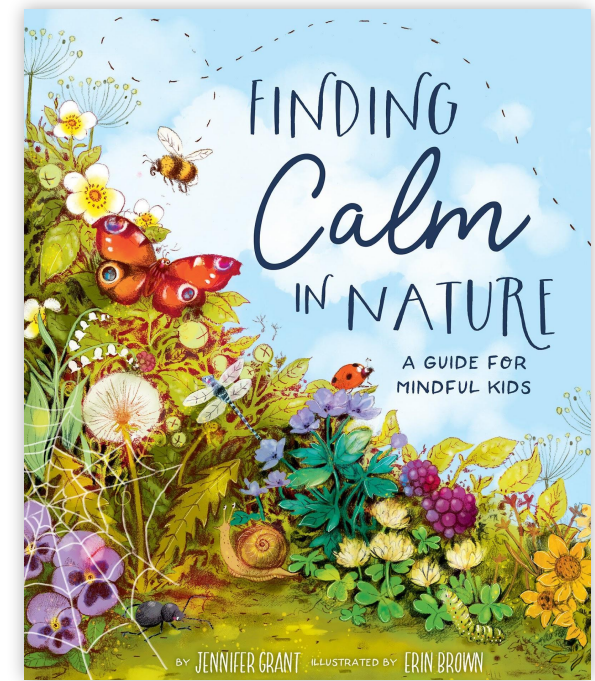
Beaming Books, March 2023

"Let nature be your teacher when your feelings are tangled up in knots."

One way to feel better when we are hurting is to spend time outside. Being in nature is good for both our bodies and our minds.

Each chapter of this practical guide explores a different element of nature and connects it with a mindfulness prompt designed to help kids manage their feelings. From dandelions to spider webs, children will uncover the lessons nature teaches about embracing a growth mindset, the benefits of living in community, and the transformative power of noticing the beauty around them. Breathing exercises, stretching, practicing mindfulness, and keeping a nature notebook are just some of the tools introduced to kids to equip them to navigate their feelings as they spend time outdoors.

Author Jennifer Grant's affirming, kind voice will inspire readers to see the world with fresh eyes--and discover the calm, joy, and wonder waiting just outside their door.



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Jennifer Grant is the award-winning author of picture books for children and books for adults. Her books include *Maybe God Is Like That Too*, *Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too*, and *Dimming the Day*. Grant holds a master's degree in English literature with concentrations in creative writing and critical theory from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. A mother of four, she lives in Chicago with her husband.

Erin Brown is a Northern Irish illustrator who lives on the beautiful island of Jersey. She combines her love for hand-drawn lines with the flexibility of adding color digitally. When she's not working, she can be found exploring the forests and cliff paths of Jersey or down at the seashore.

PAUSE, BREATHE, BE

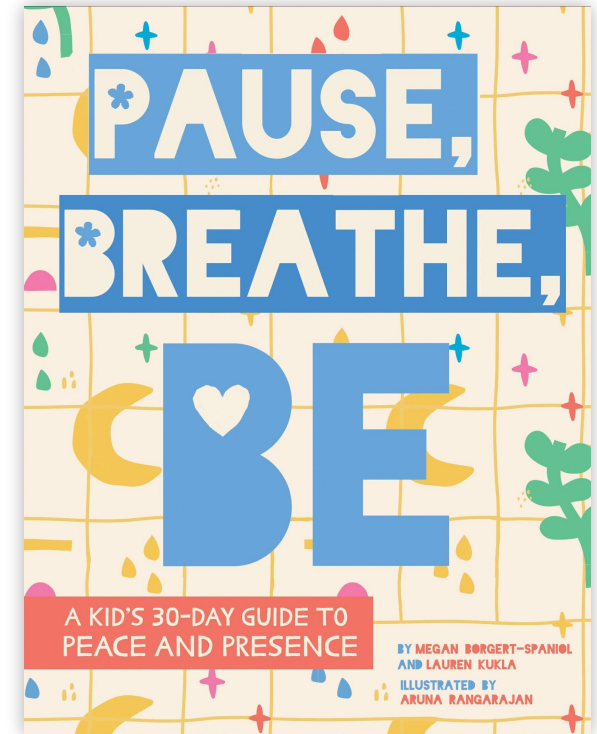
A Kid's 30-Day Guide to Peace and Presence

Megan Borgert-Spaniol and Lauren Kukla

Beaming Books, October 2022

Living a mindful life can be easy—just take it one day at a time.

Building on the popular 30-day movement trends, *Pause, Breathe, Be: A Kid's 30-Day Guide to Peace and Presence* encourages kids to engage in mindfulness through interactive, fun, and easy methods. Daily mantras, exercises, quizzes, and activities help kids achieve a deeper understanding and connection to the world around them while building self-esteem and reducing anxiety. This middle-grade book is organized into three main 10-day sections, exploring oneself, one's environment, and one's relationships. Additional content sprinkled throughout these sections sparks further exploration and discovery, helping young readers incorporate calm, joy, and peace in their lives each day.



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Megan Borgert-Spaniol is an author and editor living in Minneapolis.

Lauren Kukla is an author and editor of books and media for kids. Her favorite kinds of books to write are the ones that make her think. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Aruna Rangarajan is an illustrator who lives with her family in Minneapolis. She loves drawing interesting things, such as mandalas for books about keeping your calm.

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