

KAPLAN/  
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RIGHTS

Kaplan/DeFiore Children's Guide  
Frankfurt Book Fair  
2024

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## PICTURE BOOKS

# WILL AND KRILL

Stacy Byer

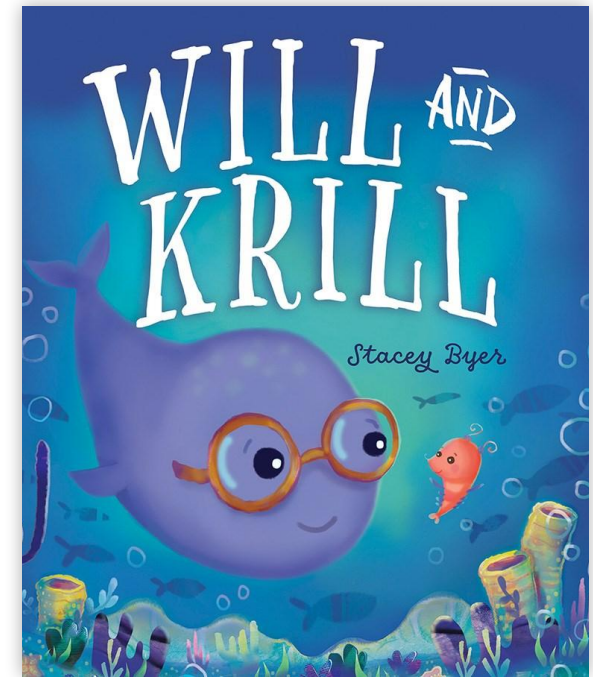
Beaming Books, June 2025

**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 Ringing 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

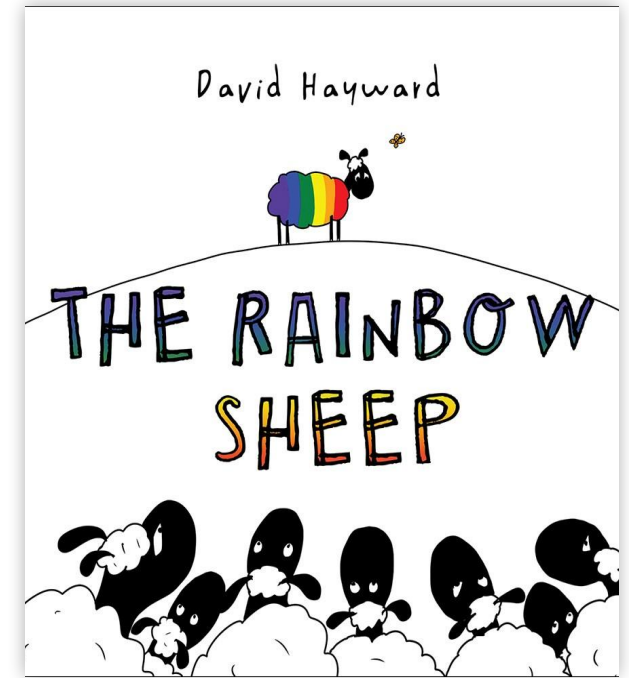
**A delightfully humorous and heartwarming tale that celebrates the joy of being different, self-acceptance, and the power of friendship to challenge conformity.**

**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

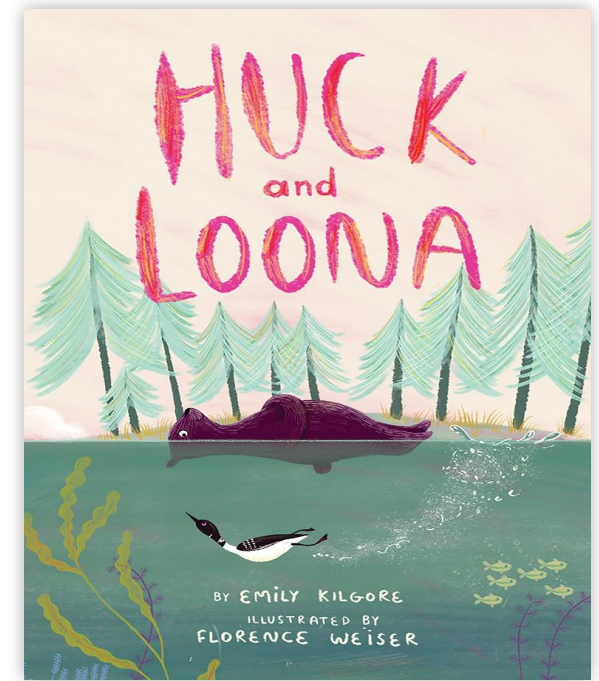
Beaming Books, October 2024

**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 Reviews*

**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.**

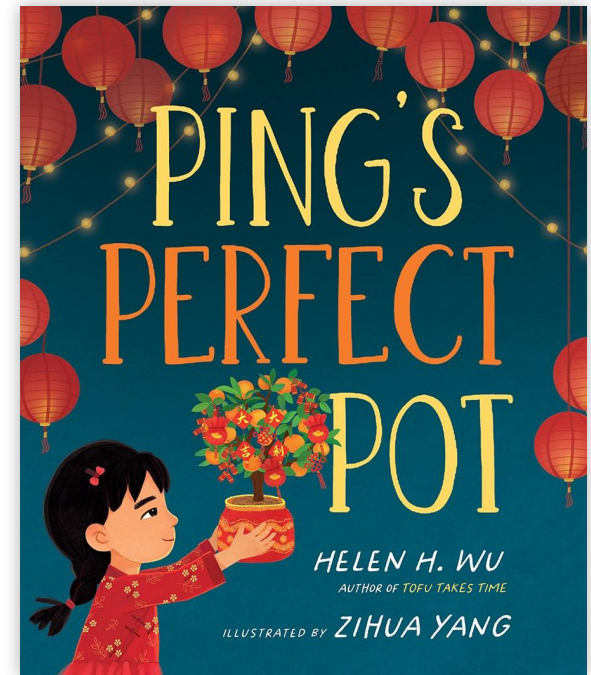
***KNEAD, MUSH, MASH.* Ping molds a pot for Lunar New Year.**

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

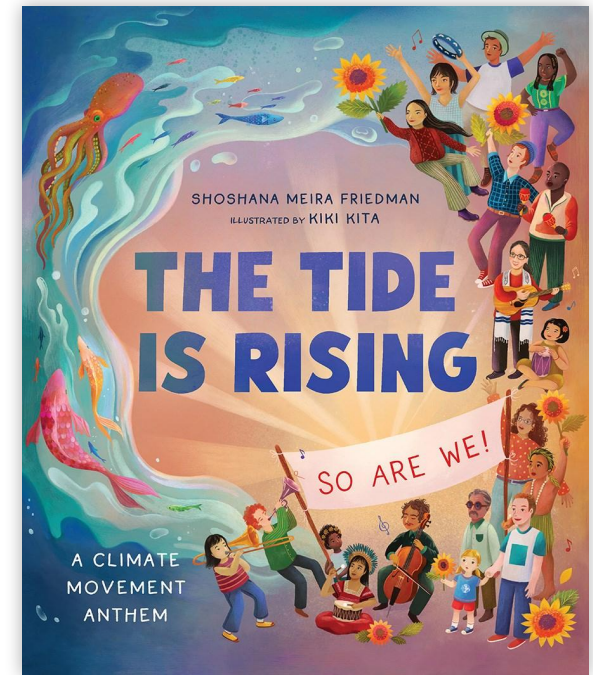
Beaming Books, March 2025

**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.

# PEG GETS PLUCKY

Jo Renfro

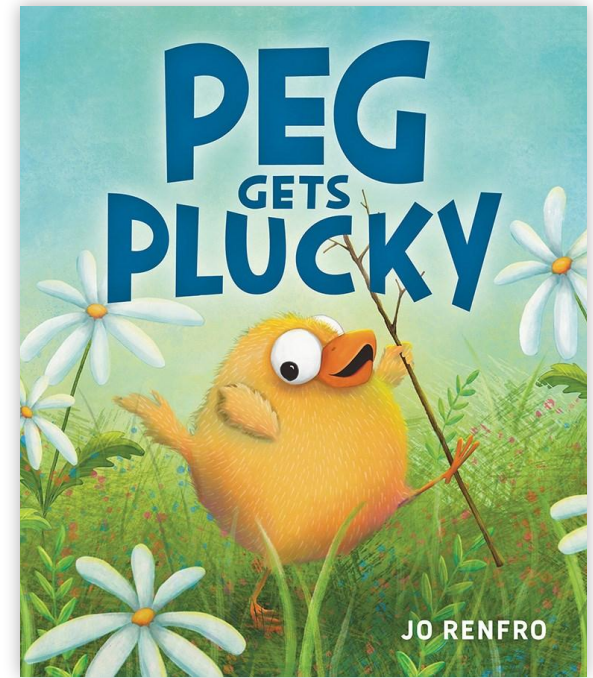
Beaming Books, March 2025

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.



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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*

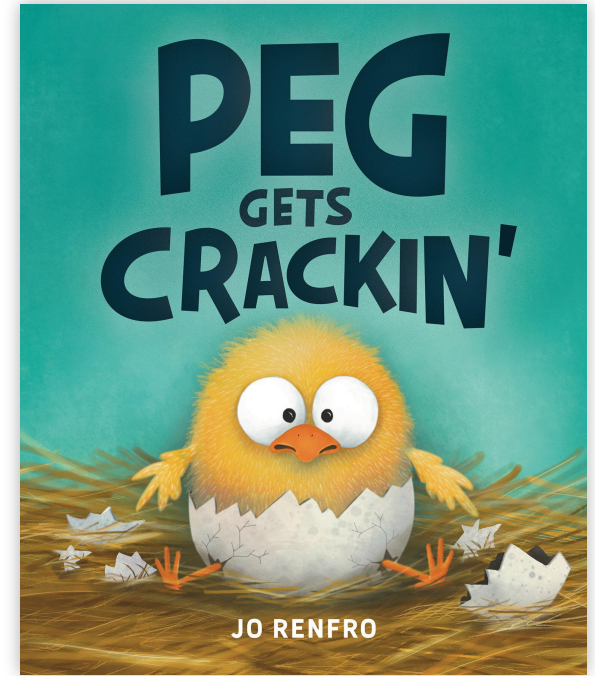
**Peg the egg isn't sure about cracking out of her shell into the big, scary world, but maybe being a chicken will actually be pretty great?**

**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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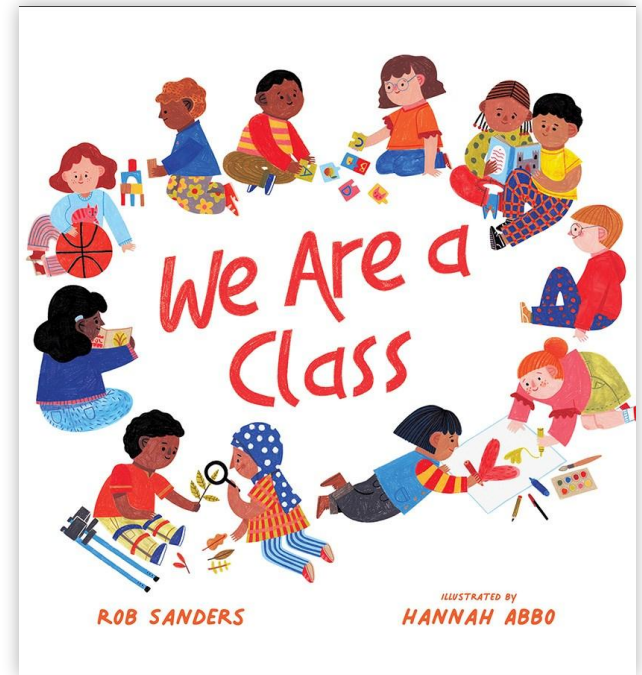
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**Rob Sanders** is a teacher who writes and a writer who teaches. He is known for his funny and fierce fiction and nonfiction picture books and is recognized as a pioneer in the arena of LGBTQ+ literary nonfiction picture books. He is the author of 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.

# THE GHOST WHO WAS AFRAID OF EVERYTHING

Nadia Ahmed

Beaming Books, August 2024

“A sweet, seasonally inspired, social-emotional learning book.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“A poignant exploration of courage and resilience, perfect for young readers navigating their own fears and uncertainties. A valuable addition to any collection focusing on social-emotional development and self-acceptance.” —*School Library Journal*

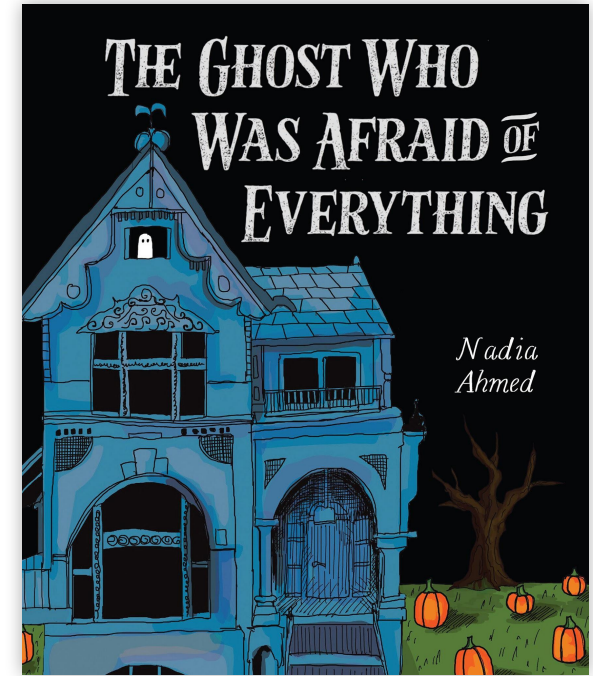
**In the tradition of Lemony Snicket's *The Dark* and Riel Nason's *The Little Ghost Who Was a Quilt*, Finn, a whimsical ghostie - already popular on the author's social media - works through his fears of trick-or-treating.**

If you're a fraidy-ghost, enjoying Halloween is hard!

When Finn is afraid, his stomach swoops, his hands sweat, and he can't move.

Finn, a spooky little ghostie, is too afraid to leave the comfort of his attic to enjoy trick-or-treating with his family. He's afraid of everything--the color orange, trees, people, even flying! But then he realizes that if he wants his favorite Halloween candy, he'll need to overcome his fears. Through incremental exposures to the things he's afraid of, Finn finds courage to do things he enjoys with the people he loves.

Perfect for spooky season, this debut picture book from artist Nadia Ahmed is sure to inspire readers to find the courage to overcome their own fears.



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**Nadia Ahmed** is an artist and author from Naperville, Illinois. She graduated from DePaul University with a BFA in graphic design. Nadia often uses only a black pen to create complex worlds that evoke an eerie nostalgia. *The Ghost Who Was Afraid of Everything* is her debut picture book.

# 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*

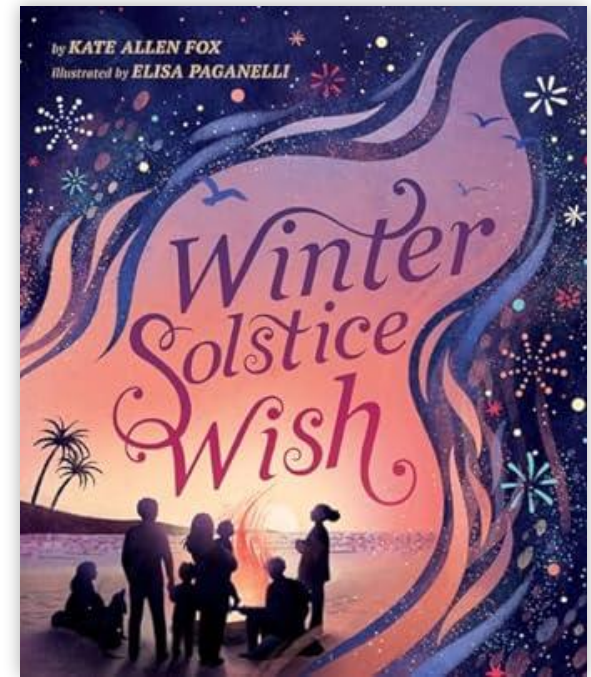
**An ode to the shortest day of the year and the hope of renewal, *Winter Solstice Wish* weaves together lush art, scientific concepts, and the intangible longing for connection and togetherness.**

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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**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.

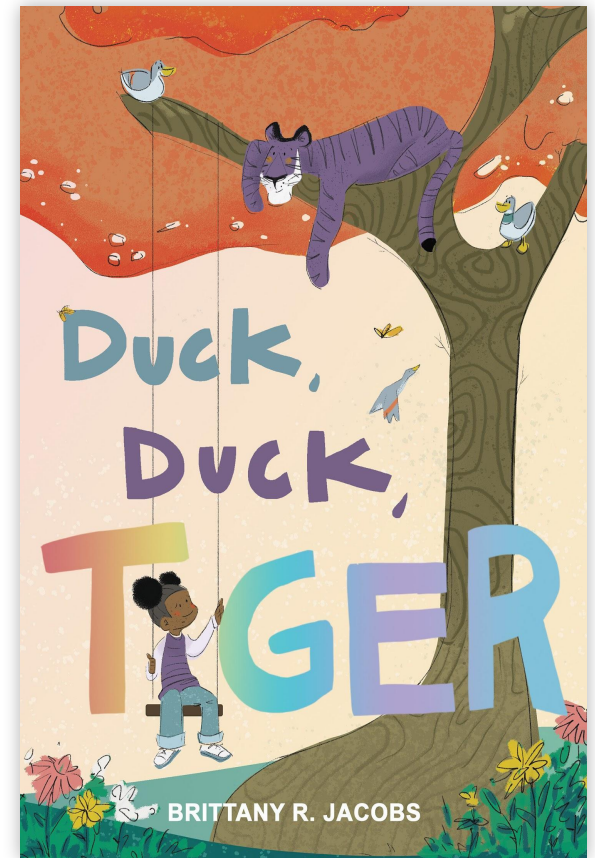
# DUCK, DUCK, TIGER

Brittany R. Jacobs

Beaming Books, May 2023

**An empowering story about finding courage, self-love, and pride in a world where you feel different from those around you.**

Lili has noticed that she's different from everyone around her... like she's a tiger when everyone else seems to be a duck. Should she announce her discovery? She worries that the world doesn't like tigers. What if no one likes tigers? Inspired by the author's childhood and lived experiences, *Duck, Duck, Tiger* is a picture book which explores the difficulties those with marginalized identities face from an early age. Lili's journey from uneasy feelings to understanding and pride will resonate with readers struggling with their own sense of otherness, championing inclusion.



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**Brittany R. Jacobs** spends her days steeped in books at a library in Southwest Iowa. Learning the art of oral storytelling from childhood, she developed a unique voice that she uses as a writer. A self-taught artist who uses a combination of traditional watercolor and digital art, she blends observation and natural curiosity to create fun and unique art.

When not working at the library, writing, or illustrating, she can be found exploring nature with her wife and dogs, chasing her curiosity as far and fast as she can.

# REMEMBERING SUNDAYS WITH GRANDPA

Laura H. Kerstein, illustrated by Nanette Regan

Beaming Books, November 2023

**From acclaimed author Lauren Kerstein comes a sensitively told story about grief, cherishing family memories, and the comforting truth that love lives on forever.**

Henry and his mom feel Grandpa's love in all his special places: in the rocking chair where he read stories with silly voices, in the cucumbers that always made him hiccup, and in the jewelry box he used to wind up so they could dance. As they remember the many loving moments they shared, they work through their grief.

*Remembering Sundays with Grandpa* illustrates how even when someone is no longer part of the physical world, their love lives on forever.



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**Lauren H. Kerstein** is an author and psychotherapist. She is a Jersey girl at heart who currently lives in Colorado with her husband, their daughters, and their rescue dogs. Lauren is the author of *Home for a While*, and the *Rosie the Dragon* and *Charlie* picture book series. She runs #ReVISIONweek and is a member of SCBWI and 12x12.

**Nanette Regan** studied fine arts at the Slade School of Art in London. She lives in Jersey, a tiny island between England and France.

# THE KID WITH BIG, BIG IDEAS

Britney Winn Lee, illustrated by Jacob Souva

Beaming Books, August 2023

From the author of the bestselling *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings* and *The Girl with Big, Big Questions* comes a new book designed to inspire kids to boldly use their voices to change the world.

"There once was a kid with glittery nails

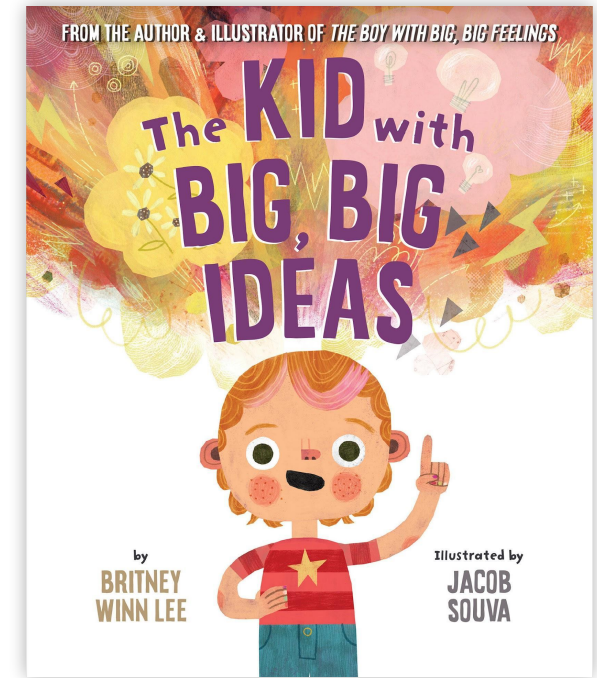
who always wore colorful socks,

and all around town, this child was known

for thinking outside of the box."

Following the bestselling *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings* and *The Girl with Big, Big Questions* comes a new story about a nonbinary kid with ideas so big and wild that grown-ups often dismiss them. What if we could be mermaids and swim to school? What if we could teach pets to talk? What if we could make the world safe and inclusive for everyone?

This innovative kid doesn't stop there, and with the help of their supportive Gram, they come up with the biggest idea yet. In a world that so often dismisses and excludes kids from decision-making, this book boldly suggests that not only should kids have a voice, but that their ideas just might be the ticket to making progress.



**Also available: THE BOY WITH BIG, BIG FEELINGS (Beaming Books, 2019)**

**Rights sold to Sola Publishing (Turkish) and THE GIRL WITH BIG, BIG QUESTIONS**

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**Britney Winn Lee** is a writer as well as a community arts director in Shreveport, LA where she lives with her husband and son. She writes primarily at the intersection of faith and justice, dedicated to good news and full life that are good and full for all.

**Jacob Souva** resides in a small countryside community in upstate New York. He received one of 3 honorable mentions in the portfolio showcase award at the 2020 SCBWI Winter Conference in NYC, and has illustrated 4 books including *Where Do Cowgirls Go Potty*.



# KAIA'S BIG FELINES

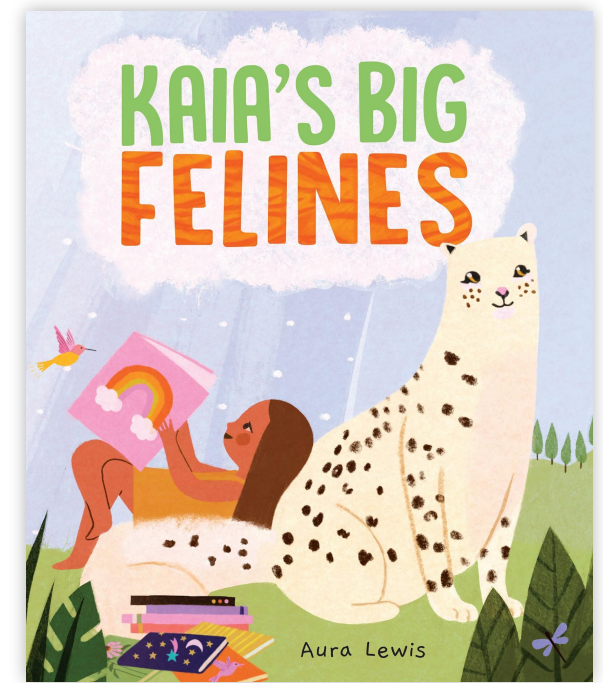
Aura Lewis

Beaming Books, August 2023

**From beloved author and illustrator Aura Lewis comes an entertaining look at emotional intelligence through the traits of different types of cats.**

Kaia experiences all kinds of emotions, and she relates them to various types of cats. Cheetah is fast and fearless, Leopard loves the spotlight, but Tiger has a temper. When Kaia's felines become overwhelming, she takes some time to herself to rest and reset.

An engaging look at emotional intelligence through traits of cats.



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**Aura Lewis** is an author-illustrator and designer with an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She is inspired by fashion from around the world, playful color, vintage design, and popular culture. Aura's works include *Gloria's Voice*, *Spectacular Sisters*, and *The Illustrated Feminist*.

# KIKI KICKS

Jane Yolen and Ariel Stemple, illustrated by John Ledda

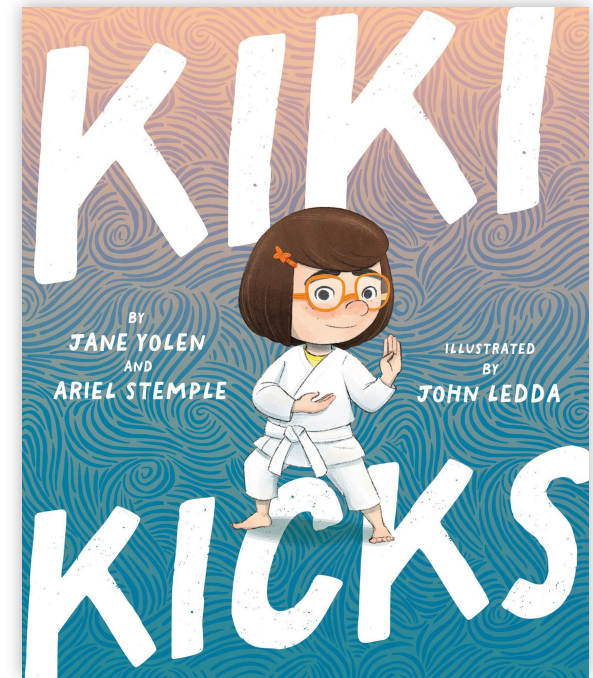
Beaming Books, October 2023

**From legendary, award-winning author Jane Yolen and her karate-practicing grandchild, this engaging story empowers kids to be self-confident, strong, and resilient, despite all obstacles.**

"I want to be strong for the right reasons."

Kiki has watched her mama practice karate for a long time, and now she wants to learn too. She wants to become strong and steady like a mountain. The bullies at school are strong for the wrong reasons. They make Kiki feel small. But today at her first karate lesson, everything changes.

Award-winning author Jane Yolen joins forces with debut author Ariel Stemple in this picture book inspired by Stemple's own childhood experience of learning martial arts after experiencing bullying at school. This lyrical story of self-empowerment at a martial arts studio is woven around the poetic lines of Yolen's well-known poem "Karate Kid," used by educators and librarians for decades. Backmatter includes information about different karate stances and a note about how martial arts can instill confidence and strength in children.



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Picture Book

Full Color Throughout

**Jane Yolen** is the author of well over 400 published books, including the Caldecott-winning *Owl Moon*, and the multimillion bestselling *How Do Dinosaurs* series, plus novels, short story collections, poetry collections, and many picture books. Her multiple awards include Nebulas, World Fantasy, three Christopher Medal awards, the Kerlan Award, the Jewish Book Award, the Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award, as well as being named Grand Master by three major writing organizations: Science Fictions Writers of America, the World Fantasy Association, and the Science Fiction Poetry Association. She has six honorary doctorates from colleges and universities. She teaches writing, sends out a poem a day to subscribers, and at eighty-three, got remarried to an old college boyfriend who is a poet himself.

**Ariel Stemple** is an author from Minneapolis, Minnesota, with a bachelor of fine arts degree from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. They come from a family of writers, including Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple. They trained in a martial arts style called wu chien pai for ten years. *Kiki Kicks* is their debut picture book.

**John Ledda** was born and raised in southeast Michigan. He moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to pursue his MFA at the Academy of Art University. He is the illustrator of *Kiki Kicks* by Jane Yolen and Ariel Stemple, *Big Bear Was Not the Same* by Joanna Rowland, and other titles.

# IF MY HAIR HAD A VOICE

Dana Marie Miroballi, illustrated by Patricia Grannum

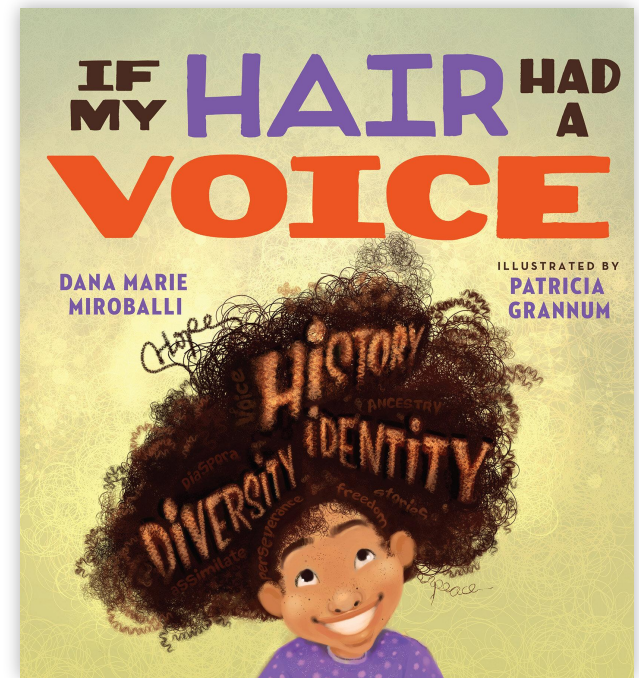
Beaming Books, May 2024

"A fun and informative read from start to finish." *-Midwest Book Review*

**An uplifting and empowering anthem celebrating the beauty and rich cultural history of Black hair**

"If your hair had a voice, it would sing of diversity and identity. It would tell you stories of our history."

An ode to loving your hair and your culture, *If My Hair Had A Voice* follows a young Black girl as she grows from being disappointed in her natural hair to developing an amazed appreciation for the long history of Black hair. From blossoming floral motifs in celebration of spring to intricate braided codes for spreading revolutionary messages, she discovers that Black hair goes beyond simple adornment--it tells the story of a rich cultural history filled with diversity, resistance, artistry, and, of course, beauty. Backmatter explores the history of each hairstyle featured in the book.



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**Dana Marie Miroballi** is a biracial teacher turned speech-language pathologist writing books for young readers. She grew up in Germany, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan, and now lives in Chicago with her husband and children.

Illustrating from her home in Trinidad and Tobago, **Patricia Grannum's** work is fueled by a passion for ensuring that children of color see themselves in the books they read. Her art reflects the cultural vibrancy of her Caribbean upbringing, with a focus on conveying a sense of wonder in the books she illustrates.

# SEARCHING FOR HOME

Chantal Bourgonje

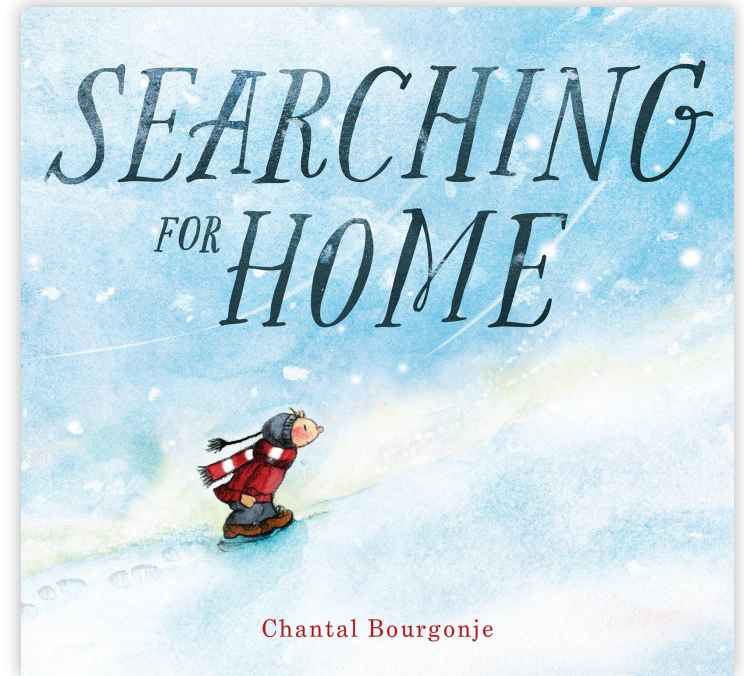
Beaming Books, January 2024

**When Noa the wood sprite cannot find friends in his home, he embarks on an adventure to discover that home is being with those you care about and who care about you.**

**Noa is an excellent finder. But he can't seem to find any friends.**

Noa the house-sprite likes his home . . . but it doesn't have any friends in it. Determined to change that, Noa sets out on an adventure to find a home with friends. Along the way, he meets Bear, Ferret, and Wolf. Together they face daunting dangers and witness breathtaking beauty, all in search of a new home . . . until they come to realize that maybe the real home is the friendships they made along the way.

The timeless message and whimsical art of *Searching for Home* make this the perfect gift book for folktale enthusiasts and fairy tale lovers. Young readers will resonate with Noa's hunt for true friendship and might just be inspired to go on an adventure or two of their own. Oftentimes, rich friendships are waiting just around the corner.



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**Chantal Bourgonje** is a Dutch creator of picture books, living in the United Kingdom. She illustrated two books in the *Worzel Wooface* series and three books in the *Horace and Nim* series, and is the creator of her own stories, including *Fierce Grey Mouse*.

# MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS

Christine Van Zandt, illustrated by Alejandra Barajas

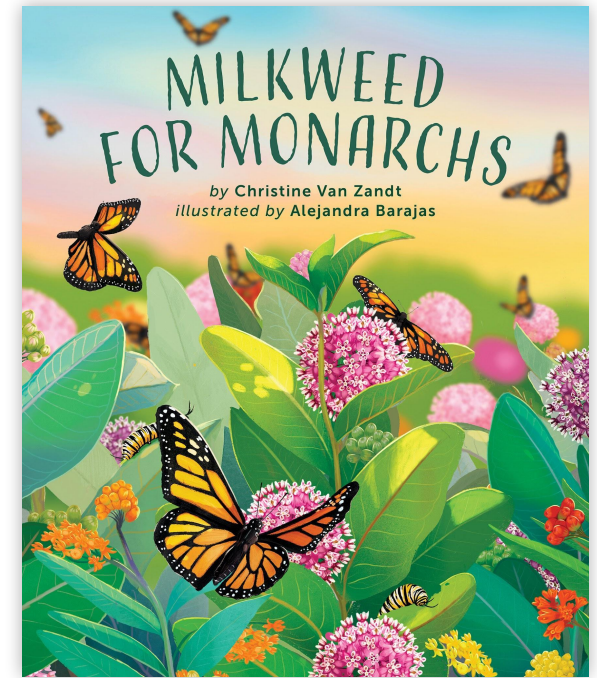
Beaming Books, February 2024

**This stunning, lyrical nonfiction picture book offers a close look at the life cycle of the beloved, endangered monarch butterfly, as well as a call to action to care for our planet.**

Bold, gold, the chrysalis gleams. And deep down inside . . . the butterfly dreams.

Every year, monarch butterflies migrate to warmer climates for overwintering months. However, changing environments make it continually more difficult to find food and places to lay eggs. In this nonfiction picture book, the monarch's life cycle is detailed in lyrical verse as stunning art accompanies each stage in the butterfly's life.

The most recognizable butterfly, monarchs are classified as an endangered species by the IUCN, and face drastic challenges when it comes to locating food sources--milkweed. *Milkweed for Monarchs* is the perfect resource for young readers to learn more about these beautiful insects and how they can foster monarch-friendly environments in their own backyard. Backmatter includes actionable ways for readers to help this vulnerable species.



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Picture Book, Nonfiction

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**Christine Van Zandt** is an editor, writer, and award-winning author. Her books include the funny nonfiction picture book *A Brief History of Underpants*. She lives in Los Angeles, California, with her family.

**Alejandra Barajas** was born in Guanajuato, Mexico. She completed her degree in fine arts at Guanajuato University and has been illustrating magazines and children's books ever since, including *A Costume for Charly*.

# MARA HEARS IN STYLE

Terri Clemmons, illustrated by Lucy Rogers

Beaming Books, February 2024

“Accessible and engaging, *Mara Hears in Style* will encourage readers to respect hearing differences and inspire kids who worry about making new friends. The book is filled with American Sign Language depictions—including a full alphabet spread—so readers can sign alongside Mara as they discover new ways to bridge communication gaps in their own communities.” – *School Library Journal*

**From When Mara's classmates keep asking about the hearing aids she is wearing, she finds a way to connect with them without using words.**

**Mara takes on the world with her flashy purple hearing aids and sassy, hot pink earmolds.**

Mara's first day at her new school is filled with ups and downs surrounding her hearing aids: her teacher doesn't remember to turn on her microphone, the lunchroom is too chaotic for lip-reading, and she keeps reading the same question over and over on her classmates' lips: "What's in her ears?" After a morning spent navigating these challenges, Mara makes a connection on the playground and finds that her hearing aid superpowers are perfect for making new friends.

Accessible and engaging, *Mara Hears in Style* will encourage readers to respect hearing differences and inspire kids who worry about making new friends. The book is filled with American Sign Language depictions--including a full alphabet spread--so readers can sign alongside Mara as they discover new ways to bridge communication gaps in their own communities.



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**Terri Clemmons** writes picture books and middle-grade novels. She previously taught elementary school for twenty-five years. Clemmons lives with her family in Illinois.

**Lucy Rogers** is an award-winning illustrator based in England. Prior to graduating with a BA Honors degree in illustration at Falmouth University, she was shortlisted for the Penguin Student Design Award of 2019. Lucy, who is deaf, has led a series of illustration workshops for young deaf people at the National Deaf Children's Society and at the Deaf Academy.

# SOMETIMES I AM HOT LAVA

Jody Jensen Shaffer, illustrated by Amélie Videlo

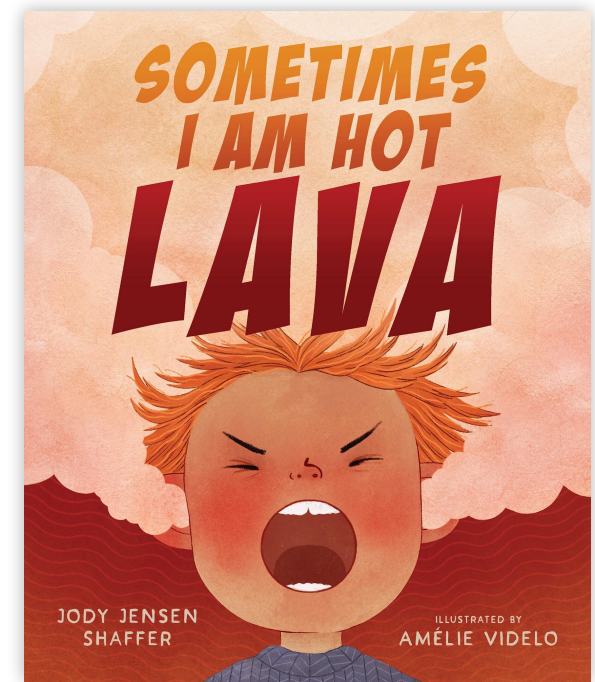
Beaming Books, April 2024

**Buddy is an ordinary kid who sometimes erupts like a volcano! Can he learn new ways to manage his anger and frustration?**

**Sometimes when I get mad . . . Bubble . . . Boil . . . Erupt!**

Most of the time, Buddy is a regular kid. He has ups and downs. But when things don't go his way, he can feel the magma bubble and boil inside of him until he erupts like a volcano. Fortunately, he knows a few ways to return to feeling as calm and cool as igneous rock.

*Sometimes I Am Hot Lava* shows kids like Buddy how to manage feelings of anger and frustration through mindful breathing techniques. Backmatter teaches readers about anger and helps us identify what we're feeling, why we're feeling it, and what we can do about it.



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**Jody Jensen Shaffer** is an award-winning poet and the author of more than seventy books of fiction and nonfiction for children. After twelve years in corporate education, Jody left to raise her kids and fell in love with children's literature. When she's not writing, she loves spending time with her family, walking her rescue dog, Sophie, and being outside in nature.

**Amélie Videlo** is a French/Mauritian illustrator based in the UK. Family and nostalgia from her childhood inspire her the most. She loves making pictures full of rich flora and playful characters with mediums such as gouache, acrylic, crayons, and digital painting.

# WHAT ARE YOU, LOU?

Danielle Herzog, illustrated by Jestenia Southerland

Beaming Books, May 2024

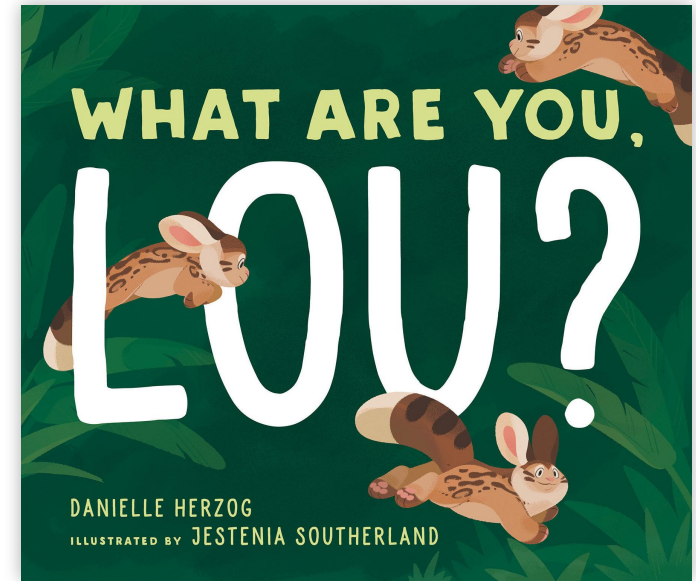
Written by a school counselor, this affirming picture book inspires kids to embrace their uniqueness and celebrate being unapologetically exactly who they are.

Your identity is more than just one word or label.

When Lou, a fluffy-tailed, giant-eared, colorful animal, is asked by the other animals to define himself, he isn't able to give a one-word answer. Lou isn't a lemur. Or a snake. Or an armadillo. Lonely and confused, Lou runs away from that dreaded, repetitive question: "What are you, Lou?" But when his atypical traits save him during a frightening encounter in the jungle, Lou realizes he doesn't need to fit into one box. He's Lou, and that's what matters most.

Inclusive and affirming, What Are You, Lou? champions diverse identities and encourages readers to embrace the unique mark they leave on the world. Lou's journey to self-acceptance will resonate with readers whose identities lie outside of society's supposed norms. This book celebrates standing out in a world that is constantly trying to box us in.

Backmatter from an established writer and school counselor provides resources for navigating questions of identity with the child in your life.



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**Danielle Herzog** is an elementary school counselor, a writer, speaker, television correspondent, and mother. Her writing has been featured in The Washington Post, The Chicago Tribune, Parenting, The Huffington Post, Mamalode, AOL, What to Expect, and Nickelodeon, as well as other national and local publications.



## **MIDDLE GRADE & CHAPTER BOOKS**

# ALL ABOUT GRIEF

Lora-Ellen McKinney, illustrated by Sophia Touliatou

Beaming Books, April 2024

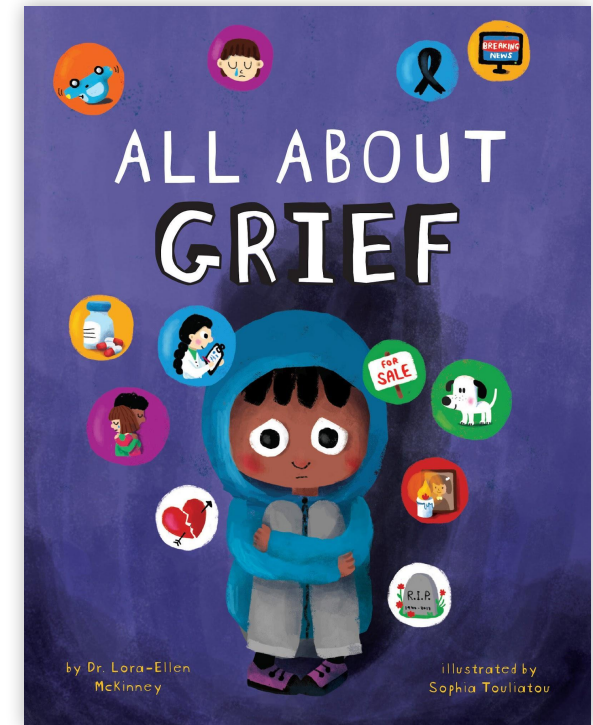
"Nicely supported by the illustrations of Sophia Touliatou, "All About Grief" is thoroughly 'kid friendly' in commentary, style, organization and presentation. *–Midwest Book Review*

**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

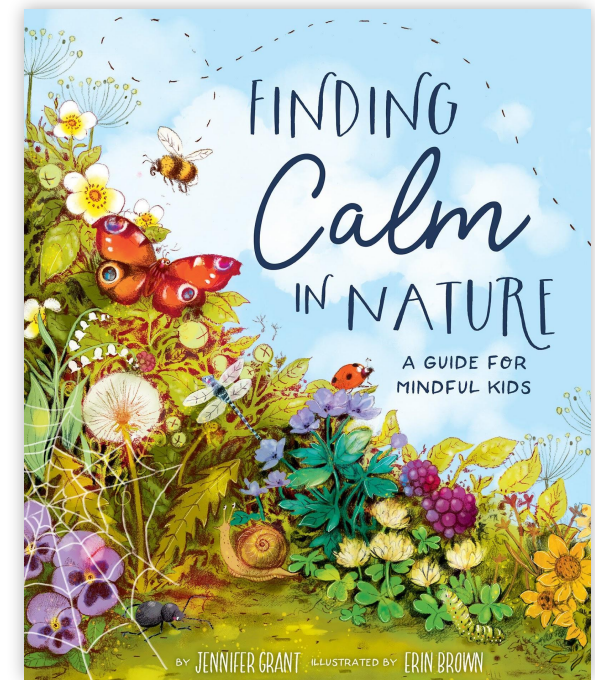
Beaming Books, March 2023

**"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.

# INFINITY RAINBOW CLUB: CONNOR AND THE TAEKWONDO TOURNAMENT

The Infinity Rainbow Club #3

Jen Malia, illustrated by Peter Francis

Beaming Books, March 2024

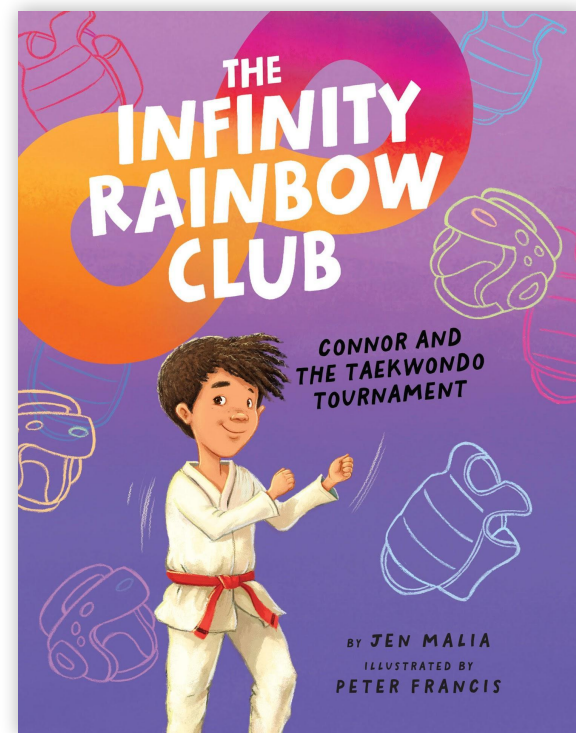
From the Infinity Rainbow Club series comes a new story about rivalry, Taekwondo, and the power of friendship to help us through difficult moments.

*Perseverance, thought Connor. To not give up even when it is hard to keep going.*

Connor loves practicing taekwondo at his dojang. Having ADHD means he has to work a little harder to keep his focus during sparring sessions, but that doesn't stop him from mastering new forms and rising through the taekwondo ranks. However, when Wyatt--Connor's nemesis--starts training at the same dojang, staying focused suddenly becomes a lot harder. Can Connor persevere and find his focus in time for the big tournament?

Written by a neurodivergent author with three neurodivergent children, *Connor and the Taekwondo Tournament* meets a longstanding need for chapter books written from the perspectives of kids with ADHD and is the perfect addition to any young reader's shelf.

The Infinity Rainbow Club is a chapter book series featuring five neurodivergent children in a club at their elementary school. The club provides a safe space for stims and different communication styles to be accepted and celebrated.



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**Jen Malia** is a professor of English and the creative writing coordinator at Norfolk State University. Originally from Pittsburgh, Jen currently lives in Virginia Beach with her husband and three kids. Jen has written for the New York Times, the Washington Post, New York Magazine, Woman's Day, Glamour, Self, and others. Jen is the author of Too Sticky! Sensory Issues with Autism as well as the Infinity Rainbow Club series. Jen was diagnosed with ASD in her late thirties and has three neurodivergent kids with different combinations of ASD, ADHD, OCD, dyslexia, and dysgraphia.

**Peter Francis** has created illustrations for children's books for over twenty years. He lives in England.

# INFINITY RAINBOW CLUB: VIOLET AND THE JURASSIC LAND EXHIBIT

The Infinity Rainbow Club #2

Jen Malia, illustrated by Peter Francis

Beaming Books, March 2024

**An engaging story about Violet, who is struggling to trust her work on the augmented reality exhibit, told from the perspective of a child with obsessive-compulsive disorder.**

The Infinity Rainbow Club is volunteering at the local natural history museum where Violet's parents work. Violet loves setting up the new augmented reality exhibit, but she worries that something will go wrong. Her OCD has her repeatedly checking for errors. Can Violet find a way to trust her work and enjoy the exhibit?



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# NICK AND THE BRICK BUILDER CHALLENGE

The Infinity Rainbow Club #1

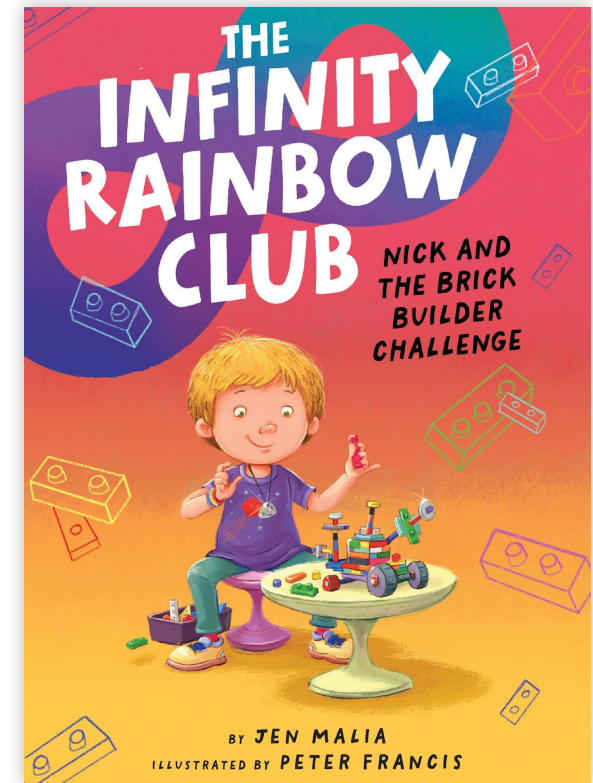
Jen Malia, illustrated by Peter Francis

Beaming Books, September 2023

**An engaging, relatable story about the struggle of learning to work as a team with other kids, told from the perspective of a neurodivergent child.**

When the Infinity Rainbow Club at school competes in a brick builder challenge, Nick can't wait to participate! Until he learns he must have a partner--the new girl. Nick wants to work alone. But to win, he'll have to figure out how to be part of a team.

A story about the universal struggle of learning to work together on a team, told from the perspective of an autistic child.



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**Peter Francis** has created illustrations for children's books for over twenty years. He lives in England.

# PAUSE, BREATHE, BE

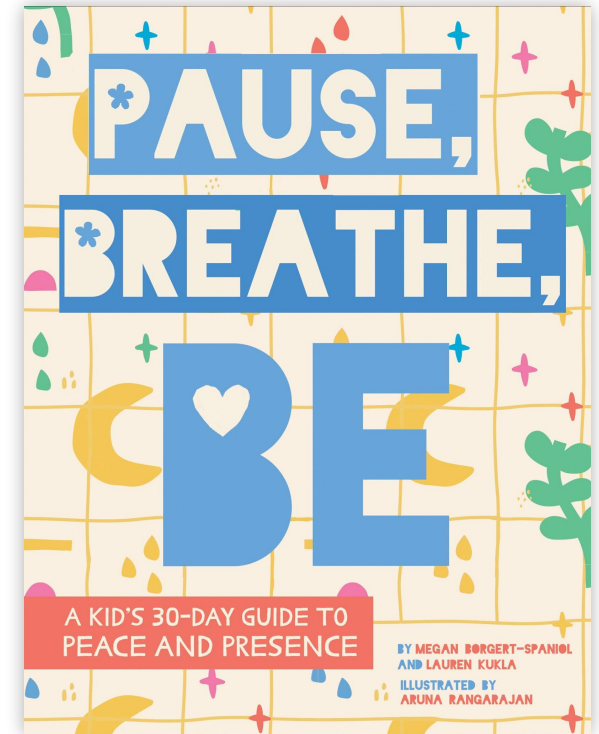
A Kid's 30-Day Guide to Peace and Presence

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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Full Color Throughout

**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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