

# CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

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## BOOK CREATOR BIOS

CBW 2025 Activities

### Story Starters

#### DEBRA GOLDSTEIN

Debra Kim Wolf is a land conservation attorney (under her married name, Debra Wolf Goldstein), author, songwriter, and tree hugger. She was vice president of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Commission for over a decade and cofounded the Philadelphia Environmental Film Festival. She also directs the nonprofit One Little Earth ([www.OneLittleEarth.org](http://www.OneLittleEarth.org)), which supports outdoor programs, films, and books that instill a love of nature in young people. Debra received the "Woman of Lifetime Achievement in Conservation" award from the statewide group, PennFuture. Her favorite childhood toy was Toby, a stuffed tiger cub. She can be reached at [Debra.Kim.Wolf@PlatypusMedia.com](mailto:Debra.Kim.Wolf@PlatypusMedia.com).

Her newest book will be [\*A Family for Zoya: The True Story of an Endangered Cub\*](#) (Platypus Media).

#### AUBREY HARTMAN

Aubrey Hartman grew up in Virginia just before the technology boom, when exciting weekend plans consisted of a library card and a few dozen ice pops. Her most beloved friends all lived the pages of her favorite novels, and if she's being honest, they still do. After high school, she studied at Brigham Young University, earning a bachelor's degree in advertising and a minor in art history. Currently, she lives in California with her husband and three young children. In her thirty-some years, she's lived many lives, and is currently in her medical-mom era—learning how to be an advocate for her youngest child, an objectively delightful baby with a trach and a feeding tube. She invites you to visit her at [aubreyhartman.com](http://aubreyhartman.com).

Her newest book is [\*The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest\*](#) (Little, Brown and Company Books for Young Readers).

#### MARY POPE OSBORNE

Mary Pope Osborne is the author of the *New York Times* #1 bestselling Magic Tree House series as well as coauthor of the Magic Tree House Fact Tracker series, along with her husband, Will, and her sister, Natalie Pope Boyce. For more information, visit the [Magic Tree House website!](#)

Her upcoming title is [\*Magic Tree House Fact Tracker Graphic Novel: Dinosaurs\*](#) (Random House Children's Books).

## MAUDIE-POWELL TUCK

Maudie Powell-Tuck spends too much of her time in expensive shops looking at clothes and glittery things she can't afford, and dreaming about owning a pug named Stanley (when she's not writing, of course). She'd love to say that she runs marathons – but that would be a lie.

Her newest book is [Hank Goes Honk](#) (Tiger Tales).

## CARLY ANNE WEST

Carly Anne West is the author of the YA novels *The Murmurings* and *The Bargaining* and the Hello Neighbor middle grade series of novels. She is also a collaborator on the Fazbear Frights novels with Five Nights at Freddy's. Carly Anne lives in Seoul, Korea with her husband, two kids, a very small cat, and a very large dog.

Her upcoming title is [The Ghosts of Nameless Island: The Boy Who Could Fly](#) (Andrews McMeel Publishing).

## Drawing Activity Pages

## CARLY ALLEN-FLETCHER

Carly Allen-Fletcher is a freelance illustrator from the UK making colourful, dramatic art inspired by nature, science, myth and magic. Her work is a combination of digital colour and traditional media; and she illustrates for a wide variety of projects including book covers, posters, ttrpgs, and picture books.

Her most recent title is [Kingdoms of Life](#) (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers).

## JONELL JOSHUA

Jonell Joshua found her calling for art at a young age—precisely 2nd grade—after she found her mother's art portfolio in the bedroom of her childhood home. Hoping to emulate her mother's talents, soon after, Jonell started drawing kid's portraits in the cafeteria during lunch. In later years she dove deeper into the arts, continuing to create in and out of school, finding ways to express herself and connect with others.

Today, Jonell is an award-winning illustrator based in Brooklyn, New York. Her professional work has explored a range of topics in editorial illustration and publication, including illustrating for *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Real Life Tales of Black Girl Magic*, The Queens of the Resistance series, and work featured in the film *Selah and the Spades*. She has worked with clients including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *New York Magazine*, and NPR.

Her most recent book is [How Do I Draw These Memories](#) (Levine Querido).

## UDAYANA LUGO

Udayana Lugo is a self-taught illustrator of mixed heritage. She is passionate about representation and tries to portray people of different backgrounds and abilities in her work. She works both traditionally and digitally, with a strong preference for watercolors and pencils. She has illustrated more than fifteen books,

including the picture books *When You Meet a Dragon* and *Jungle Cat*, which was commended as a 2023 CCBC Best Books for Kids and Teens. Udayana lives and works on the traditional, ancestral and unceded land of the Musqueam and Squamish Nations, also called Richmond, BC.

Her newest title is [No Huddles for Heloise](#) (Orca Book Publishers).

## SENG SOON RATANAVANH

Seng Soun Ratanavanh is a French illustrator and painter who was born in Laos and lives near Paris, France. She graduated from the National School of Fine Arts in Paris and has illustrated several books for children, including *George and His Nighttime Friends*, *Thank you, Miyuki*, and *The Paper Bridge*.

Her newest title is [The Paper Bridge](#) (Floris Books).

## ALICE RL

Alice RL (they/them/their) is a professional illustrator and art teacher based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. As a non-binary Ojibwe artist, Alice draws inspiration from their life experiences and cultural teachings. Alice blends these inspirations with a signature palette of bright, playful hues to create stunning juxtapositions of human brutality and emotion with hope and whimsy.

Their most recent title is [Between the Pipes](#) (Portage & Main / HighWater Press).

## JESSIE SIMA

Jessie Sima (pronounced see-mah) is an author and illustrator of picture books. They grew up in a small town in New Jersey and now write and draw in a creaky house in New York State. When not making books, Jessie can be found reading graphic novels, watching scary movies, and playing outside with dogs.

Their upcoming book is [Snow Kid](#) (Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing).

## 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, *It's Just Skin, Silly!* (2023), and *Wanjiku, Child of Mine* (2024), as well as many Catalyst Press book covers.

[Good Luck to Us All](#) is her debut adult title (Catalyst Press / Flare Kids).

## Poems/Riddles

## CATHY GOLDBERG FISHMAN

Cathy Goldberg Fishman is the author of 15 children's books. Her books have won the Parent's Choice Award, Georgia Author of the Year Award, and a Sidney Taylor Honor Book Award. Cathy has taught elementary school, sold encyclopedias from door to door, directed a day care center, and owned a children's bookstore called *Eeyore's Tale*. At the bookstore, Cathy organized birthday parties, cooking

classes for children, and many arts and crafts events. She also taught writing at a community college. Right now, she enjoys spending time with her granddaughters, volunteering, and scribbling words on paper. Her most recent book is [Fall Frolic in the City](#) (Familius).

## CHARLOTTE GUNNUFSON

Charlotte Gunnufson is a language arts teacher turned author. Her books include *Halloween Hustle*, illustrated by Kevan Atteberry, and *Prince and Pirate*, illustrated by Mike Lowery.

Her most recent book is [Dream Submarine](#) (Candlewick Press).

## JOHN HIMMELMAN

John Himmelman is the author and/or illustrator of over eighty books for children, including *Bunjitsu Bunny's Best Move* and *Bunjitsu Bunny Jumps to the Moon and Chickens to the Rescue*. He is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts, and currently lives in Connecticut.

His newest book is [The Boy Who Lived in a Shell](#) (Margaret Ferguson / Holiday House, Inc.).

## KAYLIN MELIA GEORGE

Kaylin Melia George grew up listening to the stories of Moloka'i. She breathed in the epic Hawaiian legends her mother gifted her as bedtime stories. It was the planting of these early seeds that drove Kaylin to dedicate her life to storytelling. Before working in children's literature, Kaylin began her professional journey in filmmaking as an award-winning director and screenwriter. Working across the United States and Japan, her portfolio has included narrative work recognized by The Academy (of Oscars notoriety), as well as documentary pieces created for some of the most recognizable non-profits, including the World Wildlife Fund and The Asian Cultural Council, and national commercials for publicly traded companies. Today, Kaylin collaborates with Mythify Studios in the creation of epic world-building art books. With *Aloha Everything*, Kaylin found a story close to her heart and celebrates her native Hawaiian ancestry. This is the story she has always dreamed of telling.

Her most recent title is [Aloha Everything](#) (Red Comet Press).

## LAWRENCE SCHIMEL

Lawrence Schimel is a bilingual (Spanish/English) author and literary translator, who divides his time between his native New York and Madrid, Spain. He has published over 130 books as an author, which have won honors such as a Crystal Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, a White Raven from the International Youth Library in Munich, and have been chosen by IBBY for Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities (three times). He has also published over 160 books as a literary translator, into Spanish or English, which have won numerous distinctions, including a Batchelder Honor and a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Children's Book.

His most recent book is [HaiCuba / HaiKuba](#) (NorthSouth Books).

## CARLY ANNE WEST

Carly Anne West is the author of the YA novels *The Murmurings* and *The Bargaining* and the Hello Neighbor middle grade series of novels. She is also a collaborator on the Fazbear Frights novels with Five Nights at Freddy's. Carly Anne lives in Seoul, Korea with her husband, two kids, a very small cat, and a very large dog.

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