

About the Authors and Artists

ALISA BRITTON, AGE 12, Author and illustrator of "Echidna." Alisa lives in Summerland Point, New South Wales, Australia. Alisa writes, "I have twelve pets. They are a rabbit, cat, dog, 2 mice, 4 fish, snake, and 2 horses. My hobbies are building big things like boats and rabbit cages. There are 6 people in my family: 2 big sisters, big brother, mum, dad, and me. My favorite sports are running and horse riding. I have been working for one and a half years training trotters and hopefully the ones I train will win someday."



CENZO CARIDDI, AGE 11, Illustrator, "Cat." Cenzo lives in River Edge, New Jersey with his mom, dad, 2 older brothers, one older sister, 2 cats and 5 fish tanks with numerous fish. He enjoys drawing, creating comic strips, playing the guitar, and wrestling.

SANDRA CARPENTER, AGE 11, Author and illustrator, "On My Ranch."
Ridgefield, Connecticut

AMELIA CURTIS, AGE 8, Author, "Storm: Heart of a Colt." Amelia writes, "I was born in Springfield, Missouri. I love horses. I live in Battlefield, Missouri."



A MELANIE A. DOUGLAS, AGE 7 1/2, Illustrator, "Caterpillar." Durham, North Carolina. "I am in second grade at Immaculata Catholic School and I really like it. I especially love when we go outside. The playground is really cool. I like collecting Pokeman cards and trading them. I like to read Pokeman books, Magic Treehouse books, and books about unicorns, fairies, and the Powerpuff Girls. My favorite TV show is "Word Girl." And I have a little sister named Erin - She is three."



RISHIKESH GANDHEWAR, AGE 9, Coauthor, "Rabbits." Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom

JARED GAYNES, AGE 11, author, "Macaw," Jared is an 11-year-old fifth-grader in Harrison, New York. He wrote this poem when he was in third grade. He loves sailing, writing poems and playing with his friends. He has a puppy named Kodi and a fish named Johnny.

ISABELLA GIANATIEMPO, AGE 7, Illustrator, "Rabbits," Martinez, California. Isabella writes, "I



love to draw. I am in an art class with my mom. She is the art teacher. My favorite thing to do is draw and dance. I am so glad you asked me to be in the book because I love to draw. I hope you like my drawings. I have been taking piano lessons since I was five. I go to school at Morello Park Elementary. My favorite subject in school is writing. I really love to draw. I live in California."

ALFRED GOWER, AGE 11, Coauthor, "Rabbits." Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom

ANASTASIA CHRISTIANE HAYES, AGE 12, Staten Island, New York, Illustrator, "Summer Night in Aspen." "Hi, my name is Anastasia but my friends and family call me Ana. I love to draw, paint, and listen to my iPod. I live in New York with my mom, my dad, sisters and brothers and cats: Maddie, Joe, Lessa & Aiden & Bastet, Homer, Sylvester, "Wild" Fuzzy & Elvira. I also have a turtle named Nimue after the Lady of the Lake."



MEGAN LYON, AGE 10, Author, "Alfie and the Magic Milk." Megan writes, "Alfie is my dog and the story is about Alfie. I live in Lancashire, England, and am 10 years old. I like to read and write and ride horses. I live with my mum and dad and my older brother Ben. I have two older sisters called Louise and Danielle and I am an aunty to Mia, Neve and Erin."

CLARIE MORAN, AGE 8, Author, "Snakes." Clarie is a 4th Grader at Lincoln Elementary School in Iola, Kansas. She enjoys dance, softball, and piano. In her spare time, she likes to read, draw and play with her two cats, Karna and Teresa. Her favorite book is *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. She lives with her mom and Dad (Lori & Mike Moran) and her older brother, Ryan.

GREER MICELI, AGE 9, Illustrator, "Alfie and the Magic Milk," Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Greer writes, "I'm Greer Miceli. I'm nine years old. I have a pet gerbil named Snowball. Also I have butterflies. I've taken about seven years of art school. I go to St. Aloysius School in the fourth grade."



EILISH O'BRIEN, AGE 10, Author, "Wolf," Gore, Southland, New Zealand. Eilish writes, "I am 10 years old. My name is Eilish O'Brien. I live in New Zealand. I love writing, reading and drawing. I



have two best friends, Maddy, 10, and Ashley, 11. I have a sister called Ella, who turned 6 in October. I have always been obsessed with wolves, and I wrote the poem a few months ago while I was in bed. I did the drawing with watercolor pencils."

LEIF ODEGARD, AGE 7, Houghton, Michigan, Author and Illustrator of "Caterpillar." Leif likes to play soccer, ski, and play in the stream and the forest that surrounds his house. He has a cat named Cleo and a hamster named Chippy who gave birth to 5 baby hamsters. Leif also likes to take his little brother, Lars, exploring outside.



BY ROSEMARY O'HAGAN, AGE 12, Author, "A Summer Night in Aspen," written at the Aspen Writers' Foundation Scribes & Scribblers 2007 Creative Writing Camp. Rosemary is from Wake Forest, North Carolina, and is a seventh grader at Ravenscroll School in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her hobbies include soccer, riding, and art. She loves spending time outside and is passionate about environmental studies.

ISABELLE ST. JOHN, AGE 11, Appleton, Wisconsin, Author and Illustrator, "Peter Rabbit and the Hot Petunias." Isabella writes, "I am currently a 6th 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-Tacy, 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 a few published poems. Writing will forever be my passion!"



KIERAN STORER, AGE 8, Houghton, Michigan, Illustrator, "Snakes."

"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."

EMILY THOMPSON, AGE 9, Illustrator, “Macaw.” Emily writes, “I live in Baton Rouge and go to Saint Luke’s School. I love art and I also play soccer. I am a Girl Scout. I have two cats named Oreo and Midnight, and a big brother named Erik.”



OLANTA WASCHER VARGAS, AGE 7, Author and Illustrator, “Why Anteater Looks Before He Eats.”



Ollanta writes, “Hi, my name is Ollanta, which is a Quechua word, there’s a legend about a warrior and also a town in Cusco. I was born in Peru. I came to the USA when I was one year and a half. I spent time in Santa Fe, New Mexico, California, and on a farm in Colorado. I still travel to Peru and visit my extended family. I am a home schooler and bilingual. I love animals and wilderness. I wish we all would respect their habitat. I love drawing and reading a lot, especially animal tales. My favorites are the wolf, the fox, the coyote, and the dogs.

AMANDA ZELDIN, AGE 10, Illustrator, “Storm.” Amanda is in the 5th grade. Her favorite hobby is art and she has a sketchbook she take with her all the time. She often spends her time drawing pictures of animals. Amanda goes to he YMCA afterschool program where she has many friends. Amanda enjoys the outdoors, likes bike riding and jumping rope.

