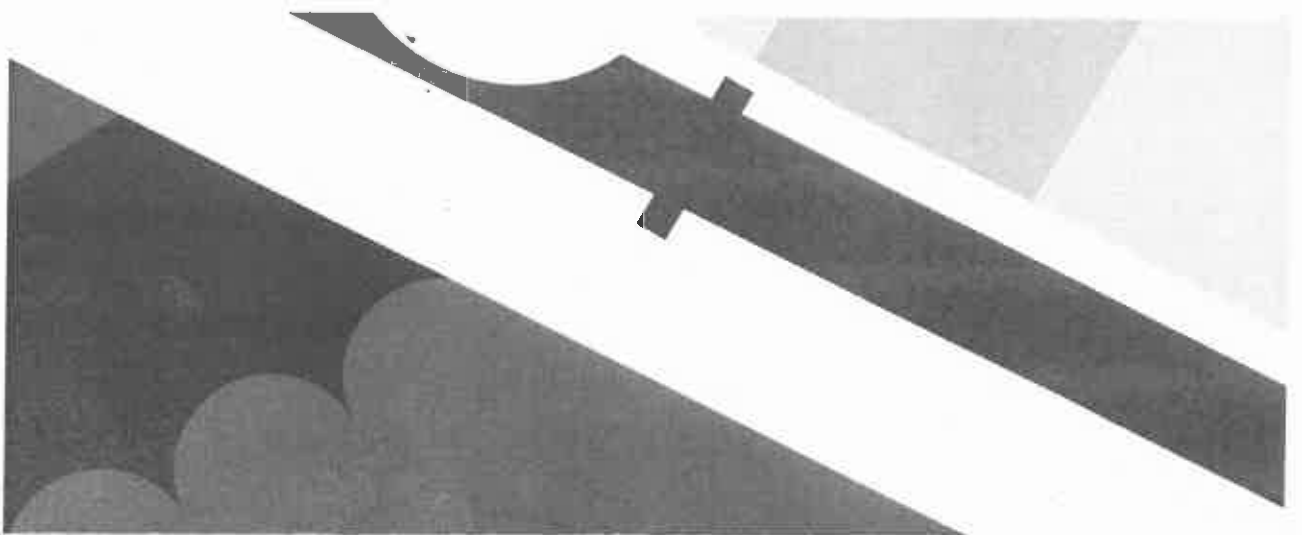


BREAKING NEW GROUND:
CELEBRATING BRITISH WRITERS
& ILLUSTRATORS OF COLOUR



Fariḍah Àbíkè-Íyímíḍé ● Fiction
Dapo Aḍeola ● ● ● Illustration/Picture Books
Ade Aḍepitan ● Fiction
Shirin Adl ● ● ● Illustration/Author-Illustration Books
John Agard ● ● ● Poetry and Autobiography
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Parys Gardener ● ● ● Illustration
Jamila Gavin ● ● ● Fiction
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Candy Gourlay ● ● ● Fiction
Lorraine Gregory ● ● ● Fiction
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Emily Hughes ● ● ● Illustration/Picture Books
Sonya Hundal ● ● ● Plays and Fiction
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Sharna Jackson ● ● ● Fiction and Non-Fiction
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Muhammad Khan ● ● ● Fiction
K P Kojo aka Nii Ayikwei Parkes ● ● ● Fiction and Poetry
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Grace Nichols ● ● ● Poetry and Fiction
Karl Nova ● ● ● Poetry and Fiction
Tola Okogwu ● ● ● Fiction
Shereen Pandit ● ● ● Fiction and Non-Fiction
Rikin Parekh ● ● ● Illustration
Serena K Patel ● ● ● Fiction
Woodrow Phoenix ● ● ● Illustration and Comics
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Pooja Puri ● ● ● Fiction

Yasmin Rahman ● ● ● Fiction
Bali Rai ● ● ● Fiction
Maghvi Ramani ● ● ● Fiction
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Anjan Sarkar ● ● ● Illustration/Picture Books
Emma Shevah ● ● ● Fiction
Qian Shi ● ● ● Author-Illustrator Picture Book
Nadia Shireen ● ● ● Author-Illustrator Picture Books
Nikesh Shukla ● ● ● Fiction
Ranjit Singh Dhaliwal ● ● ● Fiction
Chitra Soundar ● ● ● Fiction
Michael de Souza ● ● ● Fiction
Holly Sterling ● ● ● Illustration/Picture Books
Tammy Taylor ● ● ● Illustration/manga art
Uday Thapa Magar ● ● ● Illustration
Kevin Tsang ● ● ● Fiction
Ken Wilson-Max ● ● ● Author-Illustrator Picture Books
Benjamin Zephaniah ● ● ● Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction
Jon Daniel ● ● ● Illustration and Graphic Art



Faridah Abike-Iyímíde

Faridah Abike-Iyímíde is a writer from south London, currently living and studying in north-east Scotland. Her debut novel, *Ace of Spades*, will be published in 2020. Faridah says that, growing up in a poor working-class environment and a childhood riddled with a lot of trauma, she learned to escape through books. She wrote her debut for those who don't fit preconceived notions some people have of black individuals. Faridah says: 'I am a Muslim, I'm queer and I have disabilities and so I wrote a story about black people like me, struggling to survive in a very white world, with my books focusing on systematic racism and how even micro-aggressions eat away at the psyche of black people. I write for black kids who love solving puzzles with hidden meanings. I write for black adults who are still in need of books about people whose struggles they can relate to.'

www.faridahabikeiyimide.com

@Abike_I

Fiction

Ace of Spades. London: Usborne Children's Books, 2020. (YA)



Dapo Adeola

Dapo Adeola is a British-born Nigerian self-taught illustrator and character designer. His work mostly revolves around creating characters and imagery that challenge gender norms and equality politics in a fun and upbeat manner. He is an avid believer in the importance of representation in the creative arts and raising the profile of Black British illustration talent in UK publishing. He also runs school workshops on the importance of representation in popular media with children from various ethnicities. His goal is to have more BAME faces in normal spaces, instead of the outdated stereotypical spaces and limited forms of representational narratives that currently exist. He makes his literary debut in 2019 with the picture book *Look Up* about a young black girl's fascination with the stars, and a middle grade book, *Last Last-Day-of-Summer*, about two young black male mystery-solving adventurers. Dapo lives in London.

@dapsdraws

Illustration/Picture Books

The Last Last-Day-of-Summer. Written by Lamar Giles. Boston, MA: Versify, 2019. (10-12)
Look Up. Written by Nathan Bryon. London: Puffin, 2019. Picture book. (2-5)



Shirin Adl

Shirin Adl is an Iranian illustrator with a passion for bright colours and interesting textures. When she was little and could only read Farsi, pictures made books in other languages accessible, as she looked at them to work out the story. After she learned English, she sometimes came across a picture book she'd decoded as a child and realised the tale was very different to the one she'd thought of! For Shirin, book illustrations complement the text, but can also tell their own story. She especially enjoys creating busy scenes where she depicts different characters, giving each one an imaginary life; so it makes her very happy when children or parents tell her that they've enjoyed coming up with their own ideas about her pictures. Shirin studied illustration at Loughborough University and lives in Oxford.

anotherread.com/shirin-adl

Illustration/Author-Illustration Books

The Book of Dreams. London: Frances Lincoln, 2013. (5-8)

Let's Celebrate! Festival Poems from Around the World. Chosen by Debjani Chatterjee and Brian D'Arcy. London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2013. (7-10)

Ramadan Moon. Written by Na'ima B

Robert. London: Frances Lincoln, 2009. (4-7)

Riding a Donkey Backwards. Written by Sean

Taylor and Khavaal Theatre. Hereford: Otter-Barry

Books, 2018. (5+)

Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings. Written by

Elizabeth Laird. London: Lincoln Children's Books,

2014. (7+)



John Agre moved to the city for young teenage *Who Hai* by Satou *Alternati* *Ghost Of* *Book, tel* book. Hit Poetry Pt Queen's @John/ **Selecte** *All Sorts* Stoke, 21 *Book: M* 2014. (9- *Come Ai* Courtney *Going B* Edinburgh *Goldiloc* Kitamura: *Hello H* Hodder (*The Rai* Kitamura: *Shona, I* Broad. E



Ade Adepitan

Having survived polio as a youngster, Ade Adepitan has succeeded as an international Paralympic wheelchair basketball player and has built up a wealth of broadcasting experience. He has travelled the world for his work and regularly goes undercover, investigating controversial and ground-breaking stories. He is a regular reporter for the BBC's *One Show* and a returning presenter for *Children in Need*. Ade has also presented countless sporting events including co-hosting the BAFTA award-winning coverage of the 2012 Paralympics alongside Clare Balding, and the 2016 Invictus Games, created by Prince Harry. Ade's had an incredibly busy 2018 including filming his first four-part documentary for BBC 2 and releasing his first children's book, *Ade's Amazing Ade-ventures: Battle of the Cyborg Cat*. Not to mention getting married at St Paul's Cathedral and refurbishing his entire house! Ade lives in west London.

www.adeadepitan.com/ @AdeAdepitan

Fiction

Ade's Amazing Ade-Ventures: Battle of the Cyborg Cat. London: Studio Press Publishing, 2018. (7-9)
Ade's Amazing Ade-Ventures: The Mystery of the Night Spider. London: Studio Press Publishing, 2019. (7-9)



Shirin Adl

Shirin Adl is an Iranian illustrator with a passion for bright colours and interesting textures. When she was little and could only read Farsi, pictures made books in other languages accessible, as she looked at them to work out the story. After she learned English, she sometimes came across a picture book she'd decoded as a child and realised the tale was very different to the one she'd thought of! For Shirin, book illustrations complement the text, but can also tell their own story. She especially enjoys creating busy scenes where she depicts different characters, giving each one an imaginary life, so it makes her very happy when children or parents tell her that they've enjoyed coming up with their own ideas about her pictures. Shirin studied illustration at Loughborough University and lives in Oxford.

anotherread.com/shirin-adl

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The Book of Dreams. London: Frances Lincoln, 2013. (5-8)
Let's Celebrate! Festival Poems from Around the World. Chosen by Debjani Chatterjee and Brian D'Arcy. London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2013. (7-10)
Ramadan Moon. Written by Na'ima B Robert. London: Frances Lincoln, 2009. (4-7)
Riding a Donkey Backwards. Written by Sean Taylor and Khayaal Theatre. Hereford: Otter-Barry Books, 2018. (5+)
Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings. Written by Elizabeth Laird. London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2014. (7+)



John Agard

John Agard was born and educated in Guyana and moved to the UK in 1977. He is one of the poets on the current GCSE curriculum. His collections for young readers include *The Young Inferno*, a teenage spin on Dante's *Inferno*, *Einstein*, *The Girl Who Hated Maths* and *Hello H2O*, both illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura. His adult collections include *Alternative Anthem* and his latest, *Playing the Ghost Of Maimonides*. His first non-fiction, entitled *Book*, tells the history of the book in the voice of the book. His awards include the Casa de las Americas Poetry Prize, the Paul Hamlyn Award and the 2012 Queen's Gold Medal for poetry. He lives in Sussex.

@JohnAgard1

Selected Poetry

All Sorts to Make a World. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2014. (7+)

Book: My Autobiography. London: Walker Books, 2014. (9-12)

Come All You Little Persons. Illustrated by Jessica Courtney Tickle. London: Faber & Faber, 2017. (5+)

Going Betty. Illustrated by Michael Broad. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2016. (7+)

Goldilocks on CCTV. Illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura. London: Lincoln Children's, 2014. (7+)

Hello H2O. Illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura. London: Hodder Children's, 2013. (6-11)

The Rainmaker Danced. Illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura. London: Hodder Children's, 2017. (8+)

Shona, Word Detective. Illustrated by Michael Broad. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2018. (7+)



Sav Akyüz

Sav is an acclaimed storyboard artist and children's book illustrator of picture books. With over 15 years of storyboard artistry behind him, Sav has been asked to sketch many things by TV advertising executives. Things that excite (sports, cars, a combination of the two) and those that, perhaps, don't quite hold such glamorous appeal (such as roasted vegetables!). But it hasn't all been Porsches and potatoes — Sav has also served time as a visual effects artist on numerous feature films; enjoyed an unforgettable term at the legendary 'Jim Henson's Creature Shop'; sweated as a cloth layer-upper for famous Brit brands Burberry and Aquascutum; and, perhaps most proudly of all, peddled 99 Flakes and Funny Feet as a wannabe 'Mr Whippy' stationed outside the Tate Britain. He lives in London.

@splitwigs

Illustration/Picture Books

Bear Moves. Written by Ben Bailey Smith. London: Walker Entertainment, 2019. (3-7)

Hip and Hop: You Can Do Anything. Written by Akala. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. (3-7)

I am Bear. Written by Ben Bailey Smith. London: Walker Entertainment, 2016. (2-5)


Mehrdokht Amini

Mehrdokht Amini is an Iranian-British children's book illustrator living in London since 2004. She has a degree in graphic design from Tehran University, working for children's magazines and books while still a student. Her picture book, *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns* written by Hena Khan, was selected for the 2013 ALSC notable children's booklist. In 2016, *Chicken in the Kitchen* Awards, was put on the White Ravens Honour List, and was nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal. Mehrdokht loves working with publishers who are interested in cultural diversity because it gives her the opportunity to study different cultures and communities, to gain a better understanding and appreciation of all people.

www.umyar2c.com/

Selected Illustration/Picture Books

Chicken in the Kitchen. Written by Nneji Okarator. London: Lantana Publishing, 2015. (3-7)
Crescent Moons and Painted Minarets: A Muslim Book of Shapes. Written by Hena Khan. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2018. (3-5)
How the Olympics Came to Be. Written by Helen East. London: British Museum Press, 2012. (5-7)
A Moon for Moe and Ma. Written by Jane Breakin Zaben. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing, 2018. (3-7)

Nimnest the Adventurer. Written by Ranjiti Singh. London: Lantana Publishing, 2018. (3-7)
Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to his Daughter. Written by Mark Gonzales. London: Simon & Schuster, 2017. (4-8)


Raymond Antrobus

Raymond Antrobus is a poet and freelance teacher based in London. Born in Hackney to an English mother and Jamaican father, he is the author of *Shapes & Disfigurements*, *To Sweeten Bitter* and *The Perseverance* (Poetry Book Society Winter Choice, *A Sunday Times & Guardian* Poetry Book of the Year 2018). He is one of the world's first recipients of an MA in spoken word education from Goldsmiths University and is a founding member of Chill Pill and Keats House Poets Forum. His poems have appeared in various magazines and he has performed at festivals in the UK and abroad. His poetry has appeared in *The Big Issue*, the *Jamaica Gleaner*, the *Guardian* and at Tedx EastEnd. Raymond's first children's picture book is *Bears Can Ski*, illustrated by Polly Dunbar, due out in late 2019. It is about a boy bear and his father trying to understand and manage deafness.

www.raymondantrobus.com

Fiction and Poetry

Bears Can Ski. Illustrated by Polly Dunbar. London: Walker Books, 2019. Picture book (3+)
The Perseverance. London: Penned in the Margins, 2018. Poetry (14+)
Shapes & Disfigurements. Burning Eye Books, 2013. Poetry (14+)
To Sweeten Bitter. London: Out-spoken Press, 2017. Poetry (14+)


Humza Arshad

Humza Arshad is one of the UK's most popular and important British Asian personalities. After graduating from Richmond Drama School, Arshad wrote, directed and edited an episode called *Diary of a Badnan*. Over 90 million views of the series later, Humza became the first British YouTuber to have his own scripted comedy series on BBC. Three in the mockumentary series *Coconut*. Equally important to Humza has been using his influence and comedy for a greater purpose. In 2015, Humza partnered with the UK Counter Terrorism Unit and he is YouTube's first ambassador for the Creators For Change campaign. Humza has spoken and shared the stage with the likes of Will Smith, YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki, Kevin Hart and Whoopi Goldberg. *Little Badnan and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties* is his debut children's book. Humza is based in London.

@humzaproductio

Fiction

Little Badnan and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties. Co-authored with Henry White. London: Puffin, 2018. (9+)


Atinuke

Atinuke was born and grew up in Nigeria. She writes children's books because she loves the vibrancy, joy, wisdom and humour of her own African culture, which she includes a lot of in her work. She shares with children all over the world how modern life is in Africa, how amazing African traditions and cultures are, and how our human joys and sorrows are the same. She also tells traditional African stories which make her international audiences laugh and cry. Her books have been published in the UK, USA, France and Japan and have won lots of awards. Atinuke spends most of her time at home quietly dreaming up stories, but she sometimes visits schools and book festivals — she loves to meet her readers! Atinuke lives in Pembrokeshire.

atinuke-author.weebly.com/

Selected Fiction

The Anna Hibiscus series (7 books). Illustrated by Lauren Tobia. London: Walker Books, 2007-2015. (3+7+)
B is for Baby. Illustrated by Angela Brooksbank. London: Walker Books, 2019. (3+)
Baby Goes To Market. Illustrated by Angela Brooksbank. London: Walker Books, 2017. (3+)
The No. 1 Car Spotter series (4 books). Illustrated by Warwick Johnson Cadwell. London: Walker Books, 2010-2016. (7+)



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@humzaproduction

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Baby Goes To Market. Illustrated by Angela Brooksbank. London: Walker Books, 2017. (3+)

The No. 1 Car Spotter series (4 books). Illustrated by Warwick Johnson Cadwell. London: Walker Books, 2010-2016. (7+)



Dean Atta

Dean was shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize for his debut poetry collection, *I Am Nobody's Nigger*. His poems deal with themes of race, gender, identity and growing up, and have appeared on BBC 1, BBC Radio 4, BBC World Service and Channel 4. Dean was named as one of the most influential LGBT people in the UK by the *Independent on Sunday*. He regularly performs across the UK and internationally and is a member of Keats House Poets Forum and Malika's Poetry Kitchen. He has a Philosophy and English BA from the University of Sussex and a Writer/Teacher MA from Goldsmiths, University of London. Dean is a Tutor for Poetry School and a Writer in Residence for First Story. His debut young adult novel, *The Black Flamingo*, will be published in August 2019. Dean lives in London.

sites.google.com/site/deanatta/about

@DeanAtta

Fiction

Story in Proud. Compiled by Juno Dawson. London: Stripes Publishing, 2019. (12+)

The Black Flamingo. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2019. Novel. (12+)



Ruth Awolola

Ruth Awolola is a British-born Nigerian-Jamaican student, youth worker and poet currently based in York, having moved from south-east London to study English in education. Themes of love, race, family and space feature heavily in her work, as she aims to understand herself, her history, her interests and potentially her future. She writes for everyone, those who can relate to her experiences and those who cannot. When she began writing poetry in 2015 at 16 years old, she found that it was the perfect way for her to express her understanding of the world, the things she felt, loved, admired and desired. She produces poetry for a range of ages, asking herself 'What did I need to hear when I was younger? What did I care about then? What do I care about now? What will I go on to care about?'

@r_awolola

Poetry appears in:

A Heartful of Fist: A SLAMbassadors Anthology 2016. London: OutSpoken Press, 2016. (16+)

Rising Stars: New Young Voices in Poetry. Hereford: Otter-Barry Books, 2017. (10+)

She is Fierce: Brave, Bold and Beautiful Poems by Women. Edited by Ana Sampson. London: Macmillan's Children's Books, 2018. (11+)


Yaba Badoe

Yaba Badoe is an award-winning Ghanaian-British documentary filmmaker and writer. A graduate of King's College Cambridge, she has taught in Spain, Jamaica and Ghana. Her short stories for adults have been published in *Critical Quarterly* and in *African Love Stories: An Anthology*, edited by Ama Ata Aidoo. In 2014 Yaba was nominated for the Distinguished Woman of African Cinema award. Her debut novel, *A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars*, published by Zephyr, was shortlisted for the Brantford Boase Award 2018 and has been nominated for the 2019 Carnegie Medal. Yaba is based in London.

@yaba_badoe

Fiction
A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars. London: Zephyr, 2017. (12+)

The Secret of the Purple Lake. Illustrated by Gbolahan Adams. London: Cassava Republic, 2017. (10-13)

True Murder. London: Jonathan Cape, 2009. (Adults)

Wolf-Light. London: Zephyr, 2019. (12+)


Ben Bailey Smith

Once an underground rapper, in 2010 Ben Bailey Smith created the double BAFTA winning CBBC television series *4 O'Clock Club*, which combines razor sharp rhymes and laugh-out-loud comedy. It filmed its ninth season in 2018. He has appeared on *Blue Peter*, both as a performer and a contributor to their reviews of children's literature, and has been a storyteller on CBeebies' *Bedtime Stories*. In 2016 he contributed to Sky's countdown of the nation's favourite Roald Dahl books and in 2017 made an unforgettable cameo in the Sky One adaptation of the David Walliams' bestselling children's novel *Arthur*. In 2016, Ben released his first children's book, *I Am Bear*, the follow up, *Bear Moves*, is just out. He's currently writing a young adult play for the National Theatre's Connections programme. His latest work is a comic tale of the school run entitled *Get a Move On!*, aimed at 5-8 year olds. Ben lives in London.

dobrown.co.uk

Fiction
I Am Bear. Illustrated by Sav Akyuz. London: Walker Entertainment, 2016. (2-5)

Bear Moves. Illustrated by Sav Akyuz. London: Walker Entertainment, 2019. (3-7)


Francesca Beard

Francesca Beard was born in Malaysia and grew up on an island balanced on the equator, surrounded by eagles, lizards, cobras and a fighting cockerel for a guard dog. Her best friend was Fluffy, a smooth-haired mongrel. After a spell in real jobs, she now exists as a London-based poet who has been called 'the Queen of British performance poetry' (London *Metro*) and 'spine-tingling' (*The Independent*). She has performed her poetry in all sorts of places, all over the world, from a shopping mall in the Bangkok Book Fair to a prison in Colombia, to New York's Nuyorican Café and run creative writing workshops with The British Library, The Young Vic, The BBC, Hampton Court Palace, The Natural History Museum and many more.

@FrancescaBeard

Selected Poetry and Fiction appear in:

Kin: New Fiction by Black and Asian Women. Ed. Karen McCarthy. London: Serpent's Tail, 2003. (14+)

Michael Rosen's A-Z: The best children's poetry from Agard to Zephaniah. London: Puffin 2009. (7-11)

The Poetry Store. Compiled by Paul Cookson. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2005. (6-11)

She is Fierce: Brave, Bold and Beautiful Poems by Women. Ed. Ana Sampson. London: Pan Macmillan, 2018. (10+)

Velocity: The Best of Apples & Snakes. Ed. Maja Prausnitz. London: Black Spring Press, 2003. (14+)

Westside Storeys. Ed. Dotun Adebayo. London: The Xpress, 2003. (14+)


Floella Benjamin

Baroness Floella Benjamin was born in Trinidad in 1949 and came to England in 1960. She left school at 16, aiming to become Britain's first black female bank manager, but instead became an actress, presenter, writer, producer, working peer and an active advocate for the welfare, care and education of children. She has appeared on stage, film, radio and television; she has also headed a successful film and television production company for 28 years. Floella's broadcasting work has been recognised with numerous awards, including an OBE in 2000, a Special Lifetime Achievement BAFTA Award in 2005 and the JM Barrie Lifetime Award in 2012 for her lasting cultural legacy. She has written 30+ books including *Coming to England*, which was adapted into a Royal Television Society award-winning BBC film. www.floellabbenjamin.com/

Selected Fiction/Story Picture Books

Coming to England. London: Walker Books, 2009. (11+)

My Two Grannies. Illustrated by Margaret Chamberlain. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2009. (5-8)

Sea of Tears. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2011. (11+)

Skip Across the Ocean. Illustrated by Sheila Moxley. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 1998. (5-8)

Snotty and the Rod of Power. Illustrated by Francis Mosley. Oxford: Heinemann, 1987. (9+)

Why the Agouti Has no Tail and Other Stories. Oxford: Nelson Thomas Ltd, 1988. (11+)



Lennox Ben He was born in Lagos, Nigeria of two novelists from At school he and nurture one day. At in the performance wrote *The I* tool for children modern fan **@lennox_** Fiction *The Bracia* Manchester

Francesca Beard



Francesca Beard was born in Malaysia and grew up on an island balanced on the equator, surrounded by eagles, lizards, cobras and a fighting cockerel for a guard dog. Her best friend was Fluffy, a smooth-haired mongrel. After a spell in real jobs, she now exists as a London-based poet who has been called 'the Queen of British performance poetry' (London *Metro*) and 'spine-tingling' (*The Independent*). She has performed her poetry in all sorts of places, all over the world, from a shopping mall in the Bangkok Book Fair to a prison in Colombia, to New York's Nuuyorican Café and run creative writing workshops with The British Library, The Young Vic, The BBC, Hampton Court Palace, The Natural History Museum and many more.

@FrancescaBeard

Selected Poetry and Fiction appear in:

- Kin: New Fiction by Black and Asian Women*. Ed. Karen McCarthy, London: Serpent's Tail, 2003. (14+)
- Michael Rosen's A-Z: The best children's poetry from Agard to Zephaniah*. London: Puffin 2009. (7-11)
- The Poetry Store*. Compiled by Paul Cookson. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2005. (6-11)
- She is Fierce: Brave, Bold and Beautiful Poems by Women*. Ed. Ana Sampson. London: Pan Macmillan, 2018. (10+)
- Velocity: The Best of Apples & Snakes*. Ed. Maja Prausnitz. London: Black Spring Press, 2003. (14+)
- Westside Storeys*. Ed. Dotun Adebayo. London: The Xpress, 2003. (14+)

Floella Benjamin



Baroness Floella Benjamin was born in Trinidad in 1949 and came to England in 1960. She left school at 16, aiming to become Britain's first black female bank manager, but instead became an actress, presenter, writer, producer, working peer and an active advocate for the welfare, care and education of children. She has appeared on stage, film, radio and television; she has also headed a successful film and television production company for 28 years. Floella's broadcasting work has been recognised with numerous awards, including an OBE in 2000, a Special Lifetime Achievement BAFTA Award in 2005 and the J M Barrie Lifetime Award in 2012 for her lasting cultural legacy. She has written 30+ books including *Coming to England*, which was adapted into a Royal Television Society award-winning BBC film.

www.floellabenjamin.com/

Selected Fiction/Story Picture Books

- Coming to England*. London: Walker Books, 2009. (11+)
- My Two Grannies*. Illustrated by Margaret Chamberlain. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2009. (5-8)
- Sea of Tears*. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2011. (11+)
- Skip Across the Ocean*. Illustrated by Shelia Moxley. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 1998. (5-8)
- Snotty and the Rod of Power*. Illustrated by Francis Mosley. Oxford: Heinemann, 1987. (9+)
- Why the Agouti Has no Tail and Other Stories*. Oxford: Nelson Thornes Ltd, 1988. (11+)

Lennox Benson



Lennox Benson is a first-time author from London. He was born to a doctor and education consultant in Lagos, Nigeria and migrated to London at the age of two. He was gifted many books and graphic novels from his parents and became a keen reader. At school he excelled in art and creative writing and nurtured a dream to write a book of his own one day. After working with a number of mentors in the performing and creative arts, Lennox finally wrote *The Biracial Butterfly* as an educational tool for children to learn about mixed heritage and modern families.

@lennox_benson

Fiction

The Biracial Butterfly. Illustrated by Hari Conner. Manchester: Dog Horn Publishing, 2018. (4+)

Jasbinder Bilan



According to family stories, Jasbinder was born in a stable close to the foothills of the Himalayas. Until she was a year and a half, she lived on a farm inhabited by a grumpy camel and a monkey called Oma. Her family moved from India to Nottingham, which was a dramatic change, moving from the countryside to a city, but the memories of India were kept alive through the stories shared at big family gatherings. This is where her love for stories began. Jasbinder graduated from Bath Spa University with an MA in creative writing for young people, where the seeds of her fiction were nurtured. The incredible bond with her grandmother was the inspiration for her first book, *Asha and the Spirit Bird*, which won *The Times* Chickenhouse Prize for Fiction 2017.

Jasbinder is based in Bath.

jasbinderbilan.co.uk

@jasinbath

Fiction

Asha and the Spirit Bird. Frome, Somerset: Chicken House, 2019. (9-12)



Malorie Blackman

Malorie Blackman has written over 60 books for children and young adults. Her work has been adapted for TV, with the six-part adaptation of *Pig-Heart Boy* winning a BAFTA. *Naughts & Crosses* is in production for the BBC and a stage adaptation by Pilot Theatre will tour from February 2019, adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz. In 2005, Malorie was honoured with the Eleanor Farjeon Award in recognition of her distinguished contribution to the world of children's books. In 2008 she received an OBE for her services to children's literature and from 2013-15 she was the Children's Laureate. Malorie co-wrote *Rosa*, an episode in series 11 of *Doctor Who: Crossfire*, the fifth novel in her *Naughts & Crosses* series, will be published in 2019. Malorie lives in Kent.

www.malorieblackman.co.uk

@malorieblackman

Selected Fiction

Betsey Bigelow series (5 books). London: Red Fox, 2014. (5-7)
Boys Don't Cry. London: Corgi, 2011. (YA)
Chasing the Stars. London: Penguin, 2017. (YA)
Fangs. London: Tamarind, 2015. (7-9)
Girl Wonder series (3 books). London: Tamarind, 2014. (7-9)
I Want a Cuddle. Illustrated by Joanne Paris. London: Orchard Books, 2014. (6-11)
Naughts & Crosses series (5 books). London: Penguin, 2001-2019. (YA)
Peacemaker. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2016. (YA)
Pig-Heart Boy. London: Corgi, 2004. (9-11)



Jan Blake

Jan Blake is one of the UK's leading storytellers and has been performing worldwide for over 30 years. Specialising in stories from Africa and the Caribbean, she has a well-earned reputation for dynamic and generous storytelling. Highlights include being resident storyteller at the Hay Festival, curating *Shakespeare's Stories*, in conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, and touring the award-winning *The Old Woman, the Buffalo, and the Lion of Manding* about the Malian hero king Sundiata Keita. As well as regularly storytelling to children in school settings, she works with teachers to help them become better storytellers in the classroom. *In the Winter Wood*, inspired by winter stories from around the world, was commissioned by Polka Theatre and Apples and Snakes and premiered in 2018.

www.janblakestories.co.uk

@akujan



Valerie Bloom

Valerie Bloom is the prize-winning author of poetry for adults and children, picture books, pre-teen and teenage novels and stories for children. She has presented poetry programmes for the BBC among others. Her poetry has been featured by Poems on the Underground, included on school courses in the UK (GCSE), the Caribbean and Malaysia, and published in over 500 anthologies worldwide. She lives in Kent and performs her work and runs writing workshops in primary and secondary schools, libraries and universities around the world. Valerie Bloom is the winner of *The Voice* Community Award for Literature, has been awarded an Honorary Masters Degree from the University of Kent and received an MBE in 2008.

valeriebloom.co.uk

Selected Poetry and Fiction

Acker, Breadfruit, Callaloo. Illustrated by Kim Harley. London: Bogle-L'Ouverture, 1999. Picture book. (0-5)
Duppy Jamboree: And Other Jamaican Poems. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992. (4-6)
Hot Like Fire and Other Poems. Illustrated by Debbie Lush. London: Bloomsbury, 2009. (9-11)
Jaws and Claws and Things with Wings. Illustrated by Matt Robertson. London: Collins, 2013. (8-9)
Let Me Touch the Sky. West Yorkshire: Caboodle Books, 2008. (9+)
Mighty Mountains, Swirling Seas. Illustrated by Alessandra Cimaribus. London: Collins, 2015. (6-8)
The Tribe. London: Macmillan, 2008. (YA)



Abdullahi Botan Hassan

Abdullahi Botan Hassan is a Somali poet, writer and researcher. He came to London as a refugee in 1998 and writes poems based on his experiences in Britain. In 2003 he founded Soohan Somali Arts, which works with Somali children in primary schools in Camden. In 2012 he was selected to represent Somalia in the Cultural Olympiad's week-long Poetry Parnassus at the Southbank Centre, London, which brought together one poet from every Olympic nation. Abdullahi plays a unique and crucial role in continuing Somali oral traditions in the diaspora, adapting traditional poetic forms to make them relevant and engaging to Somalis and the wider community. From 2009-12, he recorded his vast poetic repertoire which is now archived at the British Library. He translated Shakespeare's 'Sonnet XII' for the Globe Theatre's Sonnet Sunday in 2012. His poems have appeared in international anthologies and have been translated into English, Arabic and Turkish.

@AbdullahiBotan

Poetry appears in:

Modern Poetry in Translation magazine. Special Issue – 'Parnassus'. 2012.
The Red Anthology. Leeds: Peepal Tree Press, 2010. (adult)
The World Record: International Voices from Southbank Centre's Poetry Parnassus. Ed. Anna Selby and Neil Astley. Northumberland: Bloodaxe Books, 2012. (adult)



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Selected Poetry and Fiction

Ackee, Breadfruit, Callaloo. Illustrated by Kim Harley. London: Bogle-L'Ouverture, 1999. Picture book. (0-5)
Duppy Jamboree: And Other Jamaican Poems. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992. (4-6)
Hot Like Fire and Other Poems. Illustrated by Debbie Lush. London: Bloomsbury, 2009. (9-11)
Jaws and Claws and Things with Wings. Illustrated by Matt Robertson. London: Collins, 2013. (8-9)
Let Me Touch the Sky. West Yorkshire: Caboodle Books, 2008. (9+)
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The Tribe. London: Macmillan, 2008. (YA)

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The Red Anthology. Leeds: Peepal Tree Press, 2010. (adult)
The World Record: International Voices from Southbank Centre's Poetry Parnassus. Ed. Anna Selby and Neil Astley. Northumberland: Bloodaxe Books, 2012. (adult)



Sita Brahmachari

Sita Brahmachari is a multi-award-winning writer of novels, plays, novellas and short stories. Sita's first novel, *Artichoke Hearts*, won the Waterstones Children's Book Award and was voted in the *Guardian's* top 50 books celebrating diversity since the 1950s. Her subsequent Carnegie-nominated novels are: *Jasmine Skies*, *Red Leaves*, *Tender Earth*, *Worry Angels* and *Zebra Crossing Soul Song*. *Kite Spirit* was nominated for the UKLA book award. Sita's latest illustrated novella is *Corey's Rock*. She has been writer-in residence for BookTrust, is an Amnesty International Ambassador and speaks in schools, at festivals and conferences. In 2018 *Tender Earth* received the UK Honour from the International Board of Books for Young People. Sita is based in London.

@SitaBrahmachari

Fiction

Artichoke Hearts. London, Macmillan, 2011. (9+)
Brace Mouth, False Teeth. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2014. (11+)
Car Wash Wish. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2016. (11+)
Corey's Rock. Illustrated by Jane Ray. Hereford: Otter-Barry Books, 2018. (9+)
Jasmine Skies. London, Macmillan, 2017. (11+)
Kite Spirit. London, Macmillan, 2013. (9+)
Red Leaves. London, Macmillan, 2014 (9+)
Tender Earth. London, Macmillan, 2017. (9+)
Worry Angels. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2017. (11+)
Zebra Crossing Soul Song. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2018. (11+)



Aisha Bushby

Aisha Bushby was born in the Middle East and has lived in Kuwait, England and Canada. She now lives in Lincolnshire. The first novel she ever worked on was a piece of *Harry Potter* fan fiction titled *Harry Potter and the final Horcrux*. Her first published work was a young adult short story, 'Marionette Girl', where she explored the effects of obsessive-compulsive disorder on teenagers. She now writes middle-grade books which sometimes tackle heavy themes, but she hopes she always does this with humour, heart and a sprinkling of magic. Her debut, *A Pocketful of Stars*, is out in 2019 and explores friendship, family and finding your place in the world.

@aishabushby

Fiction

'Marionette Girl' in *A Change is Gonna Come* anthology. London: Stripes Publishing 2017. (YA)
A Pocketful of Stars. London: Egmont, 2019. (YA)



Tanya Byrne

Tanya Byrne was born in London and studied in Surrey, where she still lives with her cat who goes by several names, none of which he actually answers to. After eight years working for BBC radio, she left to write her debut novel, *Heart-Shaped Bruise*, which was published in 2012. She has a weakness for boys with guitars, drinks far too much tea and, even though her mother tells her not to, she always talks to strangers. *Follow Me Down* was published in 2013, and Tanya's third novel, *For Holly*, was published in 2015. She was included in the 2017 poetry and fiction collection *A Change is Gonna Come*, and was also one of the seven authors of *Floored*, a collaborative novel published in 2018. Tanya has also written for the *Guardian* and *The Pool*.

tanyabyrne.com/

Fiction

Short story in *A Change is Gonna Come*. London: Stripes Publishing, 2017. (YA)
Floored: When Seven Lives Collide. A collaborative novel by Sara Bernard, Holly Bourne, Tanya Byrne, Non Pratt, Melinda Salisbury, Lisa Williamson and Eleanor Wood. London: Macmillan's Children's Books, 2017. (YA)
Follow Me Down. London: Headline, 2013. (YA)
For Holly. London: Headline, 2015. (YA)
Heart Shaped Bruise. London: Headline, 2012. (YA)
 Short story in *Proud*. Curated by Juno Dawson. London: Stripes Publishing, 2019. (YA)



Sarwat Chadda

Sarwat Chadda has been published for a decade now, and in over a dozen languages. He's written urban fantasy for young adults, big mythologies, trilogies and, most recently, the epic *Shadow Magic* fantasy series under the pseudonym of Joshua Khan. Sarwat's tastes are Eastern-orientated. London-born and coming from a south Asian Muslim background, he is keen to explore the stories and mythologies of his heritage. The *Ash Mistry* series was inspired by his trips to India and his love for its stories, and he has adapted the *Mahabharata* in graphic novel form. Sarwat is based in south London.

@sarwathadda

Selected Fiction

The *Ash Mistry* series (3 books). London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2012-13. (9+)
Burning Magic. Written as Joshua Khan. New York: Disney-Hyperion, 2018. (8+)
Dark Goddess. London: Penguin, 2009. (11+)
Devil's Kiss. London: Puffin, 2009. (11+)
Dream Magic. Written as Joshua Khan. Witney, Oxon: Scholastic, 2017. (10+)
Fall of the Beasts 8: The Dragon's Eye (Spirit Animals). Witney, Oxon: Scholastic, 2018. (9+)
Mission Atomic: The 39 Clues (Doublecross book 4). Witney, Oxon: Scholastic, 2018. (8+)
Shadow Magic. Written as Joshua Khan. Witney, Oxon: Scholastic, 2016. (10+)



Joseph Coelho

Joseph Coelho is an award-winning children's author, performance poet and playwright based in London. His debut poetry collection, *Werewolf Club Rules*, was the 2015 winner of the CLPE CLIPPA Poetry Award. His second book, *Overheard in a Tower Block*, was shortlisted for the 2018 CLPE CLIPPA Poetry Award and is longlisted for the 2019 UKLA Book Awards. Joseph features in the BBC Teach 'Understanding Poetry' online series. His work has poetry and performance at its heart, drawing on over 16 years' experience running dynamic creative literacy sessions in schools. He aims to inspire young people through stories and characters they can recognise.

www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com

@poetryioe

Poetry and Fiction

Grandpa's Stories. Illustrated by Allison Colpoys. New York: Abrams's Books, 2019. (4-9)
How to Write Poems. Illustrated by Matt Robertson. London: Bloomsbury, 2017. (7-9)
If All the World Were... Illustrated by Allison Colpoys. London: Lincoln Children's, 2018. (7-9)
Luna Loves Library Day. Illustrated by Fiona Lumbers. London: Andersen Press, 2018. (2-5)
No Longer Alone. Illustrated by Robyn Wilson-Owen. London: Egmont, 2019. (3+)
Overheard in a Tower Block. Illustrated by Kate Milner. Hereford: Otter-Barry Books, 2017. (9+)
Werewolf Club Rules! London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2014. (7-11)
A Year of Nature Poems. London: Wide Eyed Editions, 2019. (9-12)



Trish Cooke

Former children's TV presenter Trish Cooke is an Olivier nominated playwright. She writes for theatre, TV, film and radio and is a multi-award-winning children's author. Born and still living in Bradford, Trish's parents are from Dominica. Frustrated by the lack of roles for black women, Trish began writing plays she could act in herself. Similarly, when she had her first child, the lack of black characters in children's books drove her to create stories with black children in them. Her most popular children's book, *So Much*, was voted one of the 100 Best Children's Books in 2016 by *Time Out*. It won the Smarties Book Prize and the WH Smith Award among others. In 2009, *So Much* was included in the National Strategy good practice publication on raising achievement of Caribbean children at foundation stage.

www.trishcooke.co.uk

Selected Fiction

The Diary of a Young West Indian Immigrant. London: Franklin Watts, 2001. (8-13)
Hoarah for Mary Seacole. Illustrated by Anni Axworthy. London: Franklin Watts, 2008. (4-6)
King Kofi and the Moon. Illustrated by Andrea Castellani. London: Pearson, 2015. (6-9)
Look Back. Illustrated by Caroline Binch. London: Papirote Press, 2013. (4-9)
So Much. Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. London: Walker Books, 2008. (0-7)
Tales From the Caribbean. London: Puffin, 2017. (8-12)

Zoom. Illustrated by Alex Ayiffe. London: Harper Collins, 2015. (2-6)



Alex Falase-Koy of the London Writers' Centre is a fiction graduate from a computer science technical support degree and anything at all currently working on a manuscript which is between *Brick 7* and *horror*. When he crumbles or plays in Hackney with his cat, he welcomes a cat in his life.

@alexswriter

Joseph Coelho



Joseph Coelho is an award-winning children's author, performance poet and playwright based in London. His debut poetry collection, *Werewolf Club Rules*, was the 2015 winner of the CLPE CLIPPA Poetry Award. His second book, *Overheard in a Tower Block*, was shortlisted for the 2018 CLPE CLIPPA Poetry Award and is longlisted for the 2019 UKLA Book Awards. Joseph features in the BBC Teach 'Understanding Poetry' online series. His work has poetry and performance at its heart, drawing on over 16 years' experience running dynamic creative literacy sessions in schools. He aims to inspire young people through stories and characters they can recognise.

www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com

@poetryjoe

Poetry and Fiction

- Grandpa's Stories*. Illustrated by Allison Colpoys. New York: Abram's Books, 2019. (4-8)
- How to Write Poems*. Illustrated by Matt Robertson. London: Bloomsbury, 2017. (7-9)
- If All the World Were...* Illustrated by Allison Colpoys. London: Lincoln Children's, 2018. (7-9)
- Luna Loves Library Day*. Illustrated by Fiona Lumbers. London: Andersen Press, 2018. (2-5)
- No Longer Alone*. Illustrated by Robyn Wilson-Owen. London: Egmont, 2019. (3+)
- Overheard in a Tower Block*. Illustrated by Kate Milner. Hereford: Otter-Barry Books, 2017. (9+)
- Werewolf Club Rules!* London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2014. (7-11)
- A Year of Nature Poems*. London: Wide Eyed Editions, 2019. (9-12)

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www.trishcooke.co.uk

Selected Fiction

- The Diary of a Young West Indian Immigrant*. London: Franklin Watts, 2001. (8-13)
- Hoorah for Mary Seacole*. Illustrated by Anni Axworthy. London: Franklin Watts, 2008. (4-6)
- King Kafu and the Moon*. Illustrated by Andrea Castellani. London: Pearson, 2015. (6-8)
- Look Back*. Illustrated by Caroline Binch. London: Papillote Press, 2013. (4-9)
- So Much*. Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. London: Walker Books, 2008. (0-7)
- Tales From the Caribbean*. London: Puffin, 2017. (8-12)
- Zoom*. Illustrated by Alex Ayliffe. London: Harper Collins, 2015. (2-6)

Alex Falase-Koya



Alex Falase-Koya is a London native and winner of the London Writers Awards for Young Adult/children's fiction run by Spread the Word. He graduated from Middlesex University with a computer science degree, and now works as a technical support engineer in Old Street. Alex has been reading and writing since he was a teenager and anything at the cross-section of social commentary and genre fiction floats his boat. He is currently working on *The Thursday Club*, a YA novel manuscript which he describes as being 'a cross between *Brick*, *The Breakfast Club* and cosmic horror'. When he's not writing, he's baking apple crumbles or playing video games. Alex now lives in Hackney with his girlfriend and hopes to soon welcome a cat into his life.

@alexiswriter

Lucy Farfort



Lucy Farfort is an illustrator and aspiring writer based in Newcastle. She has worked for a variety of clients and illustrated books for number of self-published authors. She is passionate about the need for more diversity across the board in children's publishing. In 2016 Lucy was a finalist in the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' Undiscovered Voices competition; and in 2017 she was awarded first prize for illustration in Faber Children's inaugural FAB Prize competition. Lucy particularly enjoys working in watercolour and experimenting with pattern and texture. Her illustrations incorporate both traditional and digital media. Lucy is represented by Madeleine Milburn Agency and one of her picture books – a taboo-busting adventure story – is currently out on submission.

www.lucyfarfort.co.uk

@lucyfarfort



**Allen
Fatimaharan**

Allen Fatimaharan is a freelance illustrator and animator based in Oxford. He illustrates picture books and comics, written alone or in collaboration with other authors. He creates surreal stories, taking inspiration from his drawings of Oxford and its diverse inhabitants. Allen completed an undergraduate course in illustration and animation from Kingston University then, following a stint working in publishing and marketing, he completed a masters in character animation from Central Saint Martins in London, graduating in 2017. As part of his day job he directs animated infomercials for institutions and businesses such as the University of the Arts London and the English National Opera. He is currently finishing work on his first picture book, *My Hair*, written by Hannah Lee.

allenfatimaharan.carbonmade.com/

[@allen_fatimaharan](https://www.instagram.com/allen_fatimaharan)

Illustration/Picture Books

My Hair: Written by Hannah Lee. London: Faber and Faber Children's Books, 2019. (5-7)



Caleb Femi

Caleb Femi is a poet from south London. He has written poems commissioned by Tate Modern, The Royal Society for Literature, St Paul's Cathedral, the BBC, the *Guardian* and many more. From 2016 to 2018, Caleb was the Young People's Laureate for London, working with young people on a city, national and global level. He is a two-time TEDx speaker, and has delivered guest lectures at both Oxford and Cambridge and other UK universities. As a film director, Caleb has written and directed short films for the BBC and Channel 4. He is also featured in the *Dazed* 100 list of the next generation shaping youth culture. Recent commissions include a short story for the BBC's CBeebies Storytime App.

www.calebfemi.com

[@CalebFemi5](https://www.instagram.com/CalebFemi5)



**Chervelle
Fryer**

Chervelle is a full-time illustrator from Cardiff, Wales — the land of sheep, dragons and rain. At the creative agency Jelly London, she works on publications, editorial, advertising and children's books, drawing inspiration from nature, emotions and natural materials. Chervelle has worked with Fortnum & Mason, Tesco and TFL and has completed two children's books. Her first commissioned book has a very strong message about plastic waste and the seas. *Pippa the Queen of the Ocean* was the world's first book to be made from recycled plastic pulled from the ocean and is a beautiful bright book. The colours are meant to be jarring, very much like the bright plastic you see in the supermarkets. Her second book, *Bones*, is educational and looks at the anatomy of animals. Chervelle says she learned a lot about the inside of animals and maths, as there was a lot of counting bones and vertebrae!

chervelle.co.uk

[@chervellefryer](https://www.instagram.com/chervellefryer)

Illustration

Bones. By Jules Howard. London: 20 Watt, 2018.

(7+)

How Pippa Became the Queen of the Ocean. WFO/Teijin, 2017. <http://theoceanplasticbook.com/> (7+)



**Parys
Gardener**

Bristol's Parys Gardener is a digital illustrator from a British Caribbean background specialising in editorial illustration. With a BA in illustration and visual communications from the University of Westminster (2017), her work mainly explores the portrayal of women of colour, particularly black women, as active characters in a range of narratives, from the heroic to the everyday. She aims to reclaim the voices and visual representation of marginalised communities through popular culture where their stories are often overlooked or burdened with tropes and stereotypes. Her visual vocabulary explores pop art techniques, utilising block colour, tone and pattern across digital media. She often takes inspiration from her own background: 'I'm massively inspired by the strength and legacies of my grandmothers, who were part of the Windrush generation. The more I learn about their lives, the more I'm inspired to place women of misrepresented backgrounds as the centrepieces in their own narratives.'

www.parysgardener.com/



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chervelle.co.uk
@chervellefryer
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How Pippa Became the Queen of the Ocean. WFO/Teijin, 2017. <http://theoceanplasticbook.com/> (7+)

BREAKING NEW GROUND



Parys Gardener

Bristol's Parys Gardener is a digital illustrator from a British Caribbean background specialising in editorial illustration. With a BA in illustration and visual communications from the University of Westminster (2017), her work mainly explores the portrayal of women of colour, particularly black women, as active characters in a range of narratives, from the heroic to the everyday. She aims to reclaim the voices and visual representation of marginalised communities through popular culture where their stories are often overlooked or burdened with tropes and stereotypes. Her visual vocabulary explores pop art techniques, utilising block colour, tone and pattern across digital media. She often takes inspiration from her own background: 'I'm massively inspired by the strength and legacies of my grandmothers, who were part of the Windrush generation. The more I learn about their lives, the more I'm inspired to place women of misrepresented backgrounds as the centrepieces in their own narratives.'

www.parysgardener.com/



Jamila Gavin

Jamila Gavin was born in Mussoorie, India, to an Indian father and an English mother. The family settled in England where Jamila completed her schooling, studied music, worked for the BBC and became a mother of two. She began writing to reflect the multicultural world in which she and her children lived. Her first book, *The Magic Orange Tree* was published in 1979. Other publications include: *Grandpa Chatterji* (shortlisted for the Smarties Award and dramatised for Channel 4 schools TV); and *The Wheel of Surya* (1992 *Guardian* Children's Fiction Award runner-up). Her novel for young adults, *Coram Boy*, was published to critical acclaim in 2000 and won the Children's Whitbread Award. Her latest publication is a collection of brand new fairy tales, *Blackberry Blue*. Jamila lives in Gloucestershire.

www.jamilagavin.co.uk

Selected Fiction

Blackberry Blue and Other Fairy Tales. London: Tamarind, 2013. (9-11)
Coram Boy. London: Mammoth, 2000. (11+)
Grandpa Chatterji. Illustrated by Mei-Yim Low. London: Methuen Children's Books, 1993. (7+)
Out of India: Walking On My Hands. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2007. (7-11)
The Robber Baron's Daughter. London: Egmont, 2008. (11-14)
The Surya trilogy (3 books). London: Methuen Children's Books, 1992-1997. (11-14)
Tales from India - Stories of Creation and the Cosmos. Illustrated by Amanda Hall. London: Templar Publishing, 2011. (9-12)



Bex Glendining

Bex (Becky) Glendining (she/they) is a freelance illustrator, comic colourist and graphic designer based in Kent. A recent graduate of Canterbury Christ Church University with a degree in graphic design, Bex has continued to study through a Masters by Research which aims to highlight the discrimination and experiences of women of colour within UK tattoo culture. Through a sense of softness and peace, their illustration work captures the spaces we call home and places that bring comfort. While their main focus is digital art, Bex loves to paint and embroider, and that work has been part of several exhibitions at the Sidney Cooper Gallery. Bex is also developing their original story, 'Pink Skies', an illustrated slice of life series which captures the life of Baptiste Pariseau, and is for any LGBTQ+ people or people of colour looking to be a little less alone and to see a part of themselves.

@bexis

Illustration and Graphic Art

Arcade Tales #2. 2016. (16+)
Faerie Fire, a 5e Supplemental. Astrologo Press, 2018. (YA)
Mix & Match: Exploring Contemporary Collage. Collected by Sandu. USA: Gingko Press, 2017. (YA)



Candy Gourlay

Growing up in the Philippines, Candy Gourlay wondered why the books she loved only featured pink-skinned children living in snow-covered worlds, totally unlike her steamy, tropical Manila home. As a result, it took her years to become an author and to see her Filipino stories in the pages of books. Her latest novel *Bone Talk* has received glowing reviews. It is set in a historical moment in the Philippines when headhunting tribes first came face to face with American invading forces. She has published her first picture book, *Is It a Mermaid*, set on an idyllic white sand island typical of the Philippines, with a heartfelt eco message. Candy's novels for young readers, *Tell Story* and *Shine*, have been listed for many prizes such as the Carnegie Medal and the *Guardian* Children's Book Prize. Both novels won the Crystal Kite Prize for Europe. She lives in London with her family.

www.candygourlay.com/

Fiction

Bone Talk. Oxford: David Fickling Books, 2018. (YA)
Is It a Mermaid? Illustrated by Francesca Chessa. Hereford: Otter-Barry Books, 2018. (3-6)
Shine. Oxford: David Fickling Books, 2013. (9-11)
Tell Story. Oxford: David Fickling Books, 2011. (9-11)



Lorraine Gregory

Lorraine Gregory was raised on a council estate in east London by an Austrian mother and an Indian father. Her love of reading and wild imagination led to years of making up stories but none of them made it to the page until she began writing them down for her son. Her debut children's novel, *Mold and the Poison Plot*, was released in 2017 and won the SCBWI Crystal Kite award for UK and Ireland in 2018. Her second book, *The Maker of Monsters*, will be published in May 2019. Both fantasy adventures have strong themes of diversity, inclusivity and friendship tucked within the pages. Lorraine is also part of the duo who set up and run the popular bi-monthly #ukmgchat on Twitter, which allows authors, agents, publishers and general book lovers the opportunity to discuss the joy of children's books in detail. She lives in Loughton, Essex.

lorrainegregoryauthor.co.uk/

Fiction

The Maker of Monsters. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. (8+)
Mold and the Poison Plot. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. (8+)



Swapna Haddow

Londoner Swapna Haddow is the award-winning children's author of the *Dave Pigeon* series. She loves to write about boisterous animals that cause mayhem and is working to make sure mean cats, grizzly bears and big-hearted little rabbits find their place on the bookshelves. Friendship and humour are always at the heart of what Swapna loves to write. Her first published book, *Dave Pigeon*, illustrated by Sheena Dempsey, received rave reviews and went on to win three regional awards in the UK and was shortlisted for the prestigious Sainsbury's Children's Book Award. The series is based on two pigeons who find themselves battling predators in an array of madcap scenarios, all the while proving that friendship and teamwork can defeat anything. Swapna now lives in New Zealand with her husband, son and their dog, Archie.

swapnahaddow.co.uk/

Fiction

Dave Pigeon. Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey. London: Faber & Faber, 2016. (5+)
Dave Pigeon (Nuggets!). Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey. London: Faber & Faber, 2017. (5+)
Dave Pigeon (Racer!). Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey. London: Faber & Faber, 2018. (5+)
Dave Pigeon (Royal Cool!). Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey. London: Faber & Faber, 2019. (5+)
Little Rabbit's Big Surprise. Illustrated by Alison Friend. London: Little Tiger Press, 2019. (3+)



Polly Ho-Yen

Polly Ho-Yen is a writer based in Bristol. Her debut novel, *Boy in the Tower*, was shortlisted for the *Blue Peter* Book Award, Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Federation of Children's Book Groups Book Award. All three of her middle-grade novels have been nominated for the Carnegie Medal. Following her experiences working as a primary school teacher in south London, Polly puts these places and communities centre-stage in her narratives. She aims to create stories firmly rooted in a world that young people will know and recognise, even when a science fiction or fantastical element creeps in. Polly is an Avon tutor and regularly runs writing workshops in primary and secondary schools across the country as well as working for Bristol libraries, where she set up the Bristol Teen Book Award, a book award for Bristol secondary schools which celebrates inclusivity.

pollyho-yen.com/

Fiction

Boy in the Tower. London: Corgi Children's, 2015. (9-11)
Fly Me Home. London: Corgi Children's, 2017. (9-11)
Two Sides. Illustrated by Binny Talib. London: Stripes Publishing, 2019. (5-8).
Where Monsters Lie. London: Corgi Children's, 2016. (9-11)



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swapnahaddow.co.uk/

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Dave Pigeon (Nuggets!). Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey. London: Faber & Faber, 2017. (5+)
Dave Pigeon (Pacer!). Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey. London: Faber & Faber, 2018. (5+)
Dave Pigeon (Royal Cool!). Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey. London: Faber & Faber, 2019. (5+)
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pollyho-yen.com/

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Boy in the Tower. London: Corgi Children's, 2015. (9-11)
Fly Me Home. London: Corgi Children's, 2017. (9-11)
Two Sides. Illustrated by Binny Talib. London: Stripes Publishing, 2019. (5-8)
Where Monsters Lie. London: Corgi Children's, 2016. (9-11)



Sonya Hundal

Sonya is a British Asian writer living in rural Lincolnshire. She is also the owner and baker at Greenfield Bakers, a successful small bakery, which has been burning things since 2007. Sonya has been writing for performance and performing in theatre since 1986. She is a writer-in-residence with First Story at two schools in Lincolnshire. Sonya has worked with and mentored writers and performers across a range of age groups, as well as working in youth theatre, community theatre and in schools. Her recent writing has been focussed on short stories and the completion of a novel (mostly with the themes of the outsider perspective within speculative fiction). She loves sci-fi, so it pops up everywhere.

@MortalGreenWhim

Plays and Edited Fiction

Incidents. Sleaford Little Theatre. Feb. 2010. Contemporary play. (11+)
The Journeys of Captain John Smith. St Helena's Church, Willoughby Sept. 2007. Historical play. (14+)
Losing my Religion. New Writers' Drama Festival for Marie Curie Cancer Care, Terry O'Toole Theatre, 2010. (14+)
The Mayflower Series 1&2. Co-written with Nathan Hughes. Stump Radio, Blackfriars Arts Centre, 2006-07. Radio soap opera. (YA)
Peril on the Purple Planet. Blackfriars Arts Centre, July 2007. Sci-fi play. (8+)
A View Between Worlds: an anthology by the First Story Group at Haven High Academy. Ed. London: First Story, 2018. (11+)



Emily Hughes

Emily Hughes likes to walk outside. When she draws and writes she doesn't want to tell children things plainly — she believes children can discover it themselves. Using three aunts she tries to help children understand her stories. One is through environment; using something natural is comforting and familiar. Also, green is a special colour, and joyful to use. Another is through feeling, which is harder to set, she tries to do this by using expression, body language and colour. The most exciting is in details. She finds that children often see things that adults can't. She wants children to feel powerful by what they notice. These are gifts made for the observant. She makes books for all children, but perhaps she is making books for the child she was. Emily is of Hawaiian heritage and lives in London.

@plaidemily

Illustration/Picture Books

A Brave Bear. Written by Sean Taylor. London: Walker Books, 2016. (3-5)
Brilliant. Written by by Roddy Doyle. London: Pan Macmillan, 2015. (5-9)
The Charlie & Mouse series (4 books). Written by Laurel Snyder. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2017-2019. (6-9)
Everything You Need for a Treehouse. Written by Carter Higgins. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2018. (3-6)
The Little Gardener. London: Flying Eye Books, 2015. (3-7)
Wild. London: Flying Eye Books, 2013. (3-7)



Yasmeen Ismail

Yasmeen Ismail is an Irish writer and illustrator living in Bristol, making children's picture books. As much as she would like to just dash off a book, it has to have some worth. So she's compelled to write and draw to try, just a little bit, to make a tiny difference. She wants her stories to uplift everyone who reads them. Yasmeen enjoys celebrating differences and giving her characters the confidence to be who they want to be, regardless of expectations. She says 'I have to keep in mind that whatever I create is going into the hands of a small child, and as such I have a responsibility to that little person. We all have a responsibility to them. And we should take that seriously.' Yasmeen writes and illustrates most of her books.

www.yasmeenismail.co.uk

@YasmeenMay

Selected Illustration and Author-Illustrator Picture Books

Christmas for Greta and Gracie. London: Nosy Crow, 2015. (3+)

Happy, Sad, Feeling Glad. London: Laurence King Publishing, 2017. (3+)

I'm a Girl! London: Bloomsbury, 2015. (3+)

Joy. Illustrated by Jenni Desmond. London: Walker Books, 2019. (3+)

Kiki and Bobo's Sunny Day. London: Walker Books, 2018. (3+)

Nothing. London: Bloomsbury, 2016. (3+)

Spees for Rex. London: Bloomsbury, 2014. (3+)

Two Problems for Sophia. Written by Jim Averbeck. London: Simon and Schuster, 2018. (3+)



Sharra Jackson

Sharra Jackson specialises in developing and delivering socially-engaged digital initiatives for children and young people across culture, publishing and entertainment. She is driven to encourage and increase diverse and disengaged audiences' participation in the arts locally, nationally and globally. Sharra has written three books, *Tate Kids British Art Activity Book*, *Tate Kids Modern Art Activity Book* and *High Rise Mystery* — the first in a middle-grade series featuring a sibling detective duo everyone's dying to meet. She is the Artistic Director at Site Gallery, Sheffield's leading international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. She is on the board of Sheffield Doc/Fest, Upswing Aerial Arts and New Writing North, in addition to being a member of BAFTA's Children's and Learning and New Talent committees and the Children's Media Conference advisory board. Sharra was born and raised in Luton and currently lives in Sheffield and Rotterdam.

@sharrajackson

Fiction and Non-Fiction

High Rise Mystery. London: Knights Of, 2019. (9-12)

Tate Kids British Art Activity Book. Illustrated by James Lambert. London: Tate Publishing, 2014. (6+)

Tate Kids Modern Art Activity Book. Illustrated by James Lambert. London: Tate Publishing, 2014. (6+)

Tate Kids Modern Art Activity Book. Illustrated by James Lambert. London: Tate Publishing, 2014. (6+)



Nadine Kaadan

Nadine Kaadan is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator from Damascus, Syria who has published many books in Arabic. She lives in London, where she completed MAS in communication design (Kingston University) and art and politics (Goldsmiths University). Her Arabic-language book *Answer me, Leila!* won the 2011 Anna Lindh Award for the best fiction book for children with special needs and was featured in the *Guardian* in 'Disability Inclusive Books That Should Be Available In English'. *Tomorrow*, about the daily life of a little boy during the Syrian conflict, was nominated for the 2019 Kate Greenaway Medal. Her latest title, *The Jasmine Sneeze*, is one of the first children's books in the UK that touches on Syria's long and proud culture and heritage in a time marred by war. Her work has featured on CNN's *Connect the World* programme and in a BBC short film among others.

www.nadinekaadan.com/

Author-Illustrator Fiction and Picture Books

The Jasmine Sneeze. London: Lantana Publishing, 2016. (4+)

Tomorrow. London: Lantana Publishing, 2018. (4-8)



Savita Kalhan

Savita Kalhan was born in India but moved to the UK when she was very young. She graduated with a degree in politics and philosophy from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Savita was a batik artist and teacher before she turned to writing. She is passionate about inspiring teenagers to read and runs a reading group in her local library, as well as creative writing workshops. Her work explores challenging themes: cultural taboos, abuse, girls' rights, identity, male patriarchy and racism to mention a few. Recent publications include short stories in young adult anthologies *Stories from the Edge* and *Even Birds are Chained to the Sky*. Her debut novel *The Long Weekend* addressed the issue of stranger danger. Her new book, *The Girl in the Broken Mirror*, is described by Bali Rai as 'refreshing and very hard-hitting' and is nominated for a 2019 Carnegie Medal. Savita lives in north London.

savitakalhan.com

@savitakalhan

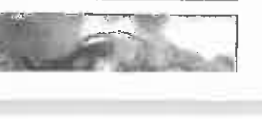
Fiction

'Aladdin's Lamp' in *Stories from the Edge: An Anthology*. Theme, Oxon: Albury Books, 2016. (YA)

The Girl in the Broken Mirror. Colchester: Troika Books, 2018. (YA)

'The Poet' in *Even Birds are Chained to the Sky & Other Tales*. Edinburgh: The Fine Line, 2011. (YA)

The Long Weekend. London: Andersen Press, 2008. (YA)



Peter K novels:

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www.nadinekaadan.com/

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savitakalhan.com
@savitakalhan
Fiction

'Aladdin's Lamp' in *Stories from the Edge: An Anthology*. Thame, Oxon: Albury Books, 2016. (YA)
The Girl in the Broken Mirror. Colchester: Troika Books, 2018. (YA)

'The Poet' in *Even Birds are Chained to the Sky & Other Tales*. Edinburgh: The Fine Line, 2011. (YA)
The Long Weekend. London: Andersen Press, 2008. (YA)



Peter Kalu

Peter Kalu is the author of three young adult novels: *The Silent Striker*, *Being Me* and *Zombie XI*. *The Silent Striker* is a semi-autobiographical novel which tells the story of how the world of a teen boy, Marcus, changes when he finds himself becoming deaf. Marcus appears as a side character in *Being Me*, which features as main protagonist the neuro-atypical Adele Vialli; and Marcus is also glimpsed in *Zombie XI*. The publishing rights to all three novels have been sold to Ghana and the USA. Peter has also set onto page two folktales for younger children, *Anansi and Tiger's Stew* and *The Singer and the Snorer*, tales he has told at countless schools within the UK and beyond. He has written nine novels in all, including science fiction, crime and comedy, as well as for the stage and screen. Based in Manchester, he is Artistic Director at Cultureword.

peterkalu.com
@peterkalu
Fiction

Anansi the Spider and Tiger's Stew: A folk tale retold. UK: Satchel 2006. (5-12)
Being Me. London: HopeRoad, 2016. (12-18)
The Silent Striker. London: HopeRoad, 2015. (12-18)

The Singer and the Snorer: A folk tale retold. UK: Satchel 2006. (9-13)
Zombie XI. London: HopeRoad, 2016. (10-16)



Muhammad Khan

Muhammad Khan is an engineer, maths teacher and young adult author. He writes for teenagers, taking inspiration from his own wonderful students. His books deal with difficult issues which young people may be struggling with in an ever-changing world. A passionate advocate for student voice, he believes every child is blessed with unique talents and deserves to be heard and celebrated. The teenagers in his books are vibrant, funny and brave individuals. Born and bred in south London, he recently earned an MA in creative writing from St Mary's. His first book, *Am Thunder*, dealt with themes of Islamophobia, finding your own voice and radicalisation. His second book, *Kick the Moon*, explores toxic masculinity, gang culture, making and breaking friendships and the dangers of social media. His work has been nominated for the prestigious Carnegie Medal and he has spoken on behalf of Amnesty International.

@mkhanaauthor
Fiction

Am Thunder. London: Macmillan, 2018. (12+)
Kick the Moon. London: Macmillan, 2019. (12+)



**K P Kojo aka
Nii Ayikwei
Parkes**

K P Kojo is the pen name of Nii Ayikwei Parkes, a poet, novelist and 2007 recipient of Ghana's ACIRAG award for poetry and literary advocacy. His first book for children, *The Parade*, a book of Ananse stories, was selected for the 2012 USBBY's Outstanding International Books list in the United States and translated into Korean. His most recent book, *Tales from Africa* (2017) retells fables from traditions ranging from the Barber to Zulu. Prior to publishing Nii ran over 300 readings and workshops in schools around the world. In 2015, he was selected as one of Africa's 39 most promising authors of the new generation for the World Book Capital Africa 39 Project. Nii is based between Ghana and London.

@BlueBirdTail

Fiction

The Parade: A Stampede of Stories about Ananse, the Trickster Spider. Illustrated by Karen Lijie. London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2011. (7-10)
Tales From Africa. London: Puffin Classics, 2017. (9-11)



**Patrice
Lawrence**

Patrice Lawrence was born in Brighton and brought up in an Italian and Trinidadian household. Her first book for young adults, *Orangeboy*, was shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award and won the Bookseller YA Prize and Waterstone's Prize for Older Children's Fiction. *Indigo Donut*, her second book for teenagers, won the Cimeterfest YA Prize. Both books have been nominated for the Carnegie Medal. Patrice worked for more than 20 years for charities supporting equality and social justice. These themes (along with a serious amount of music) inform her stories. Patrice still lives in Brighton.

@LawrencePatrice

Fiction

Short story in *A Change Is Gonna Come*. London: Stripes, 2017. (12+)
The Diver's Daughter. Whitney, Oxon: Scholastic, 2019. (8+)
Granny Ting Ting. London: A&C Black, 2009. (7+)
Indigo Donut. London: Hodder, 2017. (13+)
Short story in *Make More Noise*. London: Nosy Crow, 2018. (9+)
Orangeboy. London: Hodder, 2016. (13+)
Rose, Interrupted. London: Hodder, 2019. (13+)
SNAP – for World Book Day. London: Hodder, 2019. (12+)
Toad Attack. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2019. (6+)
Wild Papa Woods. London: Pearson, 2013. (7+)



John Lyons

John Lyons is a Trinidadian poet and painter living in Cambridgeshire. His collection for children, *Dancing in the Rain*, which he also illustrated, was shortlisted for the 2016 CLPE CLIPPA Award. John's creative development is rooted in his everyday life, where he constantly explores the physical and social environments for possibilities to craft poems, stories and paintings. He delights in being a positive role model in today's multi-ethnic society, often drawing inspiration from his Caribbean folklore. He particularly loves doing creative writing workshops in schools, as they help him to understand the imagination of children, and his use of creative play inspires him and his students. John writes both for children AND for the child still within adults.

www.jemlyons.co.uk

Selected Poetry and Illustration

Poem in *101 Favourite Poems*. Compiled by John Foster. London: Collins, 2002. (9-11)
Poem in *A Caribbean Dozen*. Ed. John Agard & Grace Nichols. London: Walker Books, 1994. (5-9)
Dancing in the Rain. Leeds: Peepal Tree Press, 2016. Full poetry collection. (9-12)
Poem in *On a Camel To The Moon and other poems about journeys*. Compiled by Valerie Bloom. London: Beiltha Press, 2001. (7+)
Poem in *Poems Then and Now*. Compiled by Fiona Waters. London: Evans Bros. Ltd, 2001. (10+)
Poem in *Rainbow World*. Ed. B Fraser and D Chatterjee. London: Hodder & Weyland, 2003. (7+)



Nick Makoha

Nick Makoha is originally from Uganda and has lived in Kenya and Saudi Arabia; he now lives in south London. His debut collection *Kingdom of Gravity* was shortlisted for the 2017 Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection and nominated by the *Guardian* as one of the best books of 2017. He is a Cave Canem Graduate Fellow and Complete Works Alumni. He won the 2015 Brunel International African Poetry Prize and was the 2016 winner of the Toi Derricotte & Cornelius Eady Chapbook Prize for his pamphlet *Resurrection Man*. He is a Trustee for the Arvon Foundation and The Ministry of Stories. Nick's play *My Father and Other Superheroes*, set across continents and eras, was originally developed at SpokeLab, Theatre Royal Stratford East and has resulted in *The Hero in You* workshops, which Nick can tailor to work in a range of settings including schools, youth and community groups.

www.nickmakoha.com

Poetry and Plays

Kingdom of Gravity. Leeds: Peepal Tree Press, 2016. Poetry. (14+)
The Dark. London: Oberon Books, 2018. Play. (11+)



Ayisha Ma sociology; worked at for five years for *Obiged*, *Half of Haj* critical acc Talent Pick young adult a compilat Asian and ghost-writ Nadiya Hu; *and Please* a freelance book for 5-Ayisha live [@Ayisha_](http://www.britl)
Fiction
Story in *A Publishing, This Green 2019. (Adult The Other) Sofía Khan (Adult)*

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- Poem in *On a Camel To The Moon and other poems about journeys*. Compiled by Valerie Bloom. London: Belitha Press, 2001. (7+)
- Poem in *Poems Then and Now*. Compiled by Fiona Waters. London: Evans Bros. Ltd, 2001. (10+)
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- The Dark*. London: Oberon Books, 2018. Play. (11+)

Ayisha Malik



Ayisha Malik holds a BA in English literature and sociology, and an MA in creative writing. She worked at Penguin Random House before moving to Cornerstones, where she was managing editor for five years. Her debut novel, *Sofia Khan is Not Obligated*, was followed by the sequel, *The Other Half of Happiness*, which were both met with critical acclaim, and she was a WH Smith Fresh Talent Pick in 2016. She has contributed to the young adult anthology, *A Change is Gonna Come*, a compilation of short stories and poems by black, Asian and minority ethnic authors, and is the ghost-writer for *Great British Bake Off* winner, Nadiya Hussain. Ayisha's third novel, *This Green and Pleasant Land*, is out in 2019. She is currently a freelance editor and is working on a children's book for 5-7 year olds, as well as her fourth novel. Ayisha lives in south London.

www.bit.ly/AyishaMalik

@Ayisha_Malik

Fiction

- Story in *A Change is Gonna Come*. London: Stripes Publishing, 2017. (YA)
- This Green and Pleasant Land*. London: Zaffre, 2019. (Adult)
- The Other Half of Happiness*. London: Zaffre, 2017. (Adult)
- Sofia Khan is not Obligated*. London: Twenty7, 2015. (Adult)

Taran Matharu



Taran Matharu lives in London and is half-Brazilian, half-Indian. He is the *New York Times* and *USA Today's* bestselling author of the fantasy *Summoner* series. He wrote *The Novice* (Book 1) on Wattpad, where a sample was read 8 million times. It was published and translated into 15 languages, winning several international awards, and has sold 900,000 copies in English. Pitched as Harry Potter meets *Lord of the Rings* meets Pokemon, it tells the story of Fletcher, an orphan blacksmith's apprentice living in a medieval world who accidentally summons a salamander and goes to a military school for summoners. Fletcher must help defeat invading orcs, while navigating political intrigues of scheming nobles. Covering themes of racism, social inequality and corruption, and finding particular success amongst reluctant boy readers, *Summoner* has a worldwide cult following.

authoraranmatharu.com/

@TaranMatharu1

Fiction

- The Battlemage* (Book 3). London: Hodder Children's Books, 2018. (11-18)
- The Inquisition* (Book 2). London: Hodder Children's Books, 2017. (11-18)
- The Novice* (Book 1). London: Hodder Children's Books, 2015. (11-18)
- The Outcast* (Prequel). London: Hodder Children's Books, 2018. (11-18)
- The Summoner's Handbook*. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2018. (11-18)


Mei Matsuoka

Mei is the daughter of a Japanese father and British mother. Born in Tokyo and moving to England at 11, she studied illustration and animation at Kingston University, London. She is an author and illustrator of picture books, mainly aimed at pre-school age children. Her stories explore serious/educational subjects, but vary in tone from comical to thought-provoking and often manifest a world embodying animals or non-human characters. She examines themes of right and wrong, prejudice, stereotyping, psychology, reality and abstract thought. Mei is motivated by the passion to create something that touches people's lives and hopefully leaves a positive impact on all. She enjoys expressing what is inside her, who she is and what she feels/thinks through illustration and storytelling. Mei is based in Buckinghamshire.

www.meimatsuoka.com/

Selected Illustration/Picture Books

Burger Boy. Written by Alan Durant. London: Andersen Press, 2005. (3-7)

Footprints in the Snow. London: Andersen Press, 2007. (3-7)

The Great Balloon Hullabaloo. Written by Peter Bently. London: Andersen Press, 2013. (3-7)

The Great Sheep Shenanigans. Written by Peter Bently. London: Andersen Press, 2012. (3-7)

Raffi's Surprise. Written by Julia Hubery. London: Simon and Schuster, 2006. (3-7)

The Three Little Pigs. Adapted by Kath Jewitt. Bath: Parragon, 2012. (3-7)


Tariq Mehmood

Tariq Mehmood was born in Pakistan and was brought to England in 1967 aged around seven to nine. He grew up in Bradford, where he was bussed to school (his racist practice was later suspended). He became homeless aged 16 and lived in parks and derelict buildings. He was a founding member of the Asian Youth Movement and United Black Youth league. In 1981 he was imprisoned on terrorism charges as a part of 'The Bradford 12', who were all later acquitted. He wrote his first novel whilst he was on remand in Armley jail in Leeds. His novels are set against a backdrop of migration, war, identity, longing, loss and love. He is the co-director of the award-winning documentary *Hyjizize* about deaths in police custody. He has three children and lives in Manchester.

www.hoperoadpublishing.com/tariq-mehmood

Fiction

Courageous Ali and The Heartless King. London: Satchel, 2006. (10+)

Half Brother. London: Satchel, 2006. (10+)

Hand on the Sun. London: Penguin, 1983. (14+)

Song of Gulzarina. Canada: Daraja Press, 2016. (Adult)

While There is Light. Manchester: Comma Press, 2003. (Adult)

You're Not Here. Canada: Daraja Press, 2018. (12+)

You're Not Proper. London: Hoperoad, 2015. (12+)


Momtaza Mehri

Momtaza Mehri is a British-Somali poet, essayist and editor, and is the 2018-19 Young People's Laureate for London run by Spread the Word. During her tenure, Momtaza has been engaging young people (aged 13-25) across London, through poetry residencies and commissions, co-curating a Poetry Lab for talented young poets and supporting the Young People's Laureate Tour in six outer London boroughs. Momtaza's work has been featured in *Poetry Review*, *Vogue* and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's *Open Space*, and on Buzzfeed and BBC Radio 4. She is a Complete Works Fellow and winner of the 2017 OutSpoken Page Poetry Prize and the 2018 Brunel African Poetry Prize. She won third place in the 2017 Poetry Society's National Poetry Competition. Momtaza's chapbook, *sugah.lump.prayer*, was published as part of the New Generation African Poets series; her poems also feature in *Ten: Poets of the New Generation*.

@RuffneckRefugee
Poetry

sugah.lump.prayer. Part of New-Generation African Poets series: Volume 8. Ed. Kwame Dawes and Chris Abani. New York: Akashic Books, 2017. (adult)

Poem included in *Ten: Poets of the New Generation*. Ed. Karen McCarthy Woolf. Northumberland: Bloodaxe Books, 2017. (adult)


Fatima Mian

Fatima Mian was born and raised in London, where she is a primary school teacher. She says the best part of her job is using creativity to build awesome things with the children, such as 3D astronauts and dinosaurs! Inspired by a Pixar exhibition she saw in Paris Fatima, who studied graphic design at university, was motivated to develop her skills as an illustrator. She is currently on sabbatical leave, travelling the world to pursue her other passions — art and photography.

www.fatimamian.co.uk/

Illustration

It Must Have Been You. Written by Zanib Mian. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2015. (2+)


Zanib Mian

Zanib Mian is a primary school teacher. She says the best part of her job is using creativity to build awesome things with the children, such as 3D astronauts and dinosaurs! Inspired by a Pixar exhibition she saw in Paris Fatima, who studied graphic design at university, was motivated to develop her skills as an illustrator. She is currently on sabbatical leave, travelling the world to pursue her other passions — art and photography.

@Zendibibi

Adem in Los Goncalves. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2018. (8+)

The Fairytales. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2018. (8+)

The Muslim. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2018. (8+)

My Dad's Be. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2018. (8+)

Oddssocks. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2018. (8+)

Planet Omar. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2018. (8+)

The Robot T. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2018. (8+)



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2018. (12+)
2015. (12+)



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www.fatimamian.co.uk

Illustration

It Must Have Been You. Written by Zanib Mian. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2015. (2+)



Zanib Mian

Zanib Mian fell in love with writing at primary school. After studying molecular cell biology at University College London, she taught science in secondary school before deciding to move into children's publishing. Zanib felt that characters from all minorities were missing from books for young children and launched Sweet Apple Publishers with a clear commitment to publishing inclusive books. Her books include *Oddsockosaurus* and *The Robot That Said Moo*. They have featured on the BBC's *CBeebies Bedtime Stories* show and in the *Guardian* for their contribution to diverse children's literature. *The Muslims* won the 2018 Little Rebels Award and was longlisted for the 2018 UKLA Book Awards. She has also been nominated for the 2019 Carnegie Medal. Zanib lives in Wembley, London.

@Zendibble

Selected Fiction

Adam in Lost and Found. Illustrated by Maria Mian Goncalves. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2012. (4+)
The Fairytale Times. Illustrated by Laura Ewing. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2016. (7+)

The Muslims. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2017. (7+)

My Dad's Beard. Illustrated by Laura Ewing.

London: Sweet Apple Books, 2014. (2+)

Oddsockosaurus. Illustrated by Bill Bolton. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2015. (3+)

Planet Omar. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2019. (8+)

The Robot That Said Moo. Illustrated by Tugrul Karacan. London: Sweet Apple Books, 2016. (3+)



Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Kiran Millwood Hargrave writes stories and works across genres, including poetry, plays and fiction for middle grade, young adult and grown-up audiences. Her books are female-led adventure stories, often taking place on islands, and focus around themes of difference, belonging, home and friendship. She aims to de-centre whiteness in her narratives, and often places working-class people of colour at the heart, giving them agency and control over their lives. She looks for the gaps and shadows in history and tries to shine a light on untold or marginalised experiences and voices. Kiran's work has won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, British Book Award Children's Book of the Year and numerous regional awards. It has been shortlisted for the Costa Book Award, the *Blue Peter* Best Story Award, the Jhalak Prize for Writers of Colour (twice), and longlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Award. Kiran lives in Oxford.

www.kiranmillwoodhargrave.co.uk/

Fiction

The Girl of Ink & Stars. Frome, Somerset: Chicken House, 2016. (8+)

The Island at the End of Everything. Frome, Somerset: Chicken House, 2018. (8+)

The Way Past Winter. Frome, Somerset: Chicken House, 2017. (8+)



Poonam Mistry

Poonam Mistry is a freelance illustrator living in Leicester who graduated in 2010 with a degree in graphic design and illustration from the University of Hertfordshire. Her style incorporates her love of nature and her Indian roots and explores the relationships between pattern, shapes and colour. Poonam's upbringing and childhood have heavily influenced her work, in particular being surrounded by Indian fabrics, Kalamkari textiles, Madhubani paintings and hand-painted ornaments. These patterns and intricate details are featured in her style of work. She loves folklore tales and stories of Hindu gods and goddesses and these have been a rich source of inspiration in a number of her illustrations. Poonam's work is drawn by hand with black ink before she uses computer software to add colour and adjust the composition of her illustrations.

www.poonam-mistry.com/
Illustration/Picture Books

You're Safe with Me. Written by Chitra Soundar. London: Lantana Publishing, 2018. (3+) *You're Snug with Me*. Written by Chitra Soundar. London: Lantana Publishing, 2018. (3+)



Stefan Mohamed

Stefan Mohamed was born in 1988 in Kingstons-upon-Thames, but spent most of his childhood in Powys, Wales. Fittingly for someone of both Jewish and Sri Lankan heritage growing up in rural Wales, much of his fiction deals with slightly out-of-place characters getting into scrapes in the countryside. Stefan completed the first draft of his first novel, *Bitter Sixteen*, when he was 16. The quirky superhero adventure was eventually published in 2015 and became a *Guardian* Top Teen Read of 2015. The sequels, *Ace of Spiders* and *Stanly's Ghost*, followed in 2016 and 2017. A stand-alone fantasy novel for adults, *Falling Leaves* appeared in 2018. Stefan is also a performing poet; his first collection of poetry was published in 2016. He has a degree in creative writing from Kingston University and lives in Bristol.

stefmo.co.uk/wp/
Fiction and Poetry

Ace of Spiders. Norfolk: Salt Publishing, 2016. (YA) *Bitter Sixteen*. Norfolk: Salt Publishing, 2015. (YA) *Falling Leaves*. Norfolk: Salt Publishing, 2018. (adult fiction) *PANCI!* Bristol: Burning Eye Books, 2016. (poetry) *Stanly's Ghost*. Norfolk: Salt Publishing, 2017. (YA) *Stuff(e-novella)*. Norfolk: Salt Publishing, 2014.

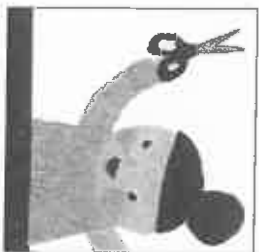


Nick Mohammed

Nick Mohammed is an established actor with recent roles in Ridley Scott's *The Martian*, *The Sense of an Ending* and Netflix's *Collateral*. He also played Piglet in Disney's latest action feature *Christopher Robin*. Nick's television writing credits include the six-part series *Intelligence*, co-starring David Schwimmer. He has featured in a host of TV comedies including *Sally4Ever*, *Camping*, *Uncle and Life's Too Short*. On radio, following the success of his hit BBC Radio 4 debut *Quarters*, he went on to write and record *Nick Mohammed in Bits*, *Apollo 21* and two series of *Detective Sergeant Nick Mohammed*. His recent live show *Mr Swallow and the Vanishing Elephant* received critical acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe; he will be shooting a pilot for Channel 4 in 2019. His debut children's novel, *The Young Magicians and the Thieves' Almanac*, was released last year and he is currently working on the sequel.

@nickmohammed
Fiction

The Young Magicians and the Thieves' Almanac. London: Puffin, 2017. (9-12)



Mique Moriuchi

Mique Moriuchi makes pictures with paint, scissors, paper and glue. She love colour; her studio is messy with paper trails often leading to the kitchen. Since completing her studies in illustration in 1999 (MA at Brighton University, BA at Norwich School of Art & Design), she has illustrated 23 picture books to date and was recently commissioned by Paperchase to work on a range of greeting cards. Mique currently lives in Bedford with her partner and two boys.

www.miquemoriuchi.com/

Selected Illustration and Picture Books

Butterfly Girl. Written by Simon Puttock. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2007. (6-11) *Fresh Delicious*. Written by Irene Latham. USA: Boyd Mills Press, 2016. (4-8) *I Imagine*. Written by Rachel Rivett. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2011. (5-7) *I'll See You In The Morning*. Written by Mike Jolley. Templar Publishing, 2005. (2-4) *I'm a Little Alien*. Written by James Carter. London: Frances Lincoln, 2014. (3+) *Just One Peaceful Pond*. Written by Chris Buttenworth. London: Walker Books, 2008. (2-5) *Mix And Match Animals*. USA: Piggy Toes Press, 2007. (2+)

My Village. Ed. by Dani Wright. London: Frances Lincoln, 2010. (3-6) *The Story Goes On*. Written by Aileen Fisher. USA: Roaring Brook Press, 2005. (4-6) *That's Love*. Written by Sam Williams. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2006. (2-4)



Millie Mur

Millie Mur is a Jamaican psychiatrist who writes now as Kiesha (19 female, yo in England colleges at workshops BBC TV's b creator an 4 1995/96) epimonic setting. It's award. For Literary Ful London. M working or

@milliem
Fiction

All About... 1990. (YA) *Cairo Hug!* (YA) *Ebony and Judith Law Jade: Lond Kiesha. Lor Lady A, A I Press, 1995 Lois: Millor 2003. (YA) Sorrelle. Lo*



Nick Mohammed

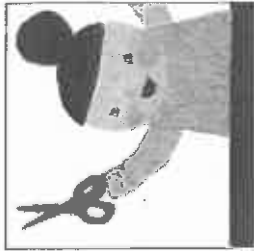
Nick Mohammed is an established actor with recent roles in Ridley Scott's *The Martian*, *The Sense of an Ending* and Netflix's *Collateral*. He also played Piglet in Disney's latest action feature *Christopher Robin*. Nick's television writing credits include the six-part series *Intelligence*, co-starring David Schwimmer. He has featured in a host of TV comedies including *Sally4Ever*, *Camping*, *Uncle and Life's Too Short*. On radio, following the success of his hit BBC Radio 4 debut *Quarters*, he went on to write and record *Nick Mohammed in Bits*, *Apollo 21* and two series of *Detective Sergeant Nick Mohammed*. His recent live show *Mr Swallow and the Vanishing Elephant* received critical acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe; he will be shooting a pilot for Channel 4 in 2019. His debut children's novel, *The Young Magicians and the Thieves' Almanac*, was released last year and he is currently working on the sequel.

@nickmohammed

Fiction

The Young Magicians and the Thieves' Almanac. London: Puffin, 2017. (9-12)

3. (poetry)
2017. (YA)
9. 2014.



Mique Moriuchi

Mique Moriuchi makes pictures with paint, scissors, paper and glue. She love colour: her studio is messy, with paper trails often leading to the kitchen. Since completing her studies in illustration in 1999 (IMA at Brighton University, BA at Norwich School of Art & Design), she has illustrated 23 picture books to date and was recently commissioned by Paperchase to work on a range of greeting cards. Mique currently lives in Bedford with her partner and two boys.

www.miquemoriuchi.com/

Selected Illustration and Picture Books

Butterfly Girl. Written by Simon Puttock. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2007. (6-11)
Fresh Delicious. Written by Irene Latham. USA: Boyd Mills Press, 2016. (4-8)
I Imagine. Written by Rachel Rivett. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2011. (5-7)

I'll See You in The Morning. Written by Mike Jolley. Templar Publishing, 2005. (2-4)

I'm a Little Alien. Written by James Carter. London: Frances Lincoln, 2014. (3+)

Just One Peaceful Pond. Written by Chris Butterworth. London: Walker Books, 2008. (2-5)

Mix And Match Animals. USA: Piggy Toes Press, 2007. (2+)

My Village. Ed. by Dani Wright. London: Frances Lincoln, 2010. (3-6)

The Story Goes On. Written by Aileen Fisher. USA: Roaring Brook Press, 2005. (4-6)

That's Love. Written by Sam Williams. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2006. (2-4)



Millie Murray

Millie Murray was born in London to parents of Jamaican heritage. She is a qualified general/psychiatric nurse and also a youth worker. Millie writes novels for young adults, the first entitled *Kiesha* (1988). Her books tend to reflect black female, young adult experiences. She has worked in England and Wales in schools, libraries, colleges and a prison, facilitating creative writing workshops. Millie has written for *The Real McCoy*, BBC TV's black comedy sketch show. She was creator and co-writer of *The Airport* (BBC Radio 4 1995/96), the first radio series in Britain that epitomised black people's lives within a humorous setting. It was shortlisted for a radio comedy award. For several years she has been the Royal Literary Fund Fellow at the University of East London. Millie lives in east London is currently working on her new novel.

@milliemurray58

Fiction

All About Jas. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1980. (YA)

Cairo Hughes. London: The Women's Press, 1996. (YA)

Ebony and the Mookatook Bush. Illustrated by Judith Lawton. Harlow: Longman, 1994. (7-11)

Jade. London: The Women's Press, 2000. (YA)

Kiesha. London: The Women's Press, 1988. (YA)

Lady A, A Teenage D.J. London: The Women's Press, 1989. (YA)

Lois. Milton Keynes: Scripture Union Publishers, 2003. (YA)

Sorrelle. London: The Women's Press, 1998. (YA)



Daljit Nagra

Daljit's four poetry collections have won the Forward Prize for Best Individual Poem and Best First Book, the *South Bank Show* Decibel Award and the Cholmondeley Award, and been shortlisted for the Costa Prize and twice for the T S Eliot Prize. Daljit is a PBS New Generation Poet whose poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *London Review of Books* and the *TLS*, and his journalism in the *Financial Times* and the *Guardian*. The inaugural Poet-in-Residence for BBC Radio 4 & 4 Extra, he presents the weekly *Poetry Extra*. He serves on the Council of the Royal Society of Literature and teaches at Brunel University, London. His work is taught at English GCSE level. Daljit lives in west London.

www.daljitnagra.com

Poetry

British Museum. London: Faber & Faber, 2017. (14+)

Look we have coming to Dover. London: Faber & Faber, 2007. (14+)

Ramayana. London: Faber & Faber, 2013. (14+)

Tipoo Sultan's Incredible White-Man Eating Tiger Toy Machine!!! London: Faber & Faber, 2011. (14+)



Beverley Naidoo

Beverley Naidoo joined the resistance to apartheid as a student in South Africa, leading to detention without trial and exile. She began writing while working as a teacher in Britain. Her first novel, *Journey to Jo'burg*, was originally banned in South Africa but opened a window for children elsewhere. She won the Carnegie Medal for *The Other Side of Truth*. She received the US African Studies Association Children's Book Award for *No Turning Back*. *Out of Bounds* (short stories with Foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu), *Burn My Heart* and *Who is King?* In *Cinderella of the Nile*, she retells a 2000-year-old version from ancient Egypt. Widely translated, she has been a nominee for the Hans Christian Andersen Award and Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Beverley lives in Dorset.

www.beverleynaidoo.com

Selected Fiction

- Burn My Heart*. London: Puffin, 2007. (11+)
- Cinderella of the Nile*. Illustrated by Marjan Vataiean. London: Tiny Owl Publishing, 2018. (6+)
- Journey to Jo'burg*. London: HarperCollins, 1985. (8+)
- No Turning Back*. London: Penguin, 1995. (11+)
- The Other Side of Truth*. London: Penguin, 2000. (10+)
- Out of Bounds: Stories of Conflict and Hope*. London: HarperCollins, 2001. (10+)
- Web of Lies*. London: Penguin, 2004. (11+)
- Who is King? Ten Magical Stories from Africa*. Illustrated by Piet Grobler. London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2015. (6+)



Natasha Ngan

Natasha Ngan is a writer and yoga teacher. She grew up between Malaysia, where the Chinese side of her family is from, and the UK. This multicultural upbringing continues to influence her writing, and she is passionate about bringing diverse stories to teens. Natasha studied geography at the University of Cambridge before working as a social media consultant and fashion blogger. She recently moved to Paris, where she likes to imagine she drifts stylishly from brasserie to brasserie, notepad in one hand, wine glass in the other. In reality, she spends most of her time getting lost on the metro and confusing locals with her French. Her young adult novels are *The Elites*, *The Memory Keepers* and, most recently, *Girls of Paper and Fire*. Natasha is also co-owner of fashion, travel and lifestyle blog *Girl in the Lens*. natashangan.com/

Fiction

- The Elites*. London: Hot Key Books, 2013. (YA)
- Girls of Paper and Fire*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2018. (YA)
- The Memory Keepers*. London: Hot Key Books, 2014. (YA)



Grace Nichols

Grace Nichols was born in Guyana and has lived in Britain since 1977. Her first collection of poetry, *I Is A Long-Memoried Woman*, won the 1983 Commonwealth Poetry Prize. Among her other books for adults are the popular *The Fat Black Woman's Poems*. Her children's books include *The Poet Cat*, *Paint Me a Poem* (awarded the Children's Poetry Book Shelf Best Single Author's Collection) and *Cosmic Disco*. She has edited anthologies including *Poetry Jump Up*, with her poet partner, John Agard, she edited collections such as *Under The Moon and Over the Sea*, which won a CLPE Award. She is among the poets on the current GCSE syllabus and received the Cholmondeley Award in 2000 as well as an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Hull. Her latest adult book is *The Insomnia Poems*.

www.curtisbrown.co.uk/client/grace-nichols

Selected Poetry and Fiction

- Asana and the Animals*. Illustrated by Sarah Adams. London: Walker Books, 1997.
- Cosmic Disco*. London: Frances Lincoln, 2013. (8-11)
- Full Moon Night in Silk Cotton Tree Village: A Collection of Caribbean Folk Tales*. By John Agard and Grace Nichols. Illustrated by Rosie Woods. London: Collins, 2016. (8-9)
- Paint Me A Poem. New Poems Inspired by Art in the Tate*. London: A & C Black, 2004.
- The Poet Cat*. London: Bloomsbury 2000.
- Sun-Time Snow-Time*. London: A & C Black, 2013. (7-9)



Karl Nova

Karl Nova is a hip hop artist, performance poet and award-winning author who also works as an educator running hip-hop flavoured creative writing workshops in schools all over the UK and abroad. His debut collection of poetry and short stories, *Rhythm And Poetry*, won the 2018 CLIPPA Poetry Award, which was presented to him at the National Theatre, London by Grace Nichols. The book has been a hit with children as young as seven all the way up into adolescence. Karl focuses on questioning the narrow definitions of what poetry is, as well as the discovery of the joy of poetic expression which came to him through the lyricism of rap music and the creativity found in spoken word slam poetry. He deals with growing up through childhood into adulthood and is often very humorous in his storytelling and reflections. Karl is based in London.

www.karlnovaworld.com

@KarlNova

Poetry and Fiction

- Rhythm and Poetry*. Slisden, Yorkshire: Caboodle Books, 2017.



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Grace Nichols

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www.curtisbrown.co.uk/client/grace-nichols
Selected Poetry and Fiction

Asana and the Animals. Illustrated by Sarah Adams. London: Walker Books, 1997.
Cosmic Disco. London: Frances Lincoln, 2013. (8-11)
Full Moon Night in Silk Cotton Tree Village: A Collection of Caribbean Folk Tales. By John Agard and Grace Nichols. Illustrated by Rosie Woods. London: Collins, 2016. (8-9)
Paint Me A Poem. New Poems Inspired by Art in the Tate. London: A & C Black, 2004.
The Poet Cat. London: Bloomsbury 2000.
Sun-Time Snow-Time. London: A & C Black, 2013. (7-9)

BREAKING NEW GROUND



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www.karlnovaworld.com
@KarlNova

Poetry and Fiction

Rhythm and Poetry. Silsden, Yorkshire: Caboodle Books, 2017.



Tola Okogwu

Tola Okogwu is a journalist and author of the *Daddy Do My Hair?* picture book series. The books were inspired by the relationship between her husband and daughters and are designed to challenge some of the perceptions and preconceptions around race and gender roles within parenting. Her books have become an excellent way of encouraging diversity and inclusion from an early age. Having children from all ethnicities enjoy the book makes an important impact on how children can identify with each other. Through her books and wider writing, Tola constantly seeks to create 'mirrors and windows', allowing everyone the opportunity to read books that are reflective of their own experiences, backgrounds and cultures. An avid reader, Tola enjoys spending time with her family and friends around her home in Kent.

tolaokogwu.com/

Fiction

Daddy Do My Hair: Beth's Twists. Illustrated by Rahima Begum. London: Florence Elizabeth Publishing, 2016. (0-6)

Daddy Do My Hair: Hope's Braids. Illustrated by Rahima Begum. London: Florence Elizabeth Publishing, 2017. (0-6)

Kechi's Hair Goes Every Which Way. Illustrated by Naomi Wright. London: Florence Elizabeth Publishing, 2018. (0-8)



Shereen Pandit

Shereen Pandit's writing for young adults is used in schools and colleges in numerous countries. She has taught creative writing in schools for many years, as well as facilitating creative writing workshops for young people through community groups, theatres and library services in the UK and internationally. Born in Cape Town, South Africa in the apartheid era, Pandit became a lawyer, lecturer, political activist and trade unionist. Forced into political exile in the UK, she completed a PhD in law, continued her activism and began writing. Her prize-winning work for adults has been widely published in the UK and translated into languages as diverse as German and Chinese. She lives in London, where she works as a freelance writer, as well as a maths and English tutor.

www.exiledwriters.co.uk/portfolio-items/shereen-pandit

Fiction and Non-Fiction

'The Imam's Daughter'. Short story in *From the Bering Strait and Other Stories*. Ed. by Clem Cairns. Cork: Fish Publishing, 1999. (14+)

'Masks'. Short story written with Zara Laattoe. *In Lines in the Sand*. Ed. by Mary Hoffman and Rhiannon Lassiter. London: Frances Lincoln, 2003. (14+)

Trafalgar High School, The Golden Years. Ed. with Goolam Pandit. 2012. Non-fiction (14+)

'New Generations'. Special Issue, *Wasafiri Magazine*. Ed. with Beverley Naidoo. Issue 60, winter 2009. (14+)



Rikin Parekh

Rikin has a foundation degree from Camberwell College of Arts and a degree in illustration from the University of Westminster. After graduating, he worked as a production illustrator/creature designer, freelancing in the film industry, mainly working with monsters. He is a proud member of SCBW-UK and has 300+ *Spider-Man* comics to his name. When Rikin isn't drawing you'll find him listening to the Beatles and Jimi Hendrix, munching away at pizza whilst watching a movie, trying to talk to the birds and stray cats in his garden — or working at a primary school as a Year 6 learning support assistant. His illustrations are predominately geared towards children from ages three up. The themes of his work revolve around friendships and dreams; he feels it's very important for children to understand that dreams are something that can become a reality; no matter how big or small. Rikin lives in Wembley, London. rikinparekh.com/

Illustration

- Iguana Boy Saves the World With a Triple Cheese Pizza*. Written by James Bishop. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2018. (7-9)
- Iguana Boy Unmasks the Invisible Hero*. Written by James Bishop. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2019. (7-9)
- Iguana Boy Vs. The 30 Second Thief*. Written by James Bishop. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2018. (7-9)
- Turn The Wheels Times Tables*. London: Arcturus Publishing, 2015. (4-12)



Serena K Patel

Serena Patel is a mum of two from Walsall, West Midlands. She is a law firm training co-ordinator and the family's finder of all lost things. As a child Serena would at every opportunity escape into the worlds created by authors, never imagining that one day she would write books. She writes for children because the opportunities to be silly and create funny characters are endless. Also because, as much as she loved reading as a child, there were no books with main characters like her. Serena writes about family, friendship and being yourself. She was shortlisted for the 2017 *Asian Writer Short Story Prize* and was a finalist in the 2018 *Undiscovered Voices Anthology*. Her first series features Anisha Mistry, who has a very loud, very large, chaotic family, and a big family wedding approaching — but the groom is missing! Can Anisha and best friend Milo save the day?

@SerenaKPatel

Fiction

- The *Anisha Mistry* series (3 books). London: Usborne Books, 2019. (7+)



Woodrow Phoenix

Woodrow Phoenix is a writer, artist, illustrator and graphic designer based in London and Cambridge. He is known for his free-wheeling experimentation with illustrative and graphic styles, with message-driven pictures offering an incongruous mix of the stylish, cute and sinister. His ground-breaking book *Rumble Strip* (2008) was deemed 'one utterly original work of genius' (*The Times*). In 2011 he co-edited *Melson*, which won the 2012 British Comics Award for Best Book and an Eisner nomination. Other comic books and strips include *Danny Digits* (weekly), the *Guardian*, *The Sumo Family* (weekly), *The Independent on Sunday*, monthly *Manga Mania* magazine), *The Liberty Cat* (quarterly in Japan in *Morning* magazine), and *SugarBuzzi* (in collaboration with co-creator Ian Carney), an anthology comic optioned for television by Walt Disney, the Cartoon Network and other independent production companies. www.woodrowphoenix.co.uk

@mrphoenix

Illustration and Comics

- Bez the Biz*. Written by Steve May. London: Mammoth, 1999. (7+)
- Count Milkula*. Co-authored with Robin Price. Leighton Buzzard. Mogsilla, 2006. (3-6)
- Donny Digits*. Weekly in the *Guardian*. Book out Christmas 2019. Comic strip. (14+)
- Is that your Dog?* Written by Steve May. London: Mammoth, 2001. (7+)
- That's a Horse of a Different Colour*. Weekly in DFC. Book out Spring 2020. Comic strip. (14+)



Smriti Prasadam-Halls

Smriti Prasadam-Halls' award-winning children's books include the US bestseller *I Love You Night and Day*. She is published in over 25 languages. Her picture books include characters from mischievous monsters to elephants in underpants, and often explore relationship and identity, how it feels to be in your own skin — and in someone else's. Her stories can be fast-paced and funny or lyrical and tender, but are always full of heart and speak to the child in us all. Smriti also creates bold board books to engage the very smallest readers, young fiction for newly independent readers and beautiful, highly illustrated non-fiction for older readers. *The Ways of the Wolf* and *The World of the Whale* are both nominated for the 2019 CLIP Kate Greenaway Medal. Smriti lives in London. www.smriti.co.uk/

Selected Picture Books and Non-Fiction

- I Love You Night and Day*. Illustrated by Alison Brown. London: Bloomsbury, 2014. Picture book. (0-5)
- My Hand to Hold*. Illustrated by Alison Friend. London: Hodder, 2017. Picture book. (6-11)
- Norman the Naughty Knight*. Illustrated by Ian Smith. London: Egmont, 2016. Fiction. (5+)
- Ready, Steady Dig*. Illustrated by Edward Fawes. London: Hodder, 2016. Picture book. (3-5)
- T-Veg: The Story of a Carrot-Crunching Dinosaur*. Illustrated by Katherine Manolossou. New York: Harry N Abrams, 2017. Picture book. (0-5)
- The Ways of the Wolf* and *The World of the Whale*. Illustrated by Jonathan Woodward. London: Wren and Rook, 2017-18. Non-fiction. (9+)



Pooja has a child. She has short King's College London language she read worked I chosen e Centre N site succ young re novel, 71 nominat She is a historica is inter: and exp: London, The Bell @Pooja Fiction *The Jura*

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Woodrow Phoenix



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www.woodrowphoenix.co.uk

@mrphoenix

Illustration and Comics

Baz the Biz. Written by Steve May. London: Mammoth, 1999. (7+)
Count Milkula. Co-authored with Robin Price. Leighton Buzzard: Mogzilla, 2006. (3-6)
Donny Digits. Weekly in the *Guardian*. Book out Christmas 2019. Comic strip. (14+)
Is that your Dog? Written by Steve May. London: Mammoth, 2001. (7+)
That's a Horse of a Different Colour. Weekly in *DFC*. Book out Spring 2020. Comic strip. (14+)



Smriti Prasadam-Halls



Smriti Prasadam-Halls' award-winning children's books include the US bestseller *Love You Night and Day*. She is published in over 25 languages. Her picture books include characters from mischievous monsters to elephants in underpants, and often explore relationship and identity, how it feels to be in your own skin — and in someone else's. Her stories can be fast-paced and funny or lyrical and tender, but are always full of heart and speak to the child in us all. Smriti also creates bold board books to engage the very smallest readers, young fiction for newly independent readers and beautiful, highly illustrated non-fiction for older readers. *The Ways of the Wolf* and *The World of the Whale* are both nominated for the 2019 CLIP Kate Greenaway Medal. Smriti lives in London.

www.smriti.co.uk/

Selected Picture Books and Non-Fiction

Love You Night and Day. Illustrated by Alison Brown. London: Bloomsbury, 2014. Picture book. (0-5)
My Hand to Hold. Illustrated by Alison Friend. London: Hodder, 2017. Picture book. (6-11)
Norman the Naughty Knight. Illustrated by Ian Smith. London: Egmont, 2016. Fiction. (5+)
Ready Steady Dig. Illustrated by Edward Eaves. London: Hodder, 2016. Picture book. (3-5)
T-Yeg: The Story of a Carrot-Crunching Dinosaur. Illustrated by Katherine Manolossou. New York: Harry N Abrams, 2017. Picture book. (0-5)
The Ways of the Wolf and *The World of the Whale*. Illustrated by Jonathan Woodward. London: Wren and Rook, 2017-18. Non-fiction. (9+)



Pooja Puri



Pooja has loved writing stories since she was a child. She first tasted publishing success with her short story, 'Chess', and later graduated from King's College London with a degree in English language and literature. Whilst at university she read for a publishing house and has since worked in the education sector. In 2014, she was chosen as a winner of the Ideas Tap Writers' Centre Norwich Inspires competition. In 2017, she successfully completed an MA in writing for young people at Bath Spa University. Her debut novel, *The Jungle*, was released in 2017 and nominated for the CLIP Carnegie Medal 2018. She is currently working on her second book, a historical novel set in the Elizabethan era. Pooja is interested in exploring the idea of boundaries and experimenting with different voices. Based in London, she is represented by Lauren Gardner at The Bell Lomax Moreton Agency.

@PoojaPuriWrites

Fiction

The Jungle. Edinburgh: Ink Road, 2017. (YA)



Yasmin Rahman



Yasmin Rahman is a British Muslim, born, raised and living in Hertfordshire. She has an MA in creative writing from the University of Hertfordshire and an MA in writing for young people from Bath Spa University. Yasmin writes young adult books that tackle heavy themes, but with humour, lightness and, more often than not, a Muslim protagonist. She likes exploring topics that aren't talked about openly, particularly in South Asian culture, and writing minority characters where their minority isn't the 'issue'. Her debut novel, *All the Things We Never Said*, published in 2019, tells the story of three intensely troubled girls who meet and form an unlikely friendship when they join a suicide pact website. Yasmin contributed a short story to *A Change is Gonna Come* which was awarded a YA Book Prize Special Achievement Award by *The Bookseller* in 2018 for its commitment to making YA publishing more inclusive.

@YasminwithanE

Fiction

All the Things We Never Said. London: Hot Key Books, 2019. (YA)
 'Fortune Favours the Bold' (short story) in *A Change is Gonna Come*. London: Stripes Publishing, 2017. (12+)



Bali Rai



Bali Rai was born in Leicester and has written over 40 young adult, teen and children's books, and won multiple awards. His culturally diverse writing pushes boundaries and tackles a variety of issues. Extremely popular in schools across the world, he is passionate about the promoting literacy and reading for pleasure. His first novel, *(un)arranged marriage*, was published in 2001. He is currently working on a new young adult title, as well as two series for younger readers. His latest titles are *Stay A Bit Longer* and *Now or Never*. Bali Rai follows Liverpool FC and is a reggae music fan.

www.balirai.co.uk

Selected Fiction

Game On. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2015. (10+)
The Guru & The King. Illustrated by Victoria Madama. London: A&C Black, 2012. Picture Book. (0-5)

The Harder They Fall. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2017. (10+)

Kiss of Death. London: Collins Read On, 2014. (13+)

The Night Run. London: Bloomsbury, 2014. (10+)

Old Dog New Tricks. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2014. (10+)

The Soccer Squad series (4 books). London: Penguin, various. (7+)

Stay A Little Longer. Edinburgh: Barrington Stoke, 2018. (10+)

Tales from India. London: Penguin Classics, 2017. (9+)

Them & Us. Nottingham: Five Leaves Publications, 2016. (11+)

Web of Darkness. London: Penguin, 2014. (13+)

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Madhvi Ramani



Madhvi Ramani is a British Asian writer who has published three children's books: *Nina and the Travelling Spice Shed*, *Nina and the Kung Fu Adventure*, and *Nina and the Magical Carnival*. Her horror, fantasy and literary short stories have appeared in various anthologies and magazines, including *Best of British Horror Stories*, *Asia Literary Review* and *Stand*. She also writes essays, articles, plays and screenplays. Her work covers themes of identity, gender, culture and politics. She is based in Berlin, Germany.

www.madhviramani.com

@madhviramani Fiction

Nina and the Kung Fu Adventure. London: Penguin Random House, 2013. (7+)

Nina and the Magical Carnival. London: Penguin Random House, 2014. (7+)

Nina and the Travelling Spice Shed. London: Penguin Random House, 2012. (7+)

Ramzee
aka Ramsey
Hassan

Ramzee is the pen name of Ramsey Hassan, a creator stories for comics from Battersea, southwest London. He's been making comics for four years and the stories he tells are playful spins on genre from a black and underclass lens. A big push that got him to make comics was that the London small press scene was very much dominated by white middle-class art school graduates who made very beautiful but twee comics which diverted from previous generations — where British comic books were a working-class, underdog space that spewed a stream of seditious material grappling with social issues and challenging the establishment. Ramzee tells genre stories that centre characters who aren't normally seen and tackles subjects that aren't normally heard. He has been nominated for a British Comic Award and won second prize at Faber's FAB Prize.

@RamzeeRazkw

Comics

Junk Food. A youth culture anthology created by Ramzee. (16+)

Triangle. Illustrated by Josceline Fenton, Tom Crowley and Liz Greenfield. Comic. (14+)

Zorse. With Liz Greenfield. 2016. (5+)



Leila Rasheed



Leila Rasheed is a British-Asian writer of mixed heritage who grew up in Libya. She has always loved children's literature: its powerful themes, linguistic magic and power to change the world. Her favourite place to be is probably between ages nine to thirteen, but it all depends on the story. Some of her published books are funny and contemporary, but she loves writing historical and fantasy too. Many of her stories are in some way about a search for identity. She enjoys exploring new forms and genres. Leila's other role is supporting emerging writers. After graduating from the University of Warwick's MA in writing, she returned to design and teach a module in writing for children and young people. She created the Megaphone writer development scheme, which supports black, Asian and minority ethnic children's and young adult writers as they write their first novel. Leila is based in south Birmingham.

www.leilarasheed.com

www.megaphonewrite.com

Fiction

The At Somerton trilogy. New York & London: Disney Hyperion, 2013 (12+)

Chips, Beans and Limousines. London: Usborne, 2008. (8+)

Doughnuts, Dreams and Drama Queens. London: Usborne, 2008. (8+)

Socks, Shocks and Secrets. London: Usborne, 2008. (8+)

The Witch of Turlingham series (5 books). Written as Ellie Boswell. London: Little Brown, 2012. (9+)

Onjali

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Ramzee is the pen name of Ramsey Hassan, a creator of comics from Battersea, south-west London. He's been making comics for four years and the stories he tells are playful spins on genre from a black and underclass lens. A big push that got him to make comics was that the London small press scene was very much dominated by white middle-class art school graduates who made very beautiful but twee comics which diverted from previous generations — where British comic books were a working-class, underdog space that spewed a stream of seditious material grappling with social issues and challenging the establishment. Ramzee tells genre stories that centre characters who aren't normally seen and tackles subjects that aren't normally heard. He has been nominated for a British Comic Award and won second prize at Faber's FAB Prize.

@RamzeeRawkz

Comics

Junk Food. A youth culture anthology created by Ramzee. (16+)
Triangle. Illustrated by Josceline Fenton, Tom Crowley and Liz Greenfield. Comic. (14+)
Zorse. With Liz Greenfield. 2016. (5+)



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www.leilarasheed.com

www.megaphonewrite.com

Fiction

The At Somerton trilogy. New York & London: Disney Hyperion, 2013 (12+)
Chips, Beans and Limousines. London: Usborne, 2008. (8+)
Doughnuts, Dreams and Drama Queens. London: Usborne, 2008. (8+)
Socks, Shocks and Secrets. London: Usborne, 2008. (8+)
The Witch of Turlingham series (5 books). Written as Ellie Boswell. London: Little Brown, 2012. (9+)



Onjali Q. Rauf

Onjali is the founder of Making Herstory, an organisation mobilising men, women and children from all walks of life to tackle the abuse and trafficking of women and girls in the UK and beyond. Her first novel, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, was shortlisted for the 2019 *Blue Peter* Book Award. It portrays the refugee crisis through the eyes of a child at a UK school. Written in honour of the many children she has encountered in her works with refugee aid teams, it aims to enhance children's understanding of what the label 'refugee' means, and what they can do to support children fleeing wars and other man-made disasters. Her second novel, *The Star Outside My Window*, similarly touches on a difficult issue: this time, that of domestic violence leading to homicide, as experienced by a ten-year-old child. Onjali lives in east London.

@OnjaliRauf

Fiction

The Boy at the Back of the Class. London: Orion Children's Books, 2018. (8-12)
The Star Outside My Window. London: Orion Children's Books, 2019. (8-12)



**Na'ima B
Robert**

Na'ima B Robert is an African Muslim woman of mixed descent who grew up in Zimbabwe. She sees writing for children as 'writing a love letter to the next generation'. She writes to reflect experiences that are often unspoken, unexplored and uncelebrated and to show 'the complexity and beauty of our struggles and triumphs as non-members of the dominant culture'. She wants to disrupt the narrative that paints people of colour and their experiences as 'other', instead placing children at the centre of stories that reflect their lived reality. Her work explores themes of identity, belonging, faith, respect for difference and, ultimately, pride in all that makes each of us unique. Na'ima has also published under the name Thando McLaren. She lives in Mirfield, West Yorkshire.

@NaimaBRobert

Selected Fiction and Non-Fiction

All Kinds of Homes. Written as Thando McLaren. London: Tango Books, 2005. (8+)
Black Sheep. London: Frances Lincoln, 2013. (13+)
Boy vs. Girl. London: Frances Lincoln, 2010. (13+)
From Somalia, with Love. London: Frances Lincoln, 2009. (13+)
Journey Through Islamic Art. London: Mantra Lingua, 2005. (5+)
Mabrook! A World of Muslim Weddings. Illustrated by Shirin Adl. London: Lincoln Books, 2016. (4-7)
She Wore Red Trainers: A Muslim Love Story. Markfeld, Leics: Kube Publishing, 2014. (13+)
Yum! Let's Eat! London: Mantra Lingua, 2008. (5+)



S F Said

S F Said is a British Muslim children's author, originally from the Middle East. His novels combine action and adventure with themes of identity, difference and belonging. His first book, *Variak Paw*, is about a Mesopotamian Blue cat who dreams of becoming a great warrior. It won the Smarties Prize for Children's Literature, has sold 500,000 copies and been translated into 12 languages. The sequel, *The Outlaw Variak Paw*, was BBC *Blue Peter* Book of the Year. His third book, *Phoenix*, is about a human boy and an alien girl who must save a galaxy threatened by war between humans and aliens. It represented the UK on the IBBY International Honour Book List, was shortlisted for the *Guardian Children's Fiction Award*, and nominated for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals. S F Said has written on children's and young adult literature for the *Guardian* and *Daily Telegraph*. He lives in London.

www.sfsaid.com/

@whatsSFSaid

Fiction

The Outlaw Variak Paw. Oxford: David Fickling Books, 2006. (9+)

Phoenix. Oxford: David Fickling Books, 2013. (9+)
Variak Paw. Oxford: David Fickling Books, 2006. (8+)



Anjan Sarkar

Anjan Sarkar is a British illustrator from a mixed-race British/Indian background. He has been illustrating professionally since 2010 and is currently working exclusively on children's picture books and chapter books. He loves to draw expressive characters and try to inject a bit of humour into every image. Although he thinks of himself as British, his Indian heritage has influenced some of the projects he has been commissioned to work on, including *Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas* (about a mixed Jewish/Hindu family celebrating Hanukkah) and *Rum Pum Pum* (a story inspired by the Indian landscape, its wildlife and culture). He thinks picture books are a great way to introduce children to ideas, people and places that they wouldn't normally come into contact with. He lives in Sheffield, Yorkshire.

anjansarkar.co.uk/

@LovelyLovelyJam

Illustration/Picture Books

The Alien Next Door series. Written by A I Newton. New York: Little Bee Books, 2018. (6-8)

Level-Up series. Written by Tom Nicoll. London: Stripes Publishing, 2019. (7-9)

Queen of The Hanukkah Dosas. Written by Pamela Ehrenberg. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017. (4-7)

Rum Pum Pum. Written by David L Harrison and Jane Yolen. New York: Holiday House Books, 2019. (4-7)

Sadiq series. Written by Siman Nuvrali.

Minnesota: Capstone, 2019. (4-8)



Emma Shevah

Emma Shevah is half-Thai and half-Irish, but was born and raised in London. This diverse heritage influences her writing, which is typically about identity and what makes us who we are. She writes funny, deep books that she hopes will make readers think. *Dream on Amber* is about fatherless, half-Japanese Amber Miyamoto, who invents an imaginary dad to help her with her escalating problems. *Dara Palmer's Major Drama* is about an adopted Cambodian girl who wants the lead role in a play and has to take matters into her own hands to achieve it. And *What Lexie Did* follows a Greek Cypriot girl who tells a huge lie that splits her family apart and separates her from her cousin and best friend, Eleri. *Hello Baby Moi!*, for early readers, follows school boy Adam dealing with an exasperating new sibling, and will be published in 2019. Emma lives in Brighton.

emmashovah.com/

@emmashovah

Fiction

Dara Palmer's Major Drama. Somerset: Chicken House Books, 2015. (8-12)

Dream on, Amber. Somerset: Chicken House Books, 2014. (8-12)

Hello Baby Moi! London: Bloomsbury, 2019. (5+)

What Lexie Did. Somerset: Chicken House Books, 2018. (8-12)



Qian Shi

Qian Shi is a Chinese director, animator and illustrator based in east London who grew up in Shijiazhuang, a northern city in China. She's always been drawn to stories and loves making pictures. Her charming illustrative style and understanding of storytelling brings an engaging mood and humour to her work. She has worked with Donna Wilson, Volvo and Disney. Her short animation film *Shoe* (2008) won several international animation film awards and her debut picture book, *The Weaver*, published by Andersen Press, has now been translated into multiple languages.

www.qianshi.co.uk/

Author-Illustrator Picture Book

The Weaver. London: Andersen Press, 2018. (3+)



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emmashevah.com/
[@emmashevah](https://www.instagram.com/emmashevah)

Fiction

Dara Palmer's Major Drama. Somerset: Chicken House Books, 2015. (8-12)
Dream on, Amber. Somerset: Chicken House Books, 2014. (8-12)
Hello Baby, Mo! London: Bloomsbury, 2019. (5+)
What Lexie Did. Somerset: Chicken House Books, 2018. (8-12)

Qian Shi



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www.qianshi.co.uk/

Author-Illustrator Picture Book

The Weaver. London: Andersen Press, 2018. (3+)

Nadia Shireen



Nadia Shireen enjoyed making homemade magazines and comics as a child. She studied law at university and then worked in magazine journalism; it was during this time that she started to draw again. After a lifetime of doodling in the sidelines, Nadia decided to pay some attention to drawing and in 2007 was accepted onto an MA course in children's book illustration at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. Her debut book, *Good Little Wolf*, received a mention in the Bologna Ragazzi Opera Prima Award and won the UKLA Book Award. Nadia has been shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny Prize and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. She lives in London.

@NadiaShireen

Author-Illustrator Picture Books

Billy and the Beast. London: Jonathan Cape, 2018. (3+)
Billy and the Dragon. London: Jonathan Cape, 2019. (3+)
The Bumblebear. London: Jonathan Cape, 2016. (3-5)
The Cow Who Fell to Earth. London: Jonathan Cape, 2017. (2+)
Good Little Wolf. London: Jonathan Cape, 2011. (3-5)
Hey, Presto! London: Jonathan Cape, 2012. (3-5)
Yeti and the Bird. London: Jonathan Cape, 2013. (3-5)

Nikesh Shukla



Nikesh Shukla is the author of three novels. His latest, *The One Who Wrote Destiny*, came out in spring 2018. His debut novel, *Coconut Unlimited*, was shortlisted for the 2010 Costa First Novel Award. His second novel *Meatspace* was released to critical acclaim in 2014. Nikesh has written for the *Guardian*, *Observer*, *Independent*, *Esquire*, *Buzzfeed*, *Vice* and BBC 2. *LitHub*, *Guernica* and BBC Radio 4. Nikesh is also the editor of the bestselling essay collection, *The Good Immigrant*, which won the reader's choice at the Books Are My Bag Awards. Nikesh was one of *Foreign Policy* magazine's 100 Global Thinkers and *The Bookseller's* 100 most influential people in publishing in 2016 and in 2017. He is the co-founder of the literary journal *The Good Journal* and The Good Literary Agency and is based in Bristol.

www.nikesh-shukla.com/

Fiction

Coconut Unlimited. London: Quartet Books, 2010. (14+)
Meatspace. London: The Friday Project, 2015. (Adult)
The One Who Wrote Destiny. London: Atlantic Books, 2018. (Adult)
Run, Riot. London: Hodder Children's Books, 2018. (YA)



**Ranjit Singh
Dhalival**

Ranjit Singh Dhalival is a British Indian from a Sikh background. He produces work for anyone who wants to read it! There are no specifics to his approach, he just follows his inspiration. He likes stories that are funny or thoughtful. A financial professional by day, he is fascinated by how a picture book – like a balance sheet – can present a story with astounding brevity and depth of expression. *Nimish the Adventurer*'s, he hopes, a humorous story about a boy's compromise with the world around him. The story has been nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2019 and was longlisted for the Cogan Diversity Picture Book Award, among others. Ranjit is based in Ealing in west London.

www.lantanapublishing.com/ranjit-singh/

Fiction

Nimish the Adventurer. Illustrated by Mehrookht Amin. London: Lantana Publishing, 2018. (4-8)



Chitra Soundar

Chitra Soundar is an Indian-born British author and storyteller based in London. She has written over 30 books published across Asia, Europe and North America. Chitra has written picture books, stories for emerging readers, poetry and junior fiction. Chitra grew up hearing tales from Indian epics and folk wisdom and her stories are often set in India, inspired by her heritage. She often visits schools, libraries and festivals to run writing and storytelling workshops because she believes stories widen our imagination and help us understand the people we share our planet with. She also writes short stories for adults as C Jengar.

[@csoundar](http://www.chitrasoundar.com)

Selected Fiction

A Doll of Ghee and a Pot of Wisdom. Illustrated by Uma Krishnaswamy. London: Walker Books, 2010. (6+)

The *Farmer Falgu* series (4 books). Illustrated by Kanika Nair. Langport, Somerset: Red Robin Books, 2015-2018. Picture Book (3+)

Manju's Magic Wishes. Illustrated by Verónica Montoya. London: Bloomsbury, 2019. (5+)

Pattan's Pumpkin. Illustrated by Frané Lessac. Hereford: Otter-Barry Books, 2016. Picture Book (3+)

Shubh Diwali. Illustrated by Charlene Chua. Park Ridge, IL: Albert Whitman, 2019. Picture Book (3+) The *You're Safe/ Snugg/ Strong with Me* books (3). All illustrated by Poonam Mistry. London: Lantana Publishing, 2018-19. Picture Books (3+)



**Michael de
Souza**

Michael de Souza is the author of the classic book series *Rastamouse* and the creator of the well-known BBC CBeebies character of the same name, along with handmates Scratchy and Zoomer, who form Da Easy Crew. He is also co-founder of Little Roots Publishing, who produced the original books. Michael came to England in 1960, leaving Trinidad to join his parents in west London. He has taught swimming for 22 years. Seeing the imagination and bravery of his students in overcoming their fear of water inspired Michael to write. His first book, *Rastamouse and the Crucial Plan*, was published in 2003; by 2011 it had become a much-loved animated series. Michael has been taking *Rastamouse* and a taste of the Caribbean to thousands of children and families in schools and libraries, locally, nationally and internationally since 2004.

rastamouse.com/wpr/

Fiction (All with Genevieve Webster)

Rastamouse and the Crucial Plan. London: Little Roots, 2004. (2-5)

Rastamouse and Da Bag-a-Bing. London: Little Roots, 2006. (2-5)

Rastamouse and the Double-Crossin' Diva. London: Macmillan, 2012. (2-5)

Rastamouse and Da Micespace Mystery. London: Macmillan, 2013. (2-5)

Rastamouse: Marathon Mystery. London: Campbell/Macmillan, 2013. (0-3)

Rastamouse: Pirate Rhythms. London: Campbell/Macmillan, 2013. (0-3)



Holly Sterling

Holly is a children's author and illustrator. She loves to work by hand using a variety of different media including watercolour, pencil and different printing processes. She graduated from the University of Sunderland with a degree in illustration and design, before going on to do a Masters at Edinburgh College of Art. In 2013, she was highly commended for the Macmillan Illustration Prize and was the winner of the Seven Stories/Frances Lincoln Illustration Competition. Her first illustrated picture book, *15 Things NOT to do with a baby*, was published in 2016, and her first author illustrated title, *Hiccups*, came out in 2017.

hollysterling.blogspot.com

@holly_sterling

Illustration/Picture Books

The *15 Things NOT to do* series (3 books). All written by Margaret McAllister. London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2016--18. (2-6)

The *Everybody Feels* series (4 books). All written by Moira Butterfield. London: DED Publishing, 2016-17. (3-7)

Hiccups. London: Frances Lincoln, 2017. *Pop-out and Play Nativity Story*. London: Egmont Publishing, 2015. (3+)



Tammy Tayl draws mang both traditio ten years, h anthologies has also pro comics for c female prot background: stories with adventure all up in the Jai Competition comic strips most recent *Who for Pen* www.drea **Illustration** *Aesthetic W zine* with 20 PinkAppleLa *Doctor Who* *Dee and Sir* 2018. (10+)

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Michael de Souza

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rastamouse.com/wp/

Fiction (All with Genevieve Webster)

Rastamouse and the Crucial Plan. London: Little Roots, 2004. (2-5)

Rastamouse and Da Bag-a Bling. London: Little Roots, 2006. (2-5)

Rastamouse and the Double-Crossin' Diva. London: Macmillan, 2012. (2-5)

Rastamouse and Da Micespace Mystery. London: Macmillan, 2013. (2-5)

Rastamouse: Marathon Mystery. London:

Campbell/Macmillan, 2013. (0-3)

Rastamouse: Pirate Rhythms. London: Campbell/Macmillan, 2013. (0-3)

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Holly Sterling

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hollysterling.blogspot.com

@holly_sterling

Illustration/Picture Books

The *15 Things NOT to do* series (3 books). All written by Margaret McAllister. London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2016–18. (2-6)

The *Everybody Feels* series (4 books). All written by Moira Butterfield. London: OED Publishing, 2016–17. (3-7)

Hiccups. London: Frances Lincoln, 2017.

Pop-out and Play Nativity Story. London: Egmont Publishing, 2015. (3+)



Tammy Taylor

Tammy Taylor is a London-based illustrator who draws manga style comics and illustrations in both traditional and digital media. During the last ten years, her work has been included in several anthologies in the UK and North America and she has also produced a number of self-published comics for children and teenagers, usually with female protagonists and often from minority ethnic backgrounds. She is fond of drawing slice-of-life stories with a hint of magical realism, fantasy, adventure and horror. In 2012, she was a runner-up in the Japanese Embassy's Manga Jiman Competition; she came sixth in 2015. She has had comic strips featured in *Kerrang* magazine and her most recent work includes illustrations of *Doctor Who* for Penguin Random House and the BBC.

www.dreamtripper.net

Illustration/manga art included in:

Aesthetic Warriors: Crystal Tears. A collaboration zine with 20 contributors. Cambridge: PinkAppleJam, 2018 (15+)

Doctor Who: The Women Who Lived. By Christel Dee and Simon Guerrier. London: Ebury/BBC Books, 2018. (10+)



Uday Thapa Magar

Uday Thapa Magar is a Nepalese-born illustrator, printmaker and an all-round image maker. His images aren't really targeted at any one person or group in particular, but are a response to the subject he's been given. Uday loves the challenge of receiving a brief, seeing it as an opportunity to learn about things and subjects he wouldn't have found out on his own. He likes experimenting with ideas and producing images which demonstrate his process and knowledge. Uday explores themes of mythology and daring characters and is drawn to history and the ordinary life of the yester years, as well as to natural wildlife, especially birds and whales. These subjects give him a narrative and the potential to study character. He currently lives in Hampshire.

@orbit.180

Illustration included in:

Sir Rover and His Elated Pursuit for Delectable Satisfaction. London: Pop Up Projects, 2017. (primary)


Kevin Tsang

Kevin Tsang was born in Copenhagen in 1987 to Hong Kong Chinese parents and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. He's lived and worked in the USA, Australia and Hong Kong, and is currently based in London. Kevin is the co-author of the young fiction series *Sam Wu is Not Afraid*, which he writes with his wife, author Katie Tsang (nee Katherine Webber). The series was inspired by wanting to see more books featuring children from Asian heritage backgrounds but which are accessible and enjoyable to all children. Some of Sam Wu's experiences are based on Kevin's own childhood. In each Sam Wu book, Sam faces a different fear but, with the support of his family and friends, as well as his own bravery, he's able to overcome each worry. Kevin hopes that children will be both inspired and entertained by the Sam Wu books.

@kevtasang
Fiction (all with Katie Tsang)

- Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of The Dark*. London: Egmont, 2019. (5-9)
- Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of Ghosts*. London: Egmont, 2018. (5-9)
- Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of Sharks*. London: Egmont, 2018. (5-9)
- Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of Spiders*. London: Egmont, 2019. (5-9)


Ken Wilson-Max

Born in Zimbabwe, Ken Wilson-Max lives in London. He has written and illustrated over 50 books for children. He also illustrates things for grow-ups and businesses and publishes work from other creators through Alanna Max. As a younger man, Ken made stories from what he saw in his travels. He was excited and so the work was exciting. As he became more experienced and familiar with his surroundings, he saw that everyone had a story to tell. He became determined to inspire others to tell theirs. He found this made his stories much better. It also allowed him to experiment and learn. Since 2014, he's also been publishing the *Chicken Newspaper* for children all over the world.

www.kenwilsonmax.com

[@kenwilsonmax](https://twitter.com/kenwilsonmax)

Selected Author-Illustrator Picture Books

- Astro Girl*. Hereford: Otter-Barry Books, 2019. (3-7)
- Big Red Fire Engine*. London: Pavilion, 2011. (3-7)
- Halala means Welcome*. Brighton: Chrysalis Children's Books, 1999. (3-7)
- The Interactive Heroes* books (3 books). Brighton: Chrysalis Children's Books, 2005. (3-7)
- L is for Loving*. New York: Disney-Hyperion, 1999. (3-7)
- Lenny and Wilbur*. London: Alanna, 2019. (3-7)
- Little Orange Submarine*. New York: Cartwheel Books, 2001. (3-7)
- Max's Starry Night*. London: Belitha Press, 2003. (3-7)
- Wake Up Sleep Tight*. London: Bloomsbury, 1997. (3-7)
- Zelda in the City*. London: Dial, 2000. (3-7)


Benjamin Zephaniah

Benjamin Zephaniah is a pioneer of the performance poetry scene. He has recorded albums, written plays for stage, radio and television, and he writes poetry for children, adults, and novels for teenagers. He is also an actor and television presenter. His message is one of unity, peace and expression through creativity. He holds 16 honorary doctorates and is visiting professor at De Montfort University and Professor of Poetry and Creative Writing at Brunel University. His autobiography, *The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah*, was nominated for two major awards and he is constantly touring with his band. Benjamin lives in Lincolnshire.

benjaminzephaniah.com/

Selected Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction

- Funky Chickens*. London: Puffin, 1996. Poetry. (9-11)
- Gangsta Rap*. London: Bloomsbury, 2004. Novel. (YA)
- J is for Jamaica and When I Grow Up*. Photographs by Prodeepta Das. London: Lincoln Children's Books, 2006-07. (4-7)
- Kung Fu Trip*. London: Bloomsbury, 2011. Non-fiction. (13+)
- Primary Rhyming Dictionary*. Chambers, 2004. Dictionary and Poetry. (11+)
- Propa Propaganda*. Northumberland: Bloodaxe Books, 1996. Poetry. (14+)
- Refugee Boy*. London: Bloomsbury, 2001. Novel. (YA)
- Talking Turkeys*. London: Puffin, 2015. (9-11)
- Terror Kid*. London: Hot Key Books, 2014. Novel. (YA)

Jon Daniel Afro Supa Hero

Speaking Volumes were delighted to work with Jon Daniel on our first two highlighted 200 British black, Asian and minority ethnic writers in beautiful keepsake publications, designed to be timeless. They were booklets which looked as stylish on the bookshelf as they did in people's hands — simultaneously useful and aesthetically pleasing. We miss Jon's wonderful contribution to our mission towards making literature diverse and inclusive, but are so happy to be keeping the spirit of his work alive through Jane Daniel's wonderful designs for *Breaking New Ground*.

jon-daniel.com
Jon's work can be purchased from:
pstore.bigcartel.com

