

THE GREEN ISSUE

A writing magazine

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Issue 11 Spring 2023

For the young, and the young at heart

DON'T MISS

BOOK REVIEWS
QUIZZES
WRITING PROMPTS
& MORE
INSIDE

AUTHOR INTERVIEWS

with

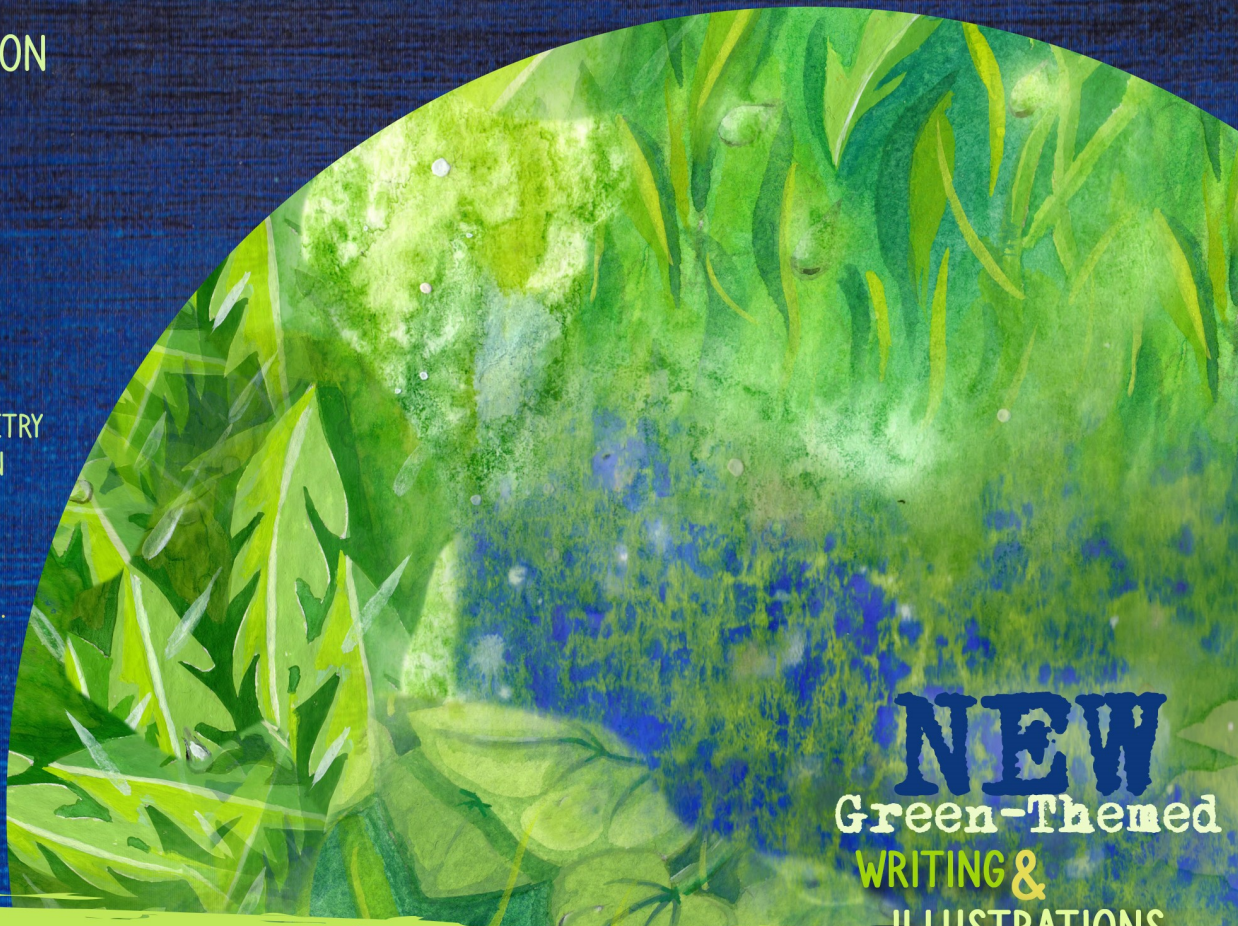
LIZ FLANAGAN
SOPHIE JO
DAISY MAY JOHNSON
OISÍN MCGANN

PLUS

WRITING INSPIRATION AND
ANIMAL MAGIC FROM
SIMONE GREENWOOD

TOP TIPS ON WRITING POETRY
FROM STEPHANIE HENSON

AND A SNEAK PEEK FROM
ROBERT SCHECHTER'S
NEW POETRY COLLECTION.
*THE RED EAR BLOWS
ITS NOSE*



NEW
Green-Themed
WRITING &
ILLUSTRATIONS

From

ELENORE BYRNE	SINÉAD CALLANAN	CARMEN CARREIRA
CATHERINE CAWLEY	SARAH DOLLAR	KIM DE HAAN
EMMA FINLAYSON-PALMER	CLAIRE LEWIS	REBECCA GARDYN LEVINGTON
		JOSEPH WITCHALL

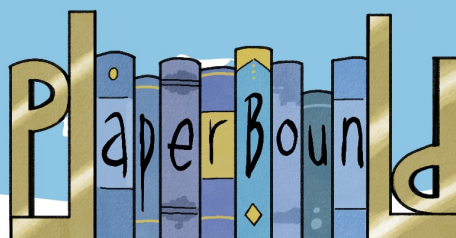
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(CREATE ART FOR US: WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ARTWORK TO DECORATE EACH ISSUE. (CHECK OUT OUR SUBMISSION GUIDELINES TO SEE WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR.

BE INTERVIEWED BY US: IF YOU'RE AN AUTHOR OF MG OR YA FICTION, AND HAVE A BOOK COMING OUT, WE WANT TO KNOW! GET IN TOUCH!

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Find out more about our fantastic cover
illustrator, Claire Lewis, on page 62

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PaperBound Magazine is a quarterly online
magazine for the young, and the young at heart.
It is dedicated to showcasing authors and illus-
trators of children's and young adult fiction. It
strives to deliver inspiring content, new and
exciting writing, book recommendations and
top tips for aspiring young writers. PaperBound
has been created by Emily, Lucy and Rayan who
met while studying an MA in Writing for
Young People at Bath Spa University.

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Letter from the editors

Spring 2023

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our 11th issue! We hope you enjoy our 'GREEN' special, full
of writing and illustrations, author interviews, inspiring articles, book
reviews, and more.

Huge thanks to all of our contributors, and to the publishers and publicists
who help put us in touch with the fantastic authors and books you see
featured every issue. We couldn't do any of it without your help.

If you'd like to be a part of a future issue, please get in touch. We're always
on the look out for new writing and illustrations as well as interviews,
articles and book reviews. Our summer 2023 theme is PAST AND
FUTURE. Check out our website for more details.

We hope you enjoy the SPRING issue!

Happy reading!

Emily, Lucy and Rayan

If you would like to contribute to a future issue, tell us what you thought of this
one, or contact us about anything else, we'd love to hear from you.

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Contents

Spring 2023

Once downloaded,
this contents page is
interactive. To jump
to a page just click
on the article you
want to read.

Interviews

8 Daisy May Johnson

Author of *How To Be True*, **Daisy May Johnson**, talks to us about her books and writing.

16 Oisín McGann

We chatted to **Oisín McGann** all about his new book, *A Short, Hopeful Guide to Climate Change*.

30 Liz Flanagan

Liz Flanagan spoke to us about the inspiration behind her new novel, *Wildsmith: Into the Dark Forest*.

60 Sophie Jo

Read all about **Sophie Jo's** writing journey and her recent novel, *The Nicest Girl*.

Special Features

24 Top Tips: Writing Poetry

Top tips from *In The Right Lane* poet **Stephanie Henson**.

27 Sneak Peek - The Red Ear Blows Its Nose

Take a sneak peek at some of the poems inside **Robert Schechter's** new book, *The Red Ear Blows Its Nose*. Illustrated by **S. Federico**.

48 Writing Inspiration: Add Some Animal Magic

Simone Greenwood shares her love of animal stories and some of her own brilliant recommendations.

This contents page has been illustrated by the super-talented

Carmen Carreira

Find out more about Carmen on page 62

New Green-themed Writing & Illustrations

6 Nature's Balm

by **Kim de Haan**

11 The Red

by **Catherine Cawley**

20 Love Letter From the Stars

by **Sarah Dollar**

33 Illustrated Nature Stories

by **Joseph Witchall**

36 Pigment Painting

by **Sinéad Callanan**

46 Where a Green Garden Grows

by **Elenore Byrne**

52 Chickens and a Fresh Start

by **Emma Finlayson-Palmer**

58 There's Magic Here

by **Rebecca Gardyn Levington**

62 Meet the illustrators

Read all about this issue's featured artists and illustrators: **Carmen Carreira, Claire Lewis, Kim de Haan and Joseph Witchall**.

Regular Features

38 Printable Green-themed Writing Prompts

19 Green Bookshelf

This issue's bookshelf is packed full of books with a green theme, perfect for middle grade and young adults. Happy Reading!

41 Book Review Corner

Here you'll be able to find reviews of new releases, those coming soon and reader favourites.

56 QUIZZES

NEW WRITING

NATURE'S BALM

by Kim de Haan



Thoughts thundering,
words thrashing.
Nerves so tightly strung.
Waves crashing,
shushing, hushing.
Salt spray on my tongue.

Wind whips,
sand slips.
Breathing out and in.
Thoughts calm,
nature's balm.
Sunshine warms my skin.

KIM DE HAAN

Kim de Haan is an aspiring picture book author writing on Guringai Land in Sydney, Australia. She writes as much as she can, when she isn't chasing after her kids. She didn't think she could write, but gave it a go...and turns out, of course she can. So can you!

Follow Kim on Instagram: [@kimdehaanauthor](https://www.instagram.com/kimdehaanauthor)





DAISY MAY JOHNSON

WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO CHAT WITH MIDDLE GRADE AUTHOR **DAISY MAY JOHNSON** ABOUT HER RECENT NOVEL, *HOW TO BE TRUE.*

COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR NEW NOVEL, *HOW TO BE TRUE*?

How To Be True is the story of Edie Berger, a fiercely revolutionary twelve-year old French girl. When her parents head off on activist adventures around the world, Edie is sent away to school by her grandmother. The school is meant to turn Edie into a Proper Young Lady but it's much more interesting than that! She learns helicopter maintenance, how to bake the perfect cake, and how to have the time of her absolute life.

When a school trip is scheduled to Paris, and her grandmother invites the school to stay with her in their enormous chateau, Edie has to go home for the first time in a very long

time. But things aren't as she left them – there's a painting to save, a burglar to stop, and secrets about her grandmother's past to discover ...

THE BOOK IS FULL OF ADVENTURE, HEART AND HUMOUR, TOLD THROUGH THE WHIMSICAL VOICE OF GOOD SISTER JUNE, HEADMISTRESS OF EDIE'S SCHOOL. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE THE BOOK IN THIS WAY?

School stories have been around for a long time and, in my day job as a researcher of children's books, I can read things from over 100 years ago that feel like they've been written yesterday. I wanted my books to have a bit of that 'timeless' quality about them and feel like they were being told by somebody sat next to you, wherever or whenever

you were reading them. Plus the thought of them being narrated by a cake-obsessed nun made me laugh and that's ALWAYS a good sign.

EDIE'S PARENTS ARE ACTIVISTS. DID YOU PURPOSELY CHOOSE TO MAKE HER PARENTS ACTIVISTS, AND WHAT DO YOU THINK READERS CAN LEARN FROM THEM (AND EDIE!)?

Eddie makes her first appearance in *How To Be Brave*, my debut, and I knew that I wanted to talk more about her (and that she'd need her own book!). She is from a family of brave and brilliant people who have always tried to stand up for the right things in the world. Making her parents activists was a very deliberate decision.

I think readers can learn about the benefits of using power and privilege for good. Eddie's parents want their privilege to do good things in the world and help other people's lives get better. I also wanted to talk about those who didn't have power or privilege and how they could make a difference in their own little corner of the world. As part of this, I did a lot of reading about young activists such as Greta Thunberg, Autumn Peltier, and Emma Gonzalez to make sure I treated the topic with the respect it deserves. People are amazing!

“ I THINK READERS CAN LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF USING POWER AND PRIVILEGE FOR GOOD. ”

MANY CHAPTERS OF THE BOOK INCLUDE THE WONDERS OF PARIS. DID YOU HAVE TO DO A LOT OF RESEARCH WHEN IT CAME TO GETTING THE SETTING RIGHT?

I did! I knew I had a bit of freedom because: fiction, but I also knew that I wanted a lot of *How To Be True* to be grounded in truth. The only problem was Covid so I had to do a lot of my research at a distance. Google Maps and Google Earth were my friends - I did a lot of street view around the Arc de Triomphe and the Ladurée shop on the Champs Elysées which was very lovely work! I also read a lot of history books about Paris and, in particular, things that focused on women and their stories in the city. I also watched a lot of plant YouTube videos made by people who owned plant shops or talked about urban gardening (and I am SO thankful to them for helping me get the detail right!).

YOU HAVE ALREADY RELEASED THE FANTASTIC BOOK *HOW TO BE BRAVE*. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE YOU ARE WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I am working on a MYSTERIOUS project which I will share more about as soon as I can. I shall give you some clues about it though: it is full of seaside adventure and those hot summer days that you want to last forever... (I've been reading *Swallows and Amazons* as research!).




“ IF I CAN FEEL WHAT I WANT TO SAY, THEN I KNOW I CAN WRITE IT, AND THIS METHOD IS REALLY PRODUCTIVE FOR ME. ”

HAVE ANY OTHER BOOKS, MEDIA, OR AUTHORS, INSPIRED YOU ON YOUR WRITING JOURNEY?

I've always been a big fan of the boarding school story genre and my writing is very much inspired by the books I read. I'm an enormous fan of authors like Angela Brazil and Elinor M. Brent-Dyer and how they wrote stories

about girls and their adventures in the world. (There's a lot of Angela Brazil's books available for free on Project Gutenberg – give them a try! They're really fun!)

I also like to think about some of my favourite books if I'm struggling to write something or can't quite find the right mood. I try to remember what it feels like to read Shirley Hughes or KM Peyton or Eva Ibbotson for the first time and take that memory forward in my own writing. If I can feel what I want to say, then I know I can write it, and this method is really productive for me. 

WRITING PROMPT:

The School of the Good Sisters is a school like no other. There are biscuits hidden in cupboards, the most wonderful food you've ever tasted, and everything stops for afternoon tea (of course).

Write about the most perfect meal you can imagine and how, when you're just about to eat it, everything disappears. All that's left is? (And where has it all gone?)

We'd love to read what you come up with! Send your writing to paperboundmagazine@outlook.com

DAISY MAY JOHNSON

Daisy May Johnson is the author of *How To Be True* and *How To Be Brave*. She blogs about books at Did You Ever Stop To Think, tweets as @chaletfan and when she's not doing that, you'll find her in the library (or baking the world's best chocolate brownies).

How To Be True is out now, published by Pushkin Press. Both titles are also available in the US and published by Henry Holt.



The

by Catherine Cawley

RED

The Red was bad that day, clawing its crimson fingers over crag and mountain.

Dust. Dust.

Grit ground against Vara's skin, raw on her bare arms. Her boots sank into the sand. She adjusted her goggles and glanced over her shoulder.

Vehicles careered across the wasteland. Crazy shouts fading in and out of the wind. Scavengers. Vara clasped Wind Spirit's reins.

'We're out of time.' Her mouth filled with dirt.

If she went round, Wind Spirit wouldn't make it. Dust would get into his joints and he would seize up, and she was nearly out of oil. Vara checked her bag. A thick smell filled her nostrils. Grease spread over her fingers. She wiped the oil away on her slacks, and puffed out her cheeks. It was no good, she'd have to go across.

Across The Red.

Vara ran this journey every month. Normally she would take The Edge with its trade posts and bars. Get the water round. This time she'd been careless. The scavengers had nearly caught her close to the old stone aqueduct.

Across the wasteland? She'd never done it. She knew people who had. People like her. Merchants. Traders. Some came back. Some did not. It was the quickest way to the village.

It was called The Red. Mom had always told her, don't. Don't ever. Don't take The Red.

But Vara was in trouble. The scavengers wanted what she had. Metal. Wind Spirit's iron plating. And she needed to get water to the village. Mom used to do it.

And before that, Dad. Her turn now.

Vara secured Mom's pistol in her waistband, ice cold on her abdomen. She tied the scarf under her chin. The taste of time and sand and the dead, bones and gravel, all choked her mouth.

'We'll have to do it.'

Wind Spirit nudged Vara's shoulder. Chill metal on her skin, refreshing against the flying daggers of sand. He kicked the ground with an iron hoof.

'I know.' Vara stroked his mane of rags and rope. 'We have no choice.'

She adjusted Wind Spirit's saddle bags laden with the coolest of fluid. Life giving water. He struck his shoes, spraying loose grit into small whirlpools.

'They're faster than us, but not in The Red.' Vara caressed Wind Spirit's head. 'Ready?'

He hoofed the ground. Vara vaulted onto his back, catching her calves on the rivets between Wind Spirit's hip and thigh.

'Go.'

They were off at a gallop.

Vara slipped her scarf over her nose and mouth. Still the grit got through. She spluttered. The roaring of vehicles behind. Louder. Louder. Then silence. They wouldn't do The Red. Too dangerous even for scavengers. Vara glanced about in the mist. Jeers and shouts. She pumped a fist.

'Ha!' she said. 'That got them.'

Vara slowed Wind Spirit and they trotted on. Dust and sand. Gravel in her eyes, burning. An image, towering up. A sign, lit up in flickering neon lights.

NOW LEAVING THE OUTER CITY

And underneath in scrawling graffiti;

THE RED

Wind Spirit staggered.

‘We can do this,’ Vara whispered.

Even with low cloud, she could see the grey-red murk of The Red. The sky and land were a band of scarlet and orange. Jagged spikes and coils. Rubber and lead. Piles of waste.

Vara twisted Wind Spirit’s mane. ‘Say you’re with me.’

They picked their way through rubble and grime. The stench. Acrid, foul. Vara retched, tasted acid on her tongue. Her eyes stung. Buildings torn apart. Scars on the landscape. The Old City. Skyscrapers and streets, remnants of a lost past. Pinnacles of steel and stone, metal fingers. The smell of iron and rust. Girders and grey blocks.

Vara and Wind Spirit pressed on. Black clouds swallowed the sky. Thunder groaned. Wind Spirit’s joints creaked. Vara squeezed her eyes shut, hoping he’d make it. Sweat slid down her back. Cramp skated up her legs as she pinched her thighs against Wind Spirit’s metal flanks.

They crept on. Slow. Slow. But quicker than The Edge. Hours rather than days. No oil in The Red. Vara’s chest tightened. On The Edge she’d be able to stop at taverns, top up with supplies. But not here.

Vara’s mind spun.

A noise. A rattle. A flash.

What? Here? In The Red?

A shot. A gun.

‘Scavengers. Wind Spirit, run.’

Wind Spirit galloped. A stumbling sprint. Vara clutched his mane. Her heart shuddered. Something tore into Wind Spirit’s back leg. An arrow. A wire. Vara looked down.

‘No!’

She was jerked back. Crash. Thud.

Blackness. Leg. Under Wind Spirit. Figures. Feral. Scavengers. Drills. Cutting. Sawing.

Cutting through Wind Spirit’s legs.



No, no! Stop. Stop!

‘STOP!’

Mom’s pistol. In her hand. Slippery. Wet with blood. Point. Fire.

Bang. Bang.

She hit one. Maybe two. The others scattered.

Vara crawled across the ground, pushing detritus aside. Wind Spirit twitching, snorting at the mouth, leaking oil.

‘No, no... please, no.’

She cradled Wind Spirit in her arms, the cool steel of his head light on her skin.

‘I’m sorry, I’m sorry.’

Vara stayed with him until he was still.

She laid there, breathing in his silence, metal on her skin, rough and smooth. Her leg throbbed. She had to get up.

Get up.

Get up, Vara.

In her mind she could hear Wind Spirit snort in her ear.

‘I’ll come back. I promise,’ she whispered.

She tore at the sand, digging a hole. A grave to bury her horse.

Her arms shook with the effort. Her eyes prickled with grit. She glanced about. The scavengers were gone.

She encased Wind Spirit in the dust. He was hidden. He was safe.

Vara tugged at the saddle bags, wrapping the heavy water sacks about her body. They dragged her down. Her camisole clung to her, dripping sweat and oil. Wind Spirit’s oil.

Scuffles. Scavengers. Lurking.

She knew the minefield was ahead. Rusted mines from the last war. Vara had no choice but to go on. She must get the water through. Alone.

The first metal tower spiralled upwards, fading in and out of mist. She passed under the arch. The final part of The Red.

The mines. Old. Deadly. Alive. She staggered under the weight of the sacks. Her hands dripped sweat. She wiped them over her slacks. Her breath came in ragged moments. She dug her nails into her palms until she drew sticky wet blood.

She stepped, one foot at a time, spying the old mines jutting out of the dead ground. The skin around her neck bubbled with perspiration. The water bags laid solid on her back. Her foot slipped. Her hands shook. She couldn't go on. She just couldn't.

Her horse. Wind Spirit. Tears bit in her eyes. She tasted salt on her lips.

Move, Vara, move.

Another step. Footfalls in the sand. She reached the second tower and the end of the minefield. Hands laced with grit and bleeding, she pulled herself up the ground. Sliding, feeling debris shift beneath her boots.

She was so close. A little further.

At the top she fell across dirt, grime, mud, metal. She squinted in the sunlight. The grass was green. The trees were green. Pines in the valley below, stunted but leading in a curve towards woodland. A settlement.

People moving. People laughing. A child playing. Vara laughed too.

She had the water.

She would go back for Wind Spirit. She *would* go back.

Vara staggered down the slope, into the village of the pines. Into The Green.

She was home. 



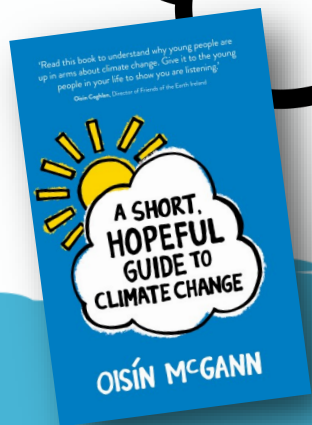
CATHERINE CAWLEY

Catherine Cawley is a middle grade and YA writer of historical fantasy and speculative fiction, and is currently working on a time-travel novel. She has been shortlisted and published for a number of online short stories, micro-fiction and novel competitions.

Follow Catherine on Twitter and Instagram
[@catecawley](#)

McGann Oisín

WE ADORED READING AUTHOR OISÍN MCGANN'S NEW BOOK *A SHORT, HOPEFUL GUIDE TO CLIMATE CHANGE* SO MUCH THAT WE READ IT IN ONE SITTING! WE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE BOOK AND WHAT WE CAN ALL DO TO HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE.



CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOUR BOOK, *A SHORT, HOPEFUL GUIDE TO CLIMATE CHANGE*, AND WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE IT?

Climate change is forcing us to look at the world in new ways. While that's scary, it can also be truly fascinating and I wanted to share that feeling. The aim was to make the subject engaging, rather than focus on delivering facts, which is why it's written in a conversational style. I'm a storyteller, not a scientist. Sometimes you need to find the most interesting or entertaining element to get your reader engaged in a

subject, rather than follow a logical step-by-step progression of teaching points.

I normally write and illustrate fiction, but I've been doing creative writing residencies on the theme of climate change for years in schools, and had considered doing a book, I just wasn't sure how I'd pitch it or who I'd pitch it to. Then Little Island approached me to write a book in partnership with Friends of the Earth Ireland. When we got talking about it, we all wanted to create something that would be accessible for young people, and provide a decent

grounding in the subject, while maintaining a light tone as much as possible, with a sense of hope and purpose.

DESPITE TACKLING SOME SCARY TOPICS, THIS BOOK SPARKS A LOT OF POSITIVITY. DO YOU THINK ADDRESSING ISSUES OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THIS WAY HELPS TAKE AWAY SOME OF THE FEAR?

I think you have to tailor any message to a particular audience. There are people in power who I wish felt more fear about what's already happening to our world, but I also think people can switch off when something they don't feel directly connected to feels too overwhelming. That's one of the biggest challenges, to inform people of what's happening, get them engaged, but not scare them so much that they just don't feel they can face it. If you don't already have an interest in these issues, the science of climate change can be terrifying, boring and complicated all at once, and that can be very hard to get your head around.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS OFTEN PRESENTED AS A GIGANTIC PROBLEM THAT MANY OF US CAN FEEL OVERWHELMED BY. BUT YOUR BOOK

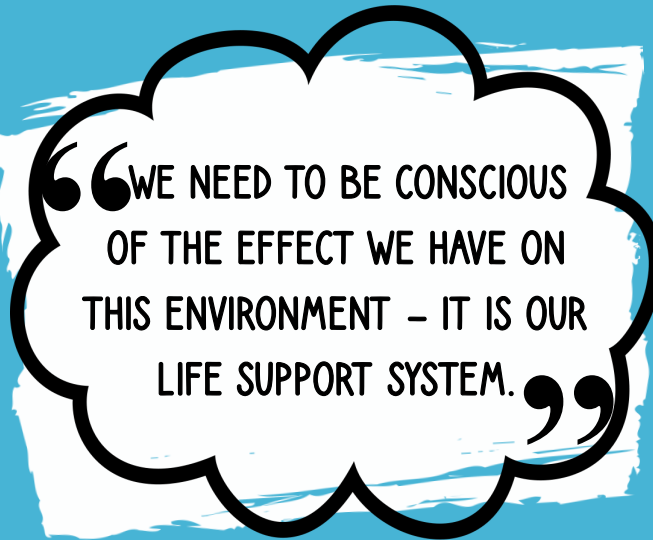
ARGUES WE ARE ALREADY CREATING MASSIVE ACTION TO CHANGE OUR PLANET - AND FUTURE - FOR THE BETTER. DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS TO HELP CREATE CHANGE IN DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?

There are two things I think everyone can focus on. The first is to develop the attitude that no part of our lives is separate from nature, that we are immersed in nature the way a fish is immersed in water. It influences everything we do, and we rely on it

completely, and affect it in return. We need to be conscious of the effect we have on this environment – it is our life support system.

The second is to pick one thing you are already interested in. Find something you already have a

passion for, and ask yourself how it affects your environment. Try to improve on that. Play to your interests, your own particular strengths. Not everyone needs to be studying climate science or developing sustainable forms of energy or protesting on the streets. Find your own thing. Everything you do matters.



“WE NEED TO BE CONSCIOUS OF THE EFFECT WE HAVE ON THIS ENVIRONMENT – IT IS OUR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM.”




**FIND YOUR OWN
THING. EVERYTHING
YOU DO MATTERS.**

THIS BOOK IS PACKED FULL OF FASCINATING INFORMATION, FROM MAD FACTS TO EPIC MISTAKES OF THE HUMAN RACE. WAS IT DIFFICULT GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT BETWEEN HARD TRUTHS AND REASONS FOR HOPE WHEN IT COMES TO THE FUTURE?

Yes, that was probably the hardest part of writing the book. It's an overwhelming subject and getting that balance right is vital. There are those who argue that expressing hope is delusional and it is, in effect, lying to people about what's

happening, but there's a difference between mindlessly hoping it'll all go away, and hope with a purpose. Hope with a purpose is ambition, and we need to be really, really ambitious. We have to believe we can achieve real change, not just to prevent a worldwide disaster, but to create a better world.

YOU HAVE WRITTEN MANY OTHER BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS. BUT WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT WRITING?

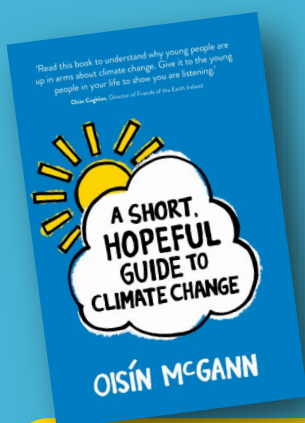
Writing and illustrating is a pretty consuming career! I have three kids, so that accounts for a lot of my time. I also read, draw, watch a lot of films and like getting out for walks with my dogs. I am both cursed and blessed with constant curiosity, so I'm interested in . . . well, almost everything. 



WRITING PROMPT:

WRITE A STORY ABOUT BEING CAUGHT IN SOME EXTREME WEATHER, THAT FEATURES THREE VERY DIFFERENT CHARACTERS WHO HAVE DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO DEALING WITH PROBLEMS.

We'd love to read what you come up with! Send your writing to paperboundmagazine@outlook.com



A SHORT, HOPEFUL GUIDE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IS OUT NOW, AVAILABLE IN IRELAND, THE UK AND THE US – PLUS WORLDWIDE ONLINE.

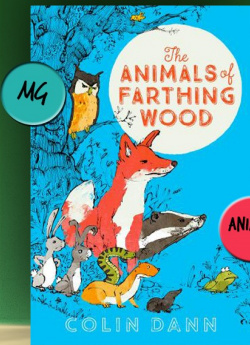
Oisín McGann

Oisín McGann is a bestselling and award-winning writer and illustrator. He has produced dozens of books and short stories for all ages of reader, including twelve novels. He is married with three children, two dogs and a cat, and lives somewhere in the Irish countryside, where he won't be heard shouting at his computer. You can find out more about him at:

oisinmcgann.com

GREEN

BOOKSHELF



MG

FAMILY

ANIMALS

MG



FRIENDSHIP



MG

FRIENDSHIP

ADVENTURE



ANIMALS

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FRIENDSHIP



ANIMALS

MG



NATURE

ADVENTURE

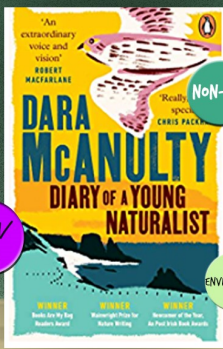
TEEN



ENVIRONMENT

NON-FIC

TEEN
YA



NON-FIC

TEEN
YA

ENVIRONMENT



ENVIRONMENT

SUPER-NATURAL

YA

New Writing

Love Letter *from* the Stars

by Sarah Dollar

I'm sending out this letter,
a note to Earth, with love.
To everyone who lives there,
from an alien above.

I live upon a comet,
I pass you every day.
I've marvelled at your beauty,
but Mankind has lost its way.

I've watched your clear skies darken,
I've seen the smog escape.
I see the Earth is broken,
and it can't be fixed with tape.

Wild land is taken over,
you've melted all the ice.
And land that has been ravaged,
has been built on for a price.

The rivers all look slimy.
The sheep and cows are gone.
The sun has burnt the apples
and the trees they grew upon.

So now the young have risen.
They teach the lessons well.
The elders try to listen,
will it work though? Time will tell.

Regain your oceans' splendour!
So vast and blue and clean.
Make space for all the creatures.
Plant new forests fresh and green.



Now put out all the fires,
leave cotton candy clouds.
Just let your sky protect you,
let it shelter all your crowds.

Much like your Earth, my homeland,
was rich in greens and blues.
We didn't mend our ways though,
no, we didn't pay our dues.

From here upon my comet,
I see it's not too late.
If you can work together,
You can once again be great!

I'm sending out this letter,
a note to Earth, with love.
Come together.
Fix it now.

From

An Alien Above.



Sarah Dollar



Sarah lives in Devon with her partner and three (very) energetic children. She writes short stories, picture books, poems and even cryptic crossword clues! You will find her writing in places such as The Dirigible Balloon and Parakeet Magazine. Sarah loves to scribble pictures in order to get to know her characters better. She also enjoys playing the piano, but the children tend to turn it into ad lib duetting.

Follow Sarah on Twitter

@SarahLCDollar

WHY WE LOVE

LOVE LETTER FROM THE STARS

We loved the unique viewpoint of this poem, and how it fit with our green theme. It has an important message that we should all pay attention to, as well as evoking emotion. It hooked us from the beginning and we kept reading it over and over!

Congratulations, Sarah! A little prize will be on its way to you soon.

Winner



TOP TIPS

ON WRITING POETRY

BY STEPHANIE HENSON

GET INSPIRED BY SOME TOP TIPS ON WRITING POETRY, FROM AUTHOR & POET STEPHANIE HENSON

Where does a poem begin? That can be a very loaded question for a writer, especially someone who is new to poetry. In this article, I will break down certain tricks I use to help get words flowing on the page. Everyone has their own process and this is only a guideline, but I hope it's helpful in some way.

READING

If you are a reader, you are on your way to becoming a writer. Writers must read in order to write well. Becoming familiar with books written in the genre you are interested in is one of the best ways to learn how to write. If you want to write mysteries, read mysteries. If you want to write graphic novels, read graphic novels. If you want to write humour, read humorous books. Get the point? **READ READ READ!**

Mentor texts are books that have many of the same themes and elements that you would like to convey in your writing. For example, since I write a lot of poetry for children, some of my mentor texts are by poets Brian Moses and Mark Bird since they write for children as well. Read often and you will find that your writing will improve.

EMOTION

For me, a poem begins with a feeling and then I build upon that and layer it with different poetic devices such as alliteration, imagery, and figurative language (like similes and metaphors). I may not know exactly where the poem is going when I draft, but I have a general idea of the direction. I let the feelings guide me.

Do you have a special memory? A favourite time of year? Something which makes you unique? Write about it! It can be rhyming or non-rhyming. It can be long or short. Free verse or stanzas. Don't be afraid to play around with the format and use big words.

My poetry book, *In the Right Lane*, delves into many personal experiences I had when I was a kid. Topics such as managing emotions, dealing with bullies, and building self-confidence are all central themes. I used different forms of poetry such as rhyming, non-rhyming, prose, free verse, haiku and acrostic. There is no limit to the potential of poetry to reach people!

MUSIC

Do you like rap or hip hop music? Did you know that most rappers are also poets? Hip hop has many poetic elements and has been used as mentor text material by many modern poets. Music is an integral process to my poetry writing, as well as to my writing process in general. You can benefit by incorporating different types of music into your prep for writing poetry. Listen often and pay attention to the patterns.

Music is a language all its own. The beats, the sounds, the rhythm, the lyrics, etc., it's all very poetic. I am greatly inspired by Lin Manuel Miranda. So, when I hit writer's block, the first thing I turn to is his music. Who inspires you?

SELF-EXPRESSION

In a way, it's a kind of therapy to lay your feelings on a page but also for people to access that raw part of you. It's very personal. Lyrical language is a vivid sensory tool in poetic storytelling. The more vivid and descriptive the text, the more your piece will shine.

Most importantly, poetry is a form of self-expression. Have fun with it! What makes you, you? Who do you want to be? Poetry can help answer those questions!

Now that you know some helpful tips, let's get started! Get out that notebook, open your laptop, jot notes on your phone, and start writing. First drafts are important to get your words flowing. Tweak and edit as needed. Don't be afraid to share your work, or if you want, keep it to yourself until you are ready. There are no rules when it comes to your writing and what you want to do with it. Good luck as you learn and grow in the wonderful world of poetry writing!



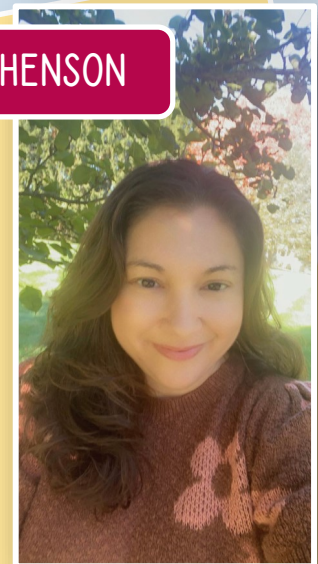
STEPHANIE HENSON

Stephanie lives with her family in West Chester, Pennsylvania, but is originally from Central, New Jersey, where she has a degree in Communications and a Publishing and Professional Writing Certificate from Rider University.

She has been published in print and online, with several children's poems published by The Dirigible Balloon, Buzgaga Online, and Parakeet Magazine.

Her new book, *In the Right Lane*, is released in affiliation with Experiments in Fiction.

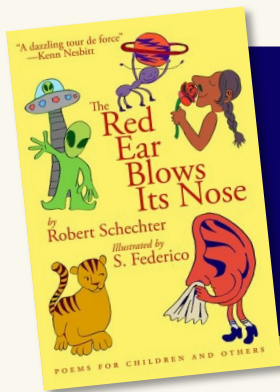
Stephanie enjoys reading, theatre, mindless web searching, Netflix binges, sunflowers, sports, and anything related to coffee!



The Red Ear Blows Its Nose



A book of children's poems by Robert Schechter



WE ARE THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO SHARE A SNEAK PEEK INSIDE **ROBERT SCHECHTER'S** NEW BOOK *THE RED EAR BLOWS ITS NOSE*. THE BOOK IS JAM PACKED FULL OF BRILLIANT CHILDREN'S POEMS, AND WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THREE OF THEM WITH YOU HERE. ROBERT'S BOOK IS OUT IN APRIL 2023 FROM WORD GALAXY PRESS AND ILLUSTRATED BY **S. FEDERICO**.

NOT A CHILDREN'S POEM



This poem is not a children's poem.

It's grown-ups who should read it.
It offers tons of great advice,
but kids don't really need it.

Don't dump your garbage in the sea.

Do not pollute the air!

*Be sure the water that we drink
is clean and always there.*

Fomenting war is bad. Make peace!

Don't let the world get blown up.

You know this. You don't need this poem.
Unless you are a grown-up

YOURS ALONE

I'm fabulous and wonderful!

Okay, perhaps I boast.

Be honest, though. In all the world,
don't you love you the most?

Just pause a bit and think it out,
then tell me it's not true.

You're dazzled by the miracle
that you alone are you!

Your eyes can see! Your ears can hear!

You have a working brain!

There's so much going on inside
that no one can explain!

How did you get to be yourself?

What are you? You're so fine!

You think the world is yours alone.

But I think that it's mine!



WORLDS

I visit worlds
when I'm asleep,
worlds I do not
get to keep—
so rich, so real,
so true, and yet,
I wash, I dress,
and I forget.



ROBERT SCHECHTER

Robert Schechter's award-winning poetry for children has appeared in *Highlights for Children*, *Cricket*, *Spider*, *Ladybug*, *the Caterpillar*, *Blast Off*, *Countdown*, *Orbit*, and more than a dozen anthologies published by Bloomsbury, National Geographic, Macmillan, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, the Emma Press, and Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. His poems for adults have won both the Willis Barnstone Translation Prize and the X. J. Kennedy Parody Award, and his verse often appears in the *Washington Post Style Invitational* (where he is a former Rookie and Loser of the Year) and in the *Spectator* magazine's weekly humor competition. *The Red Ear Blows Its Nose* is his first collection.

bobschechter.com

S.FEDERICO

S. Federico draws, writes, and lives in New York City with his cat. *The Red Ear Blows Its Nose* is his first book.

The Red Ear Blows Its Nose has received starred reviews in *Booklist*, *School Library Journal* and *Kirkus*.



LIZ FLANAGAN



Wildsmith author **Liz Flanagan** joined us to chat about her brilliant adventure series for middle grade readers. Read on to share in her love of adventure, magic and storytelling.

CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR NEW NOVEL *WILDSMITH: INTO THE DARK FOREST*?

Wildsmith: Into the Dark Forest is the story of a girl called Rowan who is brave and curious and loves to climb. When war breaks out, she suddenly has to leave her city, her friends and her father. She and her mum travel to the safety of the Dark Forest to stay with the grandad Rowan never even knew she had – and Grandpa’s white wolf! She makes new friends and meets a trio of powerful witches.

When Rowan rescues a clutch of dragons from some poachers, she learns something amazing: her grandad is a wildsmith – someone who can heal animals and talk to them. As the story develops, Rowan starts to wonder if she might be a wildsmith too. When danger threatens her beloved foster dragons, Rowan has to call on all her courage – and her brand new wildsmith magic!

The story is illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton and his artwork is heart-meltingly good – I can’t wait for you to see his illustrations.

THE NOVEL DEALS WITH THEMES OF WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES. HOW IMPORTANT WAS IT FOR YOU TO WRITE ABOUT THESE?

It was very important for me to write about wildlife and wild places for two connected reasons: firstly because

wildlife and habitats are under threat now more than ever; and secondly because I feel wild places are hugely important to us. I am lucky to have access to wild places around my hometown and when I started writing this story in 2020, I had just come to realise how important that was for my own mental health and wellbeing. Do you remember how we were allowed one

“THAT BECAME A VITAL AND TREASURED PART OF MY DAY, BEING ABLE TO WALK IN THE WOODS THAT SPRING, WATCHING THE VALLEY TURN GREEN AND LOOKING OUT FOR WILD BIRDS AND ANIMALS.”

short daily walk in lockdown? During those months, that became a vital and treasured part of my day, being able to walk in the woods that spring, watching the valley turn green and looking out for wild birds and animals. It was a great reminder

not to take these things for granted!

WHAT IS IT ABOUT FANTASY THAT YOU ENJOY?

Ah, so many things! I love the richness and magic of fantasy. As a reader of fantasy, I love to explore new story worlds and get lost in them. There’s so much wonderful escapism and enjoyment in fantasy for me – but I also believe fantasy is often talking about the problems of our own world in disguise. Sometimes that can help us see things in a new way.



YOUR MAIN CHARACTER, ROWAN, HAS A VERY UNIQUE GIFT. IF YOU COULD HAVE A SPECIAL ABILITY, WHAT WOULD IT BE (OR WOULD IT BE THE SAME AS ROWAN'S)?


Great question. I might be greedy and ask for Rowan's gift but extend it to healing whole ecosystems!

WE DON'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT FOR THE SEQUEL, *WILDSMITH: CITY OF SECRETS*, WHICH IS ALSO COMING OUT THIS YEAR. WITHOUT GIVING TOO MUCH AWAY, WHAT CAN READERS EXPECT FROM THE NEXT BOOK? AND WILL THERE BE MORE?

Yes, there are four books so far, each for a different season and featuring a different magical creature – although in one story it is Rowan who needs rescuing! In *Wildsmith: City of Secrets*, Rowan's dad arrives in the middle of the night with a newborn pegasus foal who needs help. Rowan and the pegasus are both far from home and missing a

parent, so they bond very closely. Then, as their enemies close in, they have to flee together – and there's only one place left to go!

IF YOU COULD GIVE THREE TOP TIPS TO AN ASPIRING YOUNG WRITER, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

- Write about the things you love – that passion will come across
- Don't compare your first draft to a finished book (that's had so many drafts and so much input from editors to make it shine)
- Read lots of books! 

WRITING PROMPT:

JUST LIKE I DID WITH ROWAN, TRY WRITING A CHARACTER WHO DEVELOPS A SPECIAL POWER. HOW WOULD IT SHOW ITSELF? WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN AS A RESULT?

We'd love to read what you come up with!
Send your writing to
paperboundmagazine@outlook.com

LIZ FLANAGAN

Liz Flanagan writes for children and young adults. Her books include the *Wildsmith* series, *Eden Summer*, *Dragon Daughter* and *Rise of the Shadow Dragons*.

See lizflanagan.co.uk / Twitter: @lizziebooks / Instagram: @lizziebooks17 for more info.



WILDSMITH: INTO THE DARK FOREST IS OUT NOW, PUBLISHED BY UCLAN PUBLISHING.

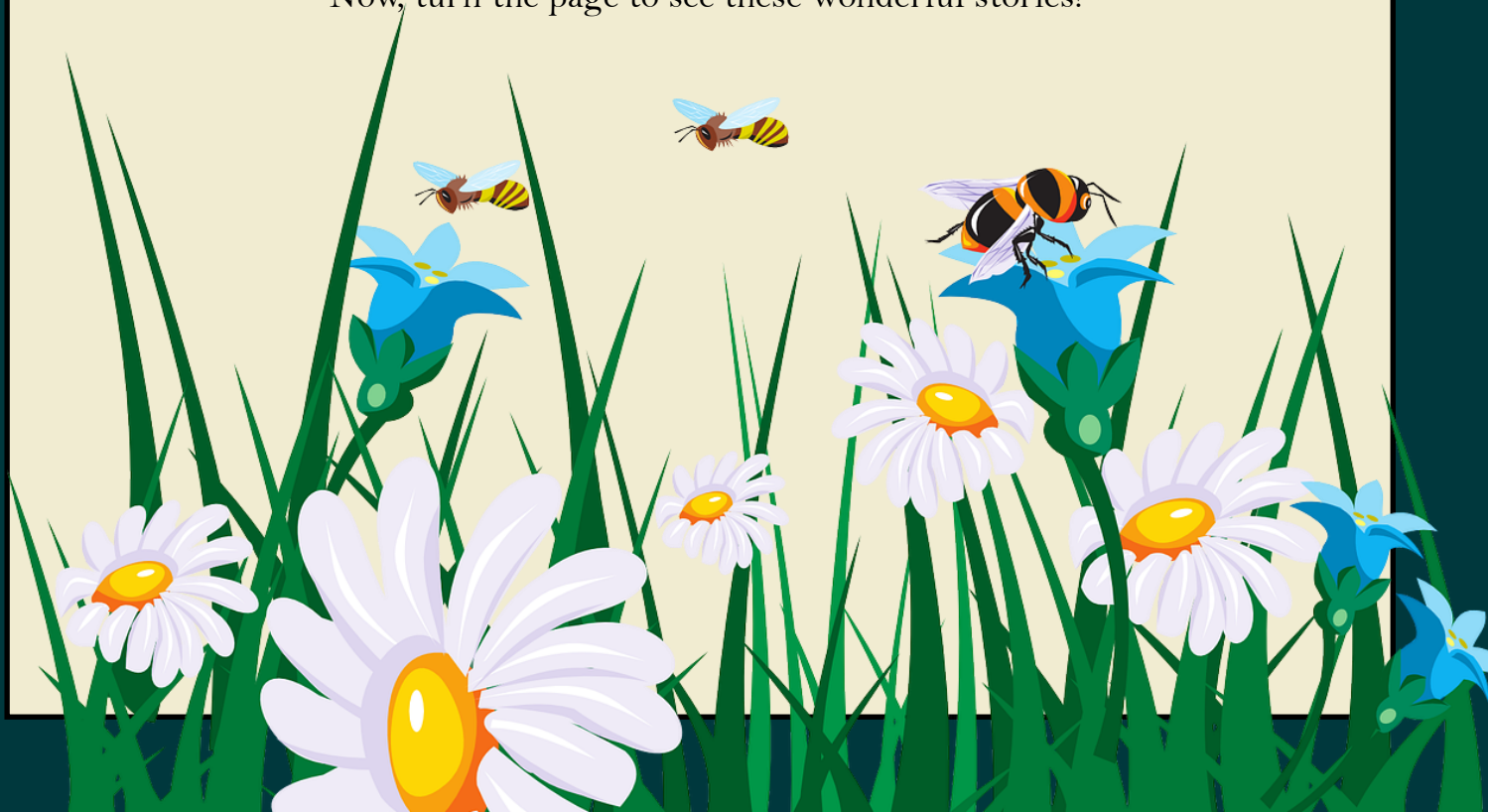
Illustrated Nature Stories

by Joseph Witchall

We are very fortunate to be able to share two nature stories from the extremely talented illustrator Joseph Witchall. These short page-long stories are told completely in illustrations.

You can find more about Joseph on our Meet the Illustrators page at the end of this issue.

Now, turn the page to see these wonderful stories!



The Meeting by Joseph Witchall



A Day in the Life by Joseph Witchall



New Writing

by Sinéad Callanan

Pigment Painting

Sinéad Callanan

Sinéad is a poet and teacher from Limerick, Ireland. She writes poetry for her family, friends and young pupils to enjoy. Sinéad's love of children's books and writing has led her to Denmark, where she is currently pursuing a Masters of Children's Literature, Media and Culture.

Follow Sinéad on Instagram and Twitter

[@mostlypoems](#)



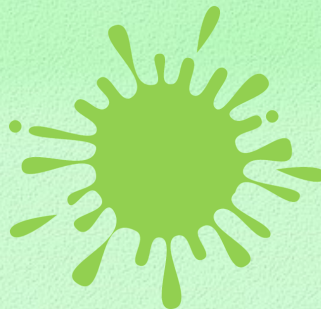
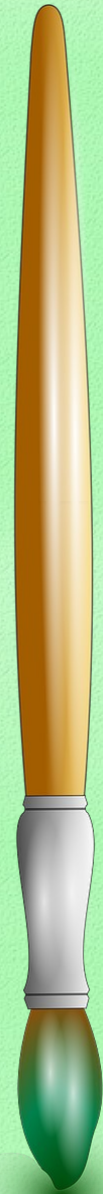
My cousin Kate is colour-blind,
She can't see blue or red,
So when we're colourfully inclined,
We paint with green instead.

At first we stuck to what we knew:
A frog, some grass, a tree;
And when our paints and palettes grew,
So did our artistry.

We painted lime-green leopards, and
Giraffes, a swath of sage.
And then, a secret project planned,
We took it off the page.

We picked a bright green neon shade,
To coat our Nana's ceiling;
The walls we painted lime and jade,
It's really quite appealing.

We finished on a fresco (*fern*),
Of Sam's green eggs and ham;
But Nana's face turned red and stern,
We thought we'd better scam!



PRINTABLE GREEN WRITING PROMPTS

FREEWRTING



Group activity!

What do you love about nature? Choose one thing: a place, an animal, a plant, a type of weather. Anything you like. Write it down and put it in a small bag/ box.

Set a three minute timer.

Pick something out of the bag/ box. Use this as a starting point and start writing. Don't stop until the timer has run out.

PRINTABLE GREEN WRITING PROMPTS

Kim de Haan has shared this fantastic illustration with us, full of story possibilities!

Using the image below as inspiration, start writing and see where it takes you.

Think about some of the following questions to help you:

What secrets lie in the rockpool? What creatures can be found inside? What does it look like? Is there another world inside, or can it transport you somewhere?

We'd love to read what you come up with so send them along to paperboundmagazine@outlook.com.

You can read more about Kim on page 62



PRINTABLE GREEN WRITING PROMPTS THE FUTURE

Don't forget to
share your writing with us!
We'd love to read it.
paperboundmagazine@outlook.com

What do you think the future holds for our planet?

Will it be a high-tech utopia? A post-apocalyptic wasteland? Will the human race still live on Earth, or will they evacuate to space? Maybe it's something completely different? You decide.

What has happened to our Earth hundreds of years from now? And why has it happened? How do humans live in this new world?

Start writing below, and see where it takes you.

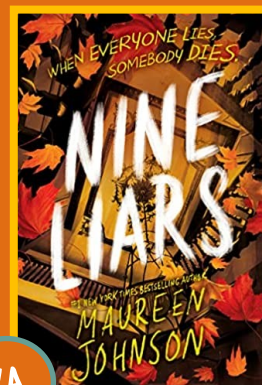


Book Review Corner

IF YOU'D LIKE TO WRITE A REVIEW FOR
OUR NEXT ISSUE, CHECK OUT THE DETAILS
ON OUR WEBSITE:
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NINE LIARS BY MAUREEN JOHNSON

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND



YA

RECENT RELEASE

Nine Liars is the latest case in the Stevie Bell mysteries. On leave from Ellingham Academy to visit boyfriend David in London, Stevie and friends find themselves entangled in another murder mystery.

It's 1995. Nine university friends take a trip to stay in a country house. That night, during a storm, they quickly dive into a game of drunken hide and seek. Only two don't make it to morning. The next day, they are found murdered with an axe and, even all these years later, the case is still considered a burglary gone wrong.

But one of the seven survivors saw something that night. Something that doesn't make sense, and there's no way Stevie can go back home without figuring out the truth, and she'll do anything to find it.

Nine Liars is another addictive YA read, full of the twists and turns we've come to expect from the Stevie Bell mystery series, and an assortment of new characters, as well as old ones we've grown to love. With surprises right up until the last page, you won't be able to put this one down.

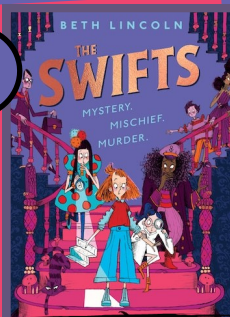
Note: this book deals with mature themes

NINE LIARS IS PUBLISHED BY KATHERINE TEGEN BOOKS AND OUT NOW

THE SWIFTS BY BETH LINCOLN

REVIEWED BY WILL DOBSON TWITTER: @WYDOBSON1

MG



RECENT RELEASE

This raucously funny whodunnit – brimming with entertaining set pieces – will keep readers guessing to the last page while pointing fingers at a cast of characters as memorable as those from the Addams Family. The Swifts are a strange bunch, dwelling in the Family House (an architectural gallimaufry: rhino-head shaped tower, secret passageways and killer bookcases). The Matriarch, Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude, is hosting a reunion at which tradition stipulates guests must hunt for a huge fortune hidden on the estate. After an attempt on the Matriarch's life, Shenanigan Swift and her sisters turn forensic investigators to solve the assassination bid while the body count mounts. Never again will you play Scrabble without wearing armour.

At the heart of *The Swifts* is a story about carving out personal identity while not being defined by one's name – in the Swift world, the Dictionary defines each Swift's personality (with names like Atrocious, Maelstrom and Pique, no need for Gist to explain things) – and Shenanigan is determined to defy her moniker's typecast. This witty, imaginative entry deserves a prominent space on the MG shelf. You know you're in capable storytelling hands when the author sneaks *absquatulate* into the mix. Surely, there should be a Nibbies category just for that. There's also a pull-out map at the back of the book!

THE SWIFTS IS OUT NOW AND PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN

THE BLACK QUEEN BY JUMATA EMILL

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

YA



RECENT RELEASE

The Black Queen is a juicy YA murder-thriller you won't be able to put down! Told in a dual narrative, this book splits the points of view between white teen Tinsley McArthur and Black teen Duchess, after the first Black prom queen in their small town – and Duchess's best friend – is eerily found dead in a slaves' graveyard.

Knowing they were enemies, Duchess blames Tinsley for the murder, but when things don't add up the unlikely pair must find a way to work together to solve the murder of who killed Nova Albright. Add a twist that will leave you wanting to go back and see if you can spot the clues, this novel explores the messy relationship between privilege, race and politics, told in a bold, spectacular voice.

THE BLACK QUEEN IS PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC AND OUT NOW

GLOW UP, LARA BLOOM BY DEE BENSON

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

YA



RECENT RELEASE

This book has a beautiful message at its heart that everyone will be able to relate to: spreading joy and acceptance in the power - and beauty - of being yourself.

When journal-loving Lara Bloom becomes convinced she needs a 'glow up' to catch the attention of new boy, Caiden, at school, she embarks on a journey towards self-love and empowerment. But, like her friends tell her, is changing for a boy really the right way to go? Spanning themes of friendship, identity, standing up to bullies, and learning to be comfortable in your own skin (with lots of giggles thrown in!), *Glow Up, Lara Bloom* is a fun, powerful novel with female empowerment and acceptance at its core.

GLOW UP, LARA BLOOM IS PUBLISHED BY HOT KEY BOOKS AND OUT NOW

THE FOX'S TOWER BY SAM THOMPSON

ILLUSTRATED BY ANNA TROMOP

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

MG



RECENT RELEASE

The Fox's Tower is the much-anticipated sequel to *Wolfstongue* (2021), but is easily read as a standalone. This novel follows Willow – daughter of the now grown-up Silas, who we first met in *Wolfstongue*.

When Willow witnesses her father get dragged away by huge strange wolf shapes, she has no choice but to venture into the secret world of the dark wood to find him. Here she meets wolves who know her father and help her to enter a huge tower that the foxes have built, and where her father is being held. Inside she meets the trickster, Reynard the fox, and quickly becomes embroiled in his devious plans. Reynard has discovered a magical clay in the ground deep in the forest. With this, Reynard could reshape the world. On top of this, there is a new problem in the tower, villainous Nobel the lion who wants to take over as leader. Willow's plan to save her father soon becomes a huge rescue mission to save not only him but the new animal friends she has made on her journey.

As with *Wolfstongue*, *The Fox's Tower* is layered with meaning, and you are left thinking about how the world of the forest represents our own. With an array of wonderful characters and fable-like qualities, *The Fox's Tower*, just like *Wolfstongue*, will stay with you long after reading, and is a book you can devour again and again.

THE FOX'S TOWER IS OUT NOW AND PUBLISHED BY LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS

A SKY FULL OF SONG BY SUSAN LYNN MEYER

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

Perfect for fans of Laura Ingalls Wilder and L.M. Montgomery, this stunning historical middle grade novel is surely destined to become a future classic. Set in North Dakota in 1905, *A Sky Full of Song* follows eleven-year-old Shoshana and her journey escaping Jewish persecution from the Russian Empire to a new land on the American frontier with her family, where she learns to adapt, persevere against prejudice and find new friendships in a strange, hardy landscape.

Drawing parallels between being driven away from your homeland because you are different and how cruelly the indigenous American peoples were treated, this book tells the story of the American frontier in a new light, exploring the struggles of Jewish pioneers when journeying from one end of the world to the other, and the fight for the right to settle in a new place and call it home.

A SKY FULL OF SONG IS PUBLISHED BY UNION SQUARE KIDS AND RELEASED 11 APRIL 2023



COMING SOON

THE OCTOPUS, DADU AND ME BY LUCY ANN UNWIN

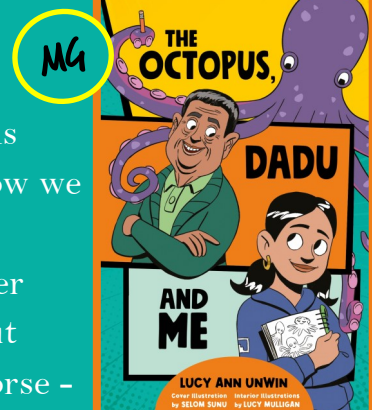
REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND

This middle grade book is a charming read that had us hooked from the first page. Following twelve-year-old Sashi and the love she has for her Dadu (grandfather) who suffers from dementia, this novel uncovers what happens when you mix three friendships, how we deal with grief, and a plan to 'rescue' an octopus from the local aquarium. With the help of her two best friends, Sashi makes it her mission to release the octopus into the wild, whatever the cost. But when things spiral out of control - and with her Dadu getting worse - she starts to realise that she might not be the one calling the shots after all.

Sashi is likeable from the start and, despite her flaws, we fell in love with her all the way through. Full of friendship, wit, and the highs and lows of family dynamics, this novel makes for an exciting yet poignant read, all while exploring the strength of grandchild-grandparent bonds.

We raced through it and loved how, despite some sad moments, this book still radiated hope.

THE OCTOPUS, DADU AND ME IS PUBLISHED BY UCLAN PUBLISHING AND OUT NOW



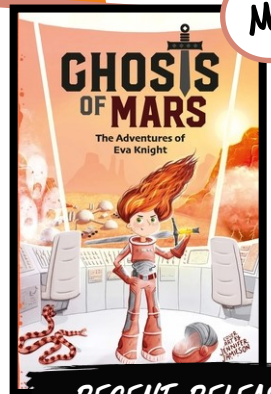
RECENT RELEASE

GHOSTS OF MARS: THE ADVENTURES OF EVA KNIGHT

BY STUART WHITE

REVIEWED BY STEVE BLACKMAN: TWITTER @66BLACKMAN

Eva's the first Martianborn human, but she can't wait to become an astronaut and leave the red planet behind. While her sights are set on the stars, she's needed at home when a huge dust storm traps her dad in a mine. Eva and her friends must use all their resourcefulness and courage to steal a rover, beat the storm and rescue him. But will they succeed before their oxygen runs out? And will the ghosts who have begun appearing to Eva help or endanger her?



RECENT RELEASE

Ghosts of Mars features a cast of characters who leap off the page – Eva's friends, her AI (Thunderchild – brilliantly droll), and the book's antagonist: her dad's co-commander, the cruel Darshi. Mars itself plays a huge role, and evocative worldbuilding – richly detailed without exposition – immerses us in the action. Eva is especially well-drawn. Her tentative opening up to new friends, her fear and love for her missing dad and her constant management of type 1 diabetes (realistically described), build a three-dimensional picture of a loveable, irrepressible heroine.

Filled with technology, science and adventure, and with nods to sci-fi greats from HG. Wells to George Lucas, *Ghosts of Mars* is a propulsive page-turner with clear stakes and cliff-hanging chapter ends.

Strap in, people, this excellent MG story is as adrenaline-filled as a breakneck rover drive across Mars's crater-covered surface.

GHOSTS OF MARS: THE ADVENTURES OF EVA KNIGHT IS PUBLISHED BY PENOBI PRESS AND OUT NOW

THANKS SO MUCH TO OUR REVIEWERS!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO WRITE A REVIEW FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE, CHECK
OUT THE DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM/SUBMIT

Where a Green Garden Grows

by Elenore Byrne

Elenore Byrne

Originally from New Zealand, Elenore now lives in Switzerland with her husband and three children. She loves coffee, cheese and writing in cozy corners. She has work published in *The Dirigible Balloon*, *Clubhouse Jr Magazine* and the *Chasing Clouds and 10.10 Poetry Anthologies*.

elenorewrites.wordpress.com

Follow Elenore on Twitter: [@ElenoreByrne](https://twitter.com/ElenoreByrne)



Give me a roof where a green garden grows
where raindrops are welcomed when wild wind blows.
Clearing the drains, of toxins and rains
so cleaner and clearer storm waters remain.

Give me a roof where a green garden sprouts
more pretty than concrete without any doubt.
Where birds and bugs rest, in delicate nests
showing new ways we can grow and invest.

Give me a roof where a green garden shades
cooling the concrete unnaturally made.
Improving decline, helping nature align,
roof gardens are more than a novel design.

Give me a roof where a green garden thrives
a roof form to last for the rest of our lives.
An organic space of stillness and grace
without need to repair, upgrade or replace.

Give me a roof where a green garden hoards
the energy saved a most precious reward.
More biodiverse and saving our purse,
protecting, respecting our whole universe.

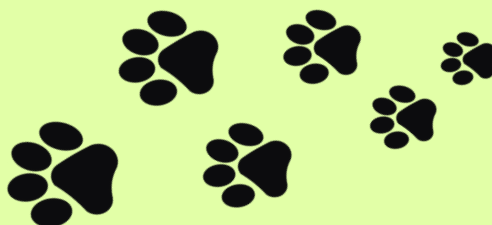




Writing Inspiration
from Simone Greenwood

Add Some Animal Magic

The bond between humans and animals has been a powerful force for eons, so it's hardly surprising it crops up in storytelling time and time again. Who knows if mammoths ever cared for lost babies *à la* the film *Ice Age*, but we do know that cave paintings from the period invariably depict animals – as food, friends or foes – and we've been including them in our tales ever since. So when you're planning your next story, consider adding a (real or magical) animal or two. Or maybe even a jungle's worth! Here are seven suggestions to get you started...



1. Anthropomorphism without humans

This is when the animals in your story take on human emotions, behaviours and even clothes, and live in a world where humans are peripheral or non-existent. Think classics like *Watership Down* and *Peter Rabbit* (what is it about rabbits?). Many fables also fall into this category, including modern ones like *The Gruffalo*, as well as animated films like Disney's *Zootropolis*. Sometimes it's easier to understand human behaviour when it's depicted in an animal-only world. For modern inspiration on this story type, try *The Legend of Podkin One-Ear* by Kieran Larwood (more rabbits!).



2. Anthropomorphism with humans

As before, but this time humans are central characters too. It could be that an animal is finding their way in a human world, such as EB White's *Stuart Little*, or humans are finding their way in an animal world, like Mowgli in *The Jungle Book*, or a magical world like in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. There's a hundred ways to mix and match these worlds colliding, and you could even have the anthropomorphism limited to the narration, as with Carlie Sorosiak's *I, Cosmo*, where a golden retriever tells the story of how he's trying to keep his human family together.



3. Fantastical friends and foes

Humans have been creating mythical beasts for centuries, often with the attributes of two animals, or an animal and a person – like the Ancient Greek minotaur. *The Beast and the Bethany* series by Jack Meggitt-Phillips, illustrated by Isabelle Follath, is a masterclass in mythical villainy, as is Thomas Taylor's *Eerie-on-Sea* series, which combines memorable mythical foes like the *Malamander* with magical friends like Erwin the (occasionally) talking cat. And I will always adore the *How to Train Your Dragon* series for the sheer volume of dragons Cressida Cowell creates for Hiccup and his friends to tame. Let your imagination run wild, and get thinking up a fantastical menagerie for your next story.



4. Saving an animal

From classics like *Charlotte's Web* to award-winning contemporary stories like Hannah Gold's *The Last Bear*, we all root for animals to survive – and their survival can teach us about the wider issue of saving the planet too. I also love Lee Newbery's adorable and funny *The Last Firefox*. What animal could your protagonist save, and how are they going to do it?



5. Animals helping humans to overcome

Many stories show the protagonist overcoming a problem, and when a special bond with an animal – tame, wild or mystical – helps them do this, the impact is powerful for readers. There are lots of current examples of this plot type you can go to for inspiration. How about *Major and Mynah* by Karen Owen, illustrated by Louise Forshaw, where Callie is helped to accept her hearing aids by Bo the mynah bird? Or *Wild Oak* by CC Harrington, where a friendship with a snow leopard helps Maggie cope with her stutter. And who can forget Jasbinder Bilan's amazing debut *Asha and the Spirit Bird*, with Asha's perilous journey to find her father, aided by an ancestral guide?

6. Animal detective stories

The popularity of detective stories in children's publishing is going nowhere, so why not add some animal magic into the mix? Perhaps the queen of animal-themed detective stories is MG Leonard. Her debut *Beetle Boy* series is a modern classic, and her latest *Twitch* series has got us all reaching for our binoculars. Or you could go historical and fantastical, like Patrice Lawrence in *The Elemental Detectives*. Create a mystery and add some animal friends (or foes) to help your protagonist solve it.

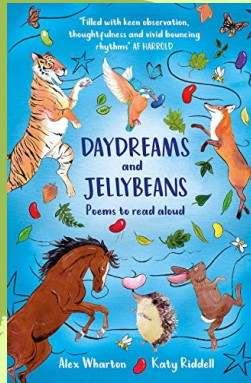
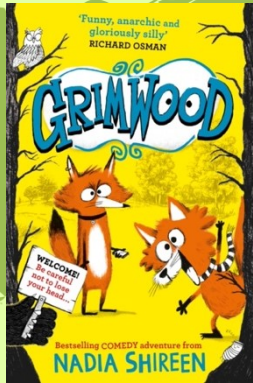


7. Funny animals

We all love an animal who can make us laugh (hello viral animal videos!), so it's no surprise this is a winning formula when it

comes to writing stories. Pick an animal, make it do hilarious things and away you go ... the world is your (farting) oyster! My favourite funny animal books include the *Dave Pigeon* series by Swapna Haddow, illustrated by Sheena Dempsey, and the *Grimwood* series by Nadia Shireen, and I love *Hector the Horrible Hedgehog*, in Alex Wharton's poetry collection *Daydreams and Jellybeans*, illustrated by Katy Riddell.

There are so many stories with animals, it's impossible to mention them all, but here's a few more reading suggestions to inspire you ... *My Friend the Octopus* by Lindsay Galvin, *By Ash, Oak and Thorn* by Melissa Harrison, *Wilde* by Eloise Williams, *The Shark Caller* by Zillah Bethell, *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* by Nizrana Farook and *The Cats We Meet Along the Way* by Nadia Mikail. 🐾



Simone Greenwood

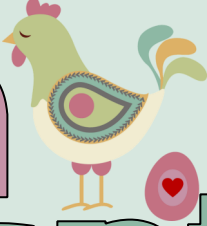
Simone Greenwood writes chapter books for Serial Mash, an online library for schools, and is working on a 1970s middle-grade novel with her mentor Patrice Lawrence, as part of Literature Wales' Representing Wales 2022-23. *Galileo* is the story of twins

Dylan and Cam, who determine to save a bull calf born on a dairy farm, helped by new rock band CLUD.

Find out more at:

simonegreenwood.com
and on Twitter @That_Simone_

Chickens and a Fresh Start



by Emma Finlayson-Palmer

A canal rippled like a silvery snake in the afternoon sun, curling across fields in the distance. It looked kind of magical. Inviting. Enticing me towards it.

My headphones were on, one of Mum's nineties mix tapes pounding in my ears, pushing out unwanted thoughts of where she might be. Someone tapped my arm. I slipped the headphones off.

'Penny for them?' Gran asked.

'Oh... erm, nothing, just looking, you know.' Gran had been great, but I didn't want to keep mentioning Mum.

'Make yourself useful then, Saffy, these chickens aren't rescuing themselves.'

I'm sure there was probably something in Gran's tenancy about no pets or livestock, but that definitely wasn't going to stop her. She was practically the Jackson Galaxy of not just cats, but pretty much every animal imaginable.

'Grab that one.' Gran pointed to the fluffy orange chicken darting towards my legs, racing for the cover of the bushes nearby. Under Gran's other arm she held a hen who was watching on, amber eyes locked onto my every move.

I readied myself as the nearest chicken scratched at the ground. I lunged, she bolted, and I missed. Stumbling over my own feet I landed in a crumpled heap on the grass. The hen dashed out of reach clucking indignantly.

‘You okay?’ A girl with long, plaited black hair with strands of blue running through it offered her hand. She wore DMs with rainbow laces threaded through them, and dungarees that were made of different patches of patterned fabric. She was a little shorter than me but not by much.

My cheeks burned. Great first impression, Saff. ‘Thanks,’ I said, letting her pull me up. I brushed dust off my jeans to avoid eye contact. Pieces of dry grass were inside my shoes and the ends poked like needles at my skin.

‘No worries. You want some help rounding up the ladies?’ she asked.

‘Sorry?’

She laughed. ‘The hens. You want me to help you catch them? They’re little feathery velociraptors really. Very crafty.’

I bet she thinks I’m a right idiot. ‘Sure, thanks. I’m not really used to chickens.’ I was meant to be helping Gran collect hens from the rescue centre, so far I was more of a hinderance than help, nothing new there.

‘I can see.’ She winked at me, and my stomach did this weird flip. ‘I’m Aurora.’

‘Saffy.’ I tried to smile but it felt alien, like my face wasn’t quite mine to control.

‘Are you new round here?’ she asked as she expertly scooped up a chicken, stroked her feathers, instantly calming her.

‘Saffy has come to live with me,’ Gran said, appearing next to us. ‘She’ll be a real asset helping out with the chickens and my vegetable plot.’

‘Hi, Flo.’ Aurora obviously knew Gran well; she wasn’t on first name terms with that many people. Gran’s old fashioned like that and preferred to be known as Mrs Armstrong even though Gramps died before I was even born. ‘That’s great, and you’ll have someone to help with cleaning up after these poo machines.’ Aurora must have seen my face and added, ‘Great fertiliser though, chicken poo.’

I loved Gran but I wasn’t planning on spending too much time in the house if I could help it. I wasn’t sure I was ready to be around people much and cleaning up chicken crap definitely wasn’t on my agenda.

‘How could anyone resist them, they’re adorable! Hold that thought, I’ve got an idea.’ She pulled oats out of a pocket on her dungarees and knelt down as hens rushed towards her. ‘Try picking one up now. They’re anyone’s for a few oats or blueberries.’ She smiled.

I took a deep breath and crept forward; arms outstretched. My fingers grasped the orange feathered body and I gripped her to my chest. The hen was warm and full of energy in my arms. I was pretty pleased with myself for actually managing to catch her. Gran and Aurora rounded up the rest and opened the crate for each new hen.

‘Get her in the crate before she wriggles free,’ Gran instructed, holding the lid open. ‘They’re a bit patchy in places but they’ll soon get new feathers once we’ve fed them up and they’re living the life of riley at ours.’

Ours. I played the word over in my head. It felt weird. I had only been at Gran’s a few weeks, and it was all still so new. I wasn’t sure I really belonged anywhere anymore. Getting used to Gran’s way of life was weird. It had been mainly takeaways and stuff out of a packet with Mum. Gran wanted everything as fresh as possible and homemade. I’d never seen such yellow eggs as the ones I’d had for breakfast at Gran’s, though now I was seeing the butts the eggs were coming from was a bit off-putting.

Gran went to load the car and chat to Aurora’s mum who ran the rescue centre.

‘So.’ That word felt so loaded. Aurora leant against the fence. ‘You going to start at Castleton Comp soon?’

I pushed a stray curl behind my ear and swallowed hard. The thought of starting over at a new school both excited and terrified me. *Fresh start, fresh start,* I chanted in my head until I realised Aurora was still waiting for my answer. ‘Yeah. I start next week for the rest of my last year, thankfully.’

‘I’ll be glad to finish school for good. I want to get out and see the world a bit.’

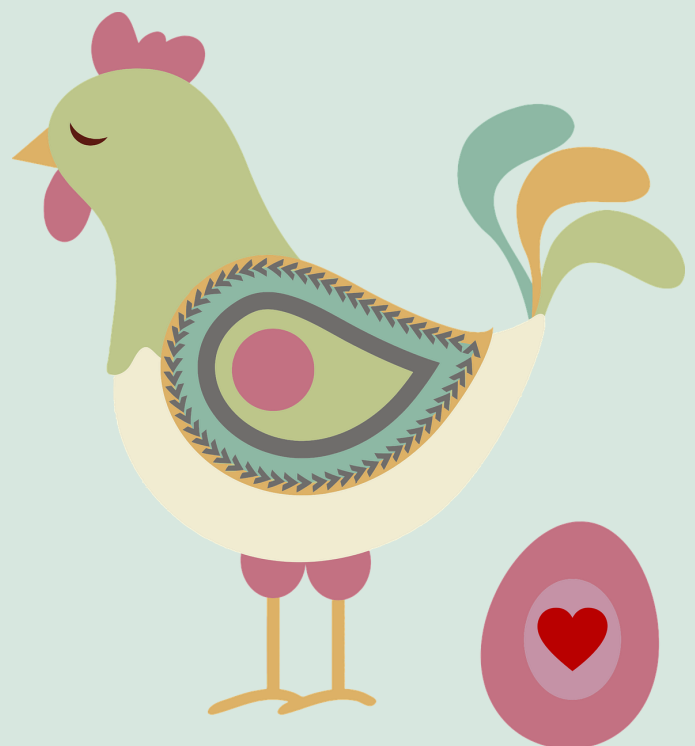
Aurora smiled. ‘You doing your A-levels too then?’

‘Yeah, Art, English Literature and Film Studies. You?’

‘Cool, we’ll be in Art together.’

‘Ready, Saffy?’ Gran called. She was already in the car with the window wound down.

‘Gotta go. See you Monday, I guess,’ I said.



‘I’ll have to give you the grand tour.’

‘Thanks.’ I lifted my hand to wave as I walked away. Why was I so socially awkward? Sometimes even a simple goodbye was painful, and I cringed internally.

‘Buckle up, kiddo,’ Gran said as I slid into the car. The heat of the afternoon sun had warmed the seat.

Chickens clucked from the crates in the back as we pulled away. Aurora watched us from the yard and my stomach did that weird flip again. Maybe a new start here with Gran was what I needed.

I pushed my headphones back over my ears, Mum’s favourite songs invading my thoughts again. For the first time in a long time, I looked forward to what the next week might bring with chickens and a fresh start. 🐓

Emma Finlayson-Palmer

Emma Finlayson-Palmer is a working class, autistic writer who lives in the West Midlands with her husband and a multitude of children, cats, and chickens. A writer of children’s fiction, represented by Veronique Baxter of the David Higham agency, Emma is the author of the *Autumn Moonbeam* chapter book series. Emma runs #ukteenchat, a writing themed chat on Twitter, and edits, mentors and reads competition entries for #WriteMentor and reads flash fiction entries for Retreat West. She’s also one half of Word Witches, as a children’s fiction editor.

You can find out more about Emma and follow her on social media by clicking here: [Emma Finlayson-Palmer](#)



QUIZZES

DON'T FORGET TO UNSCRAMBLE THE ANAGRAMS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

CLUE: THEY ARE ALL BOOK TITLES ON OUR GREEN BOOKSHELF!

ANSWERS ON PAGE 63.

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

BEACH

ENVIRONMENT

FOREST

INSECTS

LAKE

NATURE

OCEAN

RIVER

SPRING

STREAM

TREES

CAN YOU FIND ALL THE WORDS IN
THE WORDSEARCH ABOVE? THE
ANSWERS CAN BE IN ANY
DIRECTION, INCLUDING DIAGONAL!

1. HOSTAGES STUN THINGS

2. THEY WAILED WHOM

3. OWL STUNG FOE



Illustration by the
fantastic...

Kim de Haan

You can find out more
about Kim on page 62

NEW WRITING

There's Magic Here

by Rebecca Gardyn Levington

There's magic here.

It hangs on trees
and buzzes through
the bugs and bees.

I hear it in each
hoot and tweet,
each skitter of
a chipmunk's feet.

It rises with
the morning sun,
and lingers after
day is done.

It saturates the
the softened ground.

There's magic here.

It's all around.

Find it. Feel it.

Search for clues.

There's magic here.

It waits for you.

Rebecca Gardyn Levington

Rebecca Gardyn Levington is a children's book author, poet and journalist with a particular penchant for penning both playful and poignant picture books and poems – primarily in rhyme. She is the author of *BRAINSTORM!* (Sleeping Bear Press, 2022) and *WHATEVER COMES TOMORROW* (March 7, 2023) and has six more picture books forthcoming. Rebecca's award-winning poems and articles have appeared in numerous anthologies, newspapers, and magazines. She lives in New Jersey with her family.



Find out more about Rebecca and sign up for her newsletter at

www.RebeccaGardynLevington.com

Twitter: @WriterRebeccaGL

Instagram: @RebeccaGardynLevington



SOPHIE JO



We chatted to YA author
Sophie Jo all about her
 empowering debut for young
 people:
The Nicest Girl

COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR DEBUT NOVEL, *THE NICEST GIRL*?

The Nicest Girl is about Anna, a sixth-former who realises she's sick of always being 'the nice one' and goes on a mission to change things. Anna is surrounded by people who love her, but these people are so used to Anna neglecting herself and prioritising them that they don't necessarily deal too well with her new attempts to set boundaries!

Ultimately, the book is about how difficult it can be to balance your own feelings and needs alongside other people's.

THE BOOK DEALS WITH SOME IMPORTANT THEMES AND ISSUES, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CARE IN A WORLD PERMANENTLY SWITCHED ON. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE IT?

I felt – and feel – that the word 'no' is barely used in our society. So many of us, especially women and girls, feel that the only way we can exist is by putting everyone else first. Some

people might have grown up with a belief that their role in the world is to be the nice one, the easy-going one, and that can be hard to break away from.

It took me years to understand that my wants, needs and limitations are as important as anyone else's. I know now that it's OK for me not to answer a message straight away. It's alright if I say no to a last-minute social plan because I've been busy this week and I need to rest. I really wanted to bring that energy into the book and remind younger readers that they don't always have to be available, especially in a world that expects us to be constantly glued to our phones. Don't get me wrong, I waste a LOT of hours on TikTok! But taking the time to rest and do things at our own pace often allows us to be better, more present friends.

FOR MANY READERS, THE MAIN CHARACTER OF ANNA, WHO STRUGGLES TO PUT HER NEEDS FIRST, WILL BE VERY RELATABLE. WERE ANY MOMENTS DIFFICULT TO WRITE, SINCE SOME OF THE BOOK WAS BASED ON YOUR OWN TEENAGE YEARS?

Anna is based on lots of different people, but

we definitely have some similarities, especially when I compare her to my own teenage self! There's a chapter where Anna reluctantly skips her grandad's birthday party so she can support her friend, Marla, and that was based on my own experiences with a friend in the late '00s. Later on in the book, Anna realises that although her friends gently tease her for being 'too nice', they are also very happy to take advantage of her niceness when it suits them. She finally erupts – and I found writing that scene quite cathartic!

THIS BOOK WILL HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MIGHT FACE SIMILAR ISSUES AS ANNA. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU HOPE IT WILL INSPIRE IN READERS?

Thank you so much! I really hope so, and I hope that it'll encourage readers to take steps to prioritise themselves and the things that matter to them. There's a line in *The Nicest Girl* where Anna is told:

'You can still be Anna. You're just learning how to protect her now.'

I think that's really important – it's not about berating yourself or forcing yourself to become a whole new person. It's just about beginning to recognise the importance of setting those boundaries and not always allowing other people to call the shots.

I also wanted readers to understand the importance of good communication in friendships. Anna tries so hard to start doing things differently, but she doesn't tell those closest to her that she's decided to make a change – she just expects them to mind-read. What she learns is that people can't alter their behaviour if you never tell them that it's upsetting you.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO READ WHAT YOU WILL RELEASE NEXT! ARE YOU WORKING ON ANYTHING NEW AT THE MOMENT?

I'm currently writing another YA novel and I'm having SO much fun. This one is more of a romance and there's a dual narrative, which I've never tried before! I love the characters and I can't wait for readers to meet them.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN AUTHOR? WHAT WAS YOUR JOURNEY TO PUBLICATION LIKE?

Yes – ever since I was old enough to know what an author was, I wanted to write books. For me, confidence was a big issue – I knew I loved to write, but I was never sure if my writing was 'good enough' to take further. In 2020, I was selected to be part of a mentorship scheme with the Madeleine Milburn Literary Agency, home to Holly Bourne, Danielle Jawando and Benjamin Dean. This was an amazing experience – it gave me and the other mentees a chance to ask questions, hear from industry experts and really fine-tune the books we were working on. My wonderful agent, Chloe, helped me get *The Nicest Girl* ready to go on submission to publishers, and in 2021 UCLan Publishing decided they'd like to share my story with the world! 📖

SOPHIE JO'S WRITING PROMPT

'I love you, but sometimes I need a break.'
This is the opening line in *The Nicest Girl*.

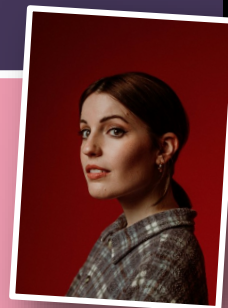
Anna is talking about her best friend, Marla, who can sometimes be very demanding. Can you take this opening line and use it to create your own first chapter? It could be about a pet owner, an older sibling, or even an exhausted hotel owner!

SOPHIE JO

Sophie Jo is a writer of Young Adult fiction from the West Midlands. Her debut YA novel *The Nicest Girl* was published in August 2022.

Sophie spends her spare time reading about Disneyland and overanalysing 00's teen TV show *The O.C.*

You can find her on Twitter, Instagram and TikTok @sophiejowrites.



★ MEET THE ★ ILLUSTRATORS

IF YOU'RE AN ARTIST OR ILLUSTRATOR AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR WORK IN A FUTURE ISSUE, YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE HERE: WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM

CLAIRE LEWIS

Claire is an author/illustrator living in Devon, who loves to create funny or lyrical picture books and poems. She also does design and display work for an independent non-profit bookshop. She uses traditional media for her illustrations (gouache, watercolour, acrylic, ink) but adds layers and finishing touches in Photoshop. Claire created the wonderful cover illustration for this issue.



You can follow Claire on Twitter (@ClaireFLewis) or Instagram (@claire_f_lewis) and see more of her illustrations - on her website: www.claireflewis.com.

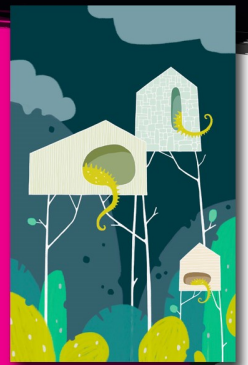


Kim de Haan

Kim de Haan is an illustrator creating on Guringai Land in Sydney, Australia. She's been drawing for as long as she can remember, and loves getting lost in creating. In her past life she designed houses and furniture. Now, she's focusing back on drawing and hopes to illustrate her own picture book one day.

Kim illustrated the quizzes page and one of our writing prompts in this issue.

Follow her on Instagram: @kimdehaanillustrator





CARMEN CARREIRA

It's fair to say Carmen has always loved creating art.

At school it was her favourite subject and she went on to study illustration at Kingston University, where she met her future husband. After achieving her degree, she illustrated a handful of books including a series for the National Trust and Country Living on such subjects as beekeeping and hen keeping which matched well with her interest in wildlife illustration. Around that time, she was offered a full-time position in Madame Tussauds wax figure production team which was thrilling and creative. Now, when not busy being a mum in leafy Bedfordshire, Carmen dedicates as much time as possible to creating artworks, be that a custom portrait or an illustration from her imagination based on wildlife or traditional tales, or even some stories of her own, which she loves sharing with her boys and hopes you enjoy too.

Carmen has illustrated the contents page in this issue.



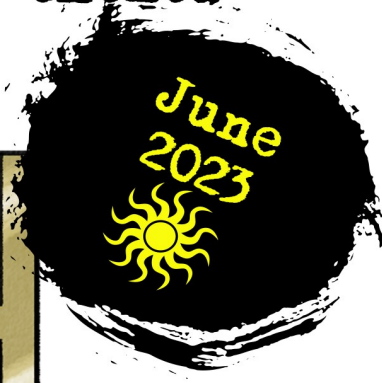
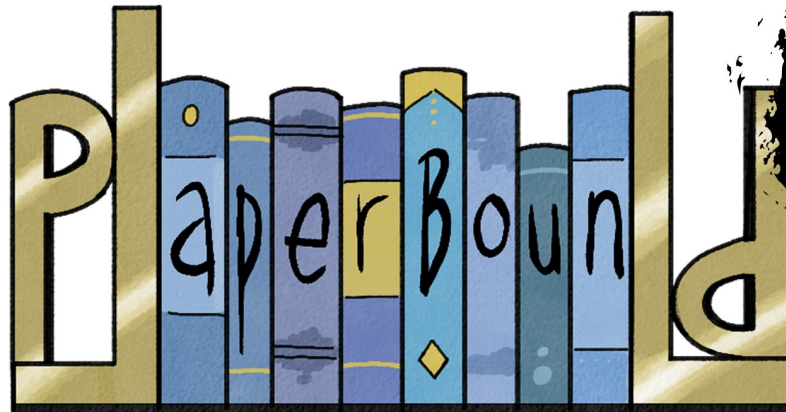
JOSEPH WITCHALL

Joseph is a professional illustrator with over 10 years experience and published in over 20 books. He has illustrated for award winning poetry books, with poet and rapper Karl Nova. His work is rooted in the natural world and draws on traditional styles of illustration. He studied Animation at Norwich School of Art, and his experience with film and animation is always present within his work. Joseph has a passion for wildlife and conservation and has endeavoured to share the magic of nature with the readers of his books and artwork. He finds endless inspiration from the wonderful wilderness and woodlands of Devon where he lives. He is currently working on a series of short illustrated "silent" stories about British wildlife and on his new book about a woodland creature called Verdy, which is designed to encourage children to connect with nature and explore the great outdoors, and protect the amazing nature of our beautiful planet. You can find some of Joseph's beautiful illustrated stories inside this issue.

www.josephwitchall.com



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summer issue of



for the young, and the young at heart

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New Art

Author Interviews

Writing Tips

Book Recommendations

and more...

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