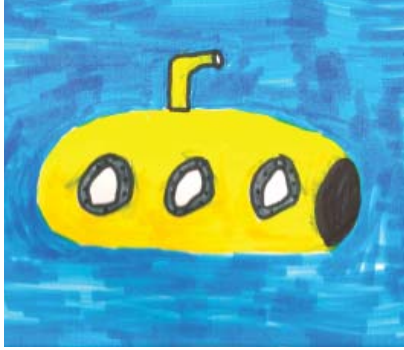


# About the Authors and Artists



**AMANDA GOLDBERG, AGE 7**, Irvington, New York, Illustrator, "Water." Amanda Goldberg is 7 years old. She lives in Irvington, NY with her brothers Robert and Peter. She likes to draw pictures and go to the beach. She has a pet bunny named Cuddles!

**ROBERT GOLDBERG, AGE 9**, Irvington, New York, Author, "Water." Robert is 9 years old. He lives in Irvington, NY with his family including his sister Amanda and brother Peter.

**MAYA GOUW, AGE 11**, South Setauket, New York, Illustrator, "Beach Imagery Poem." Maya writes, "'I'm an 11 year old Asian-American girl. I live with my parents and a brother who is going to college this fall. I skipped second grade and attend gifted school. I enjoy being a nerd with my face glued to the computer screen, drawing and writing poetry. I love Italian, seafood, Asian and the average dessert. I love to watch the food network as well as various anime with large amounts of gore. You knew that was coming. I enjoy biking and fishing and I also play violin and clarinet. That's my basic overview. Basically...'"



**JENNIFER HEPP, AGE 10**, Novi, Michigan, Author, "Beach Imagery Poem." Jennifer writes, "My name is Jennifer Hepp and I love to write. Writing is my favorite thing to do in my spare time, and I am a fifth grader at Novi Meadows School in Novi, Michigan. I have a mom, dad, and a younger brother and sister. I enjoy taking vacations with my family."

**RENATA HERRMANN, AGE 12**, Towanda, Kansas, Author, "A World of Musical Notes." Renata was adopted from Russia when she was five. She goes to school at Circle Middle School. In her spare time she enjoys talking with friends and playing with her poodle, Leo, and spending time with her family. Her favorite book is *So B It* by Sarah Weeks.



**SAMANTHA KENG, AGE 11**, Smyrna, Georgia, Author and Illustrator, "Hot Air Balloon." Samantha writes, "Hi! My name is Samantha Keng. I am eleven years old and in sixth grade at Lovett. I live in Smyrna, GA. I have nine cats. When I grow up, I want to be a journalist and then go to Africa to help the kids there."



**CHRISTINA FAITH NOVOSELAC, AGE 11**, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, Illustrator, "The Softball Dilemma." Christina writes, "My name is Christina Novoselac and I am 11 years old. I live in Mississauga, which is next to Toronto, Ontario in Canada. I attend Queensway Christian College and four sisters. My favorite things to do are draw, read, play computer games and play with our four pet guinea pigs, named Biscuit, Chippy, Peppy and Fudge. I like to grow plants and have a miniature garden in my room. In the winter I like to ski with my family and in the summer I spend lots of time outdoors swimming, hiking, and bike riding. One of my sisters and I are writing and illustrating a book about horses, that we hope to get published."

**PATRICK OSHAKUADE, AGE 11**, Benton, Kansas, Author, "My Fear of Swimming."

**BRIANA PAGANO, AGE 11**, East Marion, New York, Author, "The Softball Dilemma." Briana writes, "Hi, my name's Briana Marie Pagano. I was born on March 15, 1996 in Queens, NY, and moved to East Marion, NY when I was 5 years old. I have 3 pets: 2 cats and 1 dog. I have one older brother and one younger sister. My hobbies are reading, writing, and playing sports, such as softball and basketball. This is the third time my work has been published, and I'm very excited. My goal is to someday be an author."



**CELINE R., AGE 9**, Novi, Michigan, Author and Illustrator, "The Forest." Celine R. is 9 years old and lives in Novi, Michigan with her mom, dad, and sister, Karena. She is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Deerfield Elementary School where her favorite subjects are reading and writing. She also likes to sing, act, dance, play outside, and play sports. She is in a Girl Scout troop and belongs to the Student Council at her school. When she grows up, she hopes to become an author.

**ISABELLE ST. JOHN, AGE 12**, Appleton, Wisconsin, Illustrator, "A World of Musical Notes." Isabelle writes, "I am currently a sixth grader in the great state of Wisconsin. Though writing in different genres and illustrating my stories is my passion, I enjoy other pastimes too! Reading tops my list of favorites, as well as knitting, crocheting, cooking, and playing percussion in my school band. Some of my favorite books are Betsy-Tacey, the Wee Free Men, The Westing Game, and Walk Two Moons. Mr. Polsin's Ponytail and Perfect Pencils and the Big School Mess Up are 2 other books that I've written along with along with a few published poems. Writing will forever be my passion!"



**HANNAH SCHMITT, AGE 10**, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Illustrator, "My Fear of Swimming." Hannah writes, "I am 10 years old and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I have a younger sister and 5 cats! Some my favorite activities are playing with my sister, drawing or painting or reading, playing piano, and playing video games with my dad. I have been an "artist" since I was very little, and have written several stories. I hope to be an author some day."



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**CLAIRE SHIHADDEH, AGE 9**, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Illustrator, "Canoe Days."

**KIERAN STORER, AGE 8**, Houghton, Michigan, Illustrator, "A Curled Up Shell." Kieran writes, "My name is Kieran Storer. I like to draw, make sculptures and ride horses. I have two brothers and one sister. I have two cats and we are getting a dog soon! Launch Pad is fun to read. I hope to have another opportunity to do something soon."



**RACHEL SUDYN, AGE 8**, Lancaster, New York, Author, "A Curled Up Shell." Rachel writes, "My name is Rachel. I'm in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and I'm 8 years old. I go to Como Park School in Lancaster, NY. I have a little brother named Jonathan. He's 5 years old. I love playing basketball with my best friend Megan and my family. I love drawing and writing stories. I wrote this in poetry class in school. My favorite movies are High School Musical and High School Musical 2."



**HUNTER ALEXANDRA WILLIAMS, AGE 10**, Princeton, Kansas, Author and Illustrator, "Oatman, Arizona." Hunter writes, "I will be in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Central Heights Elementary when school starts. I live with my mother, sisters, Nicki (15) and Ana (2), and brothers Ty (18) and Peyton (7). When I grow up I'm thinking about being a veterinarian because I like animals. I love to swim, write, read, play basketball, and take trips with my family, like the one to Oatman."

**ISABEL WOLFER, AGE 10**, Aspen, Colorado, Author, "Canoe Days." Isabel writes, "Hi, my name is Isabel Wolfer. I'm 10 years old and I'm in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Aspen Middle School. I have lived in Aspen, Colorado my whole life. I have 3 brothers and sisters. My big sister is 15, my young brother is 5, and my little sister is 3. I always had a love for reading and writing. And I hope you like my story! (Launch Pad Where Young Authors and Illustrators Take Off!)"