

# CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

---



## ILLUSTRATOR BIOS

CBW 2024 Activity Page Creators

### ANDY J. PIZZA

Andy J. Pizza is *The New York Times*-bestselling illustrator behind the popular podcast *Creative Pep Talk* and the author-illustrator of many books for children and adults. He lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his family, and his favorite ice cream is cookie dough plus cookies and cream. Learn more at [www.andyjpizza.com](http://www.andyjpizza.com).

### BRADEN HALLETT

Braden is an illustrator (and now author!) who lives in Kamloops, British Columbia. He enjoys drawing oodles of doodles, writing more books that will still feature evil hamsters, playing lots and lots of role playing games like *Dungeons and Dragons*, and occasionally playing board games with his many nieces and nephews. His dream is to keep illustrating and writing.

### ELISA ROCCHI

Elisa Rocchi grew up in the countryside of northern Italy, along with her unique fantastic pet cat, Minù. She has always loved drawing and writing and works as a children's book illustrator. Elisa currently lives in Bologna, Italy, with her husband and two sons. To see more of Elisa's work, visit [elisarocchi.it](http://elisarocchi.it).

### JACQUELINE ALCÁNTARA

Jacqueline Alcántara is a children's picture book illustrator. Her debut picture book, *The Field*, written by Baptiste Paul, received 3 starred reviews and won the Sonia Lynn Sadler Award, was a Junior Library Guild selection, and also appeared on the Horn Book Fanfare Best of 2018, the School Library Journal Best of 2018, and the CCBC 2018 Choices lists. Jacqueline's favorite days are spent drawing, painting, writing, and walking her dog. She lives in Chicago, and has many illustrated works for children.

### JESS HANNIGAN

Jess Hannigan is a writer and illustrator making picture books, editorial artwork, and more in Hamilton, Ontario. She studied illustration at Sheridan College, where she received the Jon Klassen Award. She is a lover of bold, graphic illustration and an appreciator of silly nonsense. *Spider in the Well* is her first picture book.

### JOSÉPHINE TOPOLANSKI

Born in Paris, Joséphine Topolanski is passionate about printmaking, micro-editing, and illustration and questions the boundaries between art and science through her art. In 2018, her work was selected for the Illustrators Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. She has been intimately linked to the marine world since her childhood in Brittany, France, where she still practices diving and sailing. Her most recent picture book is *Kai's Ocean of Curiosities*, published by Blue Dot Kids Press.

## KAREN VERMEULEN

Karen Vermeulen is an artist, illustrator and teacher living in Cape Town, South Africa, known for her happy, uplifting and quirky creations. She is the illustrator of two Catalyst Press children's books, *Wanjiku, Child of Mine* (July 2024), and *It's Just Skin, Silly!* (Sept 2023). Her debut graphic memoir, *Good Luck to Us All*, will be published by Catalyst in February 2025. View more of Karen's work at [www.karenvermeulen.com](http://www.karenvermeulen.com).

## KENT CULOTTA

When he was five, Kent Culotta covered an entire wall of his parents' living room with a gallery of his drawings. He realized then that he was destined to be an artist. Grown-up Kent is the illustrator of six picture books so far, beginning with one of his favorites, *Dan, the Taxi Man*. His most recent book is *Tow Truck 1, 2, 3*. Both were authored by the wonderful Eric Ode. Kent is currently writing and illustrating several imaginative picture book stories of his own. He loves experimenting with different media, both traditional and digital.

Kent also works as an animation artist for film, television, and video games. Among his projects are *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Prince of Egypt*. He lives in Southern California with his husband and his two rambunctious cats, Margot and Rudy.

## MARTA ÁLVAREZ MIGUÉNS

Marta Álvarez Miguéns is a self-taught illustrator who lives in Spain. She has illustrated many books, including *Dinosaur Lady: The Daring Discoveries of Mary Anning, the First Paleontologist* and *Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist*, which was named a Best Children's Book of the Year by *Parents* magazine and one of Twelve Books for Feminist Boys and Girls by *The New York Times*.

## NATASHA DONOVAN

Natasha Donovan (she/her/hers) is a Métis illustrator originally from Vancouver, British Columbia. Her sequential work has been published in *This Place: 150 Years Retold*, *Wonderful Women of History*, and Thomas King's graphic novel *Borders*. She is the illustrator of the award-winning *Surviving the City* graphic novel series and *Mothers of Xsan* children's book series, as well as *Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer*. She currently lives by the Nooksack River in Washington State. [@natashamdonovan](https://twitter.com/natashamdonovan)

## SHADIA AMIN

Shadia Amin is a Colombian cartoonist and illustrator based in Savannah, Georgia. She graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) with a bachelor's degree in sequential art, minoring in illustration. She later earned her master's degree in sequential art, also from SCAD. Her art aims to capture the fun of superheroes, fantasy, and life itself, and her works include *Shiny Misfits*, *Spider-Ham*, *Aggretsuko*, and *Olive & Popeye*. She has also contributed to anthologies like *Alloy: Electrum* and *Votes for Women: The Battle for the 19th Amendment*. Shadia is also a teacher, and when she is not working, she can be found cooking, playing video games, or spending time with her husband, dog, and cat. Find her online at [shadiaminart.com](http://shadiaminart.com).