



CREATE A

STORY

LITTLE STORIES WITH

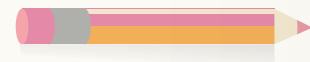
BIG THEMES



ADOBE BELIEVES EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL, AND WE LOVE
UNLEASHING CREATIVITY TO BRING THOSE STORIES TO LIFE.

In the spring of 2020 we invited our employees and their children to create original short stories exploring four of the year's key themes—heroism, kindness, connection, and resilience. Every story submission counted toward a \$10,000 grant to support Save the Children and the vital work they do in early childhood education.

Through our Adobe Creative Residency Community Fund, we commissioned artists to create cover illustrations for the four stories in this book.
We hope you enjoy this unique creative collaboration.



CREATE A STORY



Hidden Heroes

I find strength in your vulnerability

Thank you for your kindness

You show me the importance of care every day

You always make me feel safe

IT WAS CIRCLE TIME FOR MRS. APPLETON'S THIRD GRADE CLASS. THE KIDS GATHERED ON THE RUG LIKE THEY DID EACH MORNING, READY TO SHARE LAST NIGHT'S HOMEWORK. Mrs. Appleton had asked them to write about a hero and what made them a hero. The kids were excited to share their ideas.

Benjamin spoke up first. "My hero's name is Super Dude, and he's a hero because he can fly!" Ashley jumped in to tell the class about X-Ray Girl who could see through walls. Kelli couldn't wait to tell the class about her hero who moved faster than light. Matthew eagerly said his hero could make himself invisible. Ella shared that her hero could jump higher than trees! Mrs. Appleton called on Drew, who remained quiet once his classmates started to talk. "I think I did it wrong," he said, looking at the floor. Mrs. Appleton encouraged him to share anyway.

"My hero is my aunt." Mrs. Appleton asked Drew to continue. "She's my hero because she's a nurse and takes care of people who are sick." Mrs. Appleton smiled. "You did very well. In fact, let's all go to our seats and write about a real-life hero we know." The children spent the next 15 minutes writing about a person in their lives they

considered a hero. During recess, Mrs. Appleton sat at her desk to read what her students wrote. Benjamin's new hero was his neighbor who drove an ambulance and helped when someone called 911. Ashley said her hero was her dad. He worked at a grocery store, providing people food. Kelli said her mom worked for the post office, delivering important letters and packages on time. Matthew described his uncle, a firefighter. He helped people — and even cats if they got stuck in trees!

Other kids talked about their moms or dads, who worked hard, helped them with their homework or cared for them always. When Mrs. Appleton got to Ella's paper, she was surprised as she read, "My hero is my teacher, Mrs. Appleton. She shows she cares by asking us how we are each day. When I forget to bring a snack, she always has one ready for me. She teaches me a lot of fun things. When I don't understand, she never gets mad! I wish more people were like her." Mrs. Appleton smiled, with a happy tear in her eye.

She had no idea she meant that much to any of her students. This gave her an idea. She would ask each of her students to share their papers with the person they wrote about.

If Ella's letter meant so much to her, surely other people would appreciate what the children wrote about them. About a week later, Mrs. Appleton began receiving thank you notes from the people who received the kids' notes. They were so grateful that she had asked her students to share the letters with them. Each year moving forward, if you were in Mrs. Appleton's class, you got to write about your real-life hero.

Grateful for your hugs every morning



**ABOUT THE ARTIST: Sonaksha Iyengar**

Sonaksha Iyengar is an illustrator, graphic recorder and book designer. She uses illustration and art to imagine a future that's just, inclusive, accessible, queer and feminist. Along with contributing to social justice movements, she works with organizations on creating visuals that represent and center voices and communities that have been invisibilized. She is currently dreaming and drawing about mental health, fat liberation, LGBTQIA+ folx, intersectional feminism and disability justice.

 @sonaksha

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Jen Vitiello**

Jen is an account director with the Adobe Advertising Cloud team who was excited to write a children's story because of her son, Drew's, love for books. She was inspired to write about real-life heroes, as she considers her sister Amy to be one.





*Dennu was a dragon—
a magic, mythic lad.
He lived inside an ancient cave
with his mom and dad.*

He loved to eat his apples
and dream about the sky;
Tomorrow, on his birthday
he would learn to fly.

He perched right next to Daddy
and listened close with care.
When Daddy counted “3, 2, 1”
they took off in the air!

They soared above the mountains
and around the clouds they cruised,
when suddenly they came upon
an unfamiliar roost.

Dennu noticed differences:
thin creatures down below.
His Daddy said, “there’s more to learn,
let’s stop and say hello.”

“We are pterodactyls,
thin, but still a scare—
we’re huge enormous beasts with wings
that’s something that we share!”

The dragons took off toward the falls,
nothing could compare,
when suddenly they came upon
a rainbow shining there.

Dennu noticed differences:
horned creatures down below.
His Daddy said, “there’s more to learn,
let’s stop and say hello.”

“We are magic unicorns,
our horns can heal with care,
we’re legendary animals,
that’s something that we share!”

The dragons took off once again,
majestic and so grand—
when suddenly they came upon
a rocky road of land.

Dennu noticed differences:
flightless creatures down below.
His Daddy said, “there’s more to learn,
let’s stop and say hello.”

“We are snakes,” the creatures said,
“no wings for flying in the air,
but we are green and both have scales,
that’s something that we share!”

The dragons circled back toward home
for dinner like they should,
when suddenly they came upon
a clearing in the woods.

Dennu noticed differences:
haired creatures down below.
His Daddy said, “there’s more to learn,
let’s stop and say hello.”

“We are bears,” the creatures said,
“no scales for us, just hair—

but we are brave and live in caves,
that’s something that we share!”

Back at home inside his cave
after he’d returned,
Dennu’s mom was curious
and asked him what he’d learned.

Dennu shared that differences
are good and shouldn’t scare.
And often just a first hello
can show us what we share.





ABOUT THE ARTIST: Alëna Skarina

Alëna Skarina was born in Siberia, Russia in 1986. She works in illustration and fine art in Toronto, Canada. Alëna seeks harmony in the organic forms and density of nature. Her style is known for its hyper-precise linework, hand-done typography and unique graphic sensibility.

 @spagoosi



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Andy Terranova

Andy is a software engineer who improvised with his son, Connor, and daughter, Lucy, to create the idea for “A Dragon Says Hello” during story time one night. They hope it is a fun way to learn that you can always find things in common with others.

CREATE A STORY



Maggie's New Boots

The first day of school was just two days away, so Maggie and Mom went shopping today.

They went to Maggie's favorite store, they bought a backpack and pencils and new boots and more. Maggie's new boots were bright red, and shiny as glass. She could not wait to show them to all the kids in her class. The first day of school had finally arrived, Maggie put on her boots with a big sense of pride. She got on the school bus and sat in her seat, excited about the red boots she had on her feet. The bus arrived at the school and all the students poured out.

They were all so excited, they all started to shout. Maggie ran to her classroom, grinning ear to ear, excited to show her new red boots to all her friends so dear. The smile on Maggie's face turned quickly to a frown, she could not believe her eyes when she looked down to the ground. Maggie was so sad, she did not know what to do. All the other students in her class had new boots that were blue! Maggie wanted to cry and run back to the bus. One student laughed at Maggie and said, "you're not like us!" Others giggled and pointed, and made Maggie feel bad. She was no longer excited about the red boots she had. Maggie sat at her desk, she felt totally alone. She would have bought blue boots, if only she had known. Maggie felt so different, she felt like an outsider. But suddenly Felicia came and sat down beside her. When Felicia came over, she did so in a hurry. She said, "Oh, dearest Maggie, there is no need to worry. You don't need to have boots that are blue, with those beautiful red boots, you are uniquely you. It's fun to be different, to have your own style."

She gave Maggie a big hug, and then thought for a while. Then finally Felicia knew just what she should do, she traded Maggie boots, one red for one blue. Now Maggie's right boot was blue, and her left one was red, but what mattered most was what Felicia said. "Now we're different together, different from everyone else. We're different together, we're uniquely ourselves." Then she stood beside Maggie and stated aloud, "When you make fun of others, you cannot be proud. You were being mean to Maggie, that's no way to act. The way that you were laughing was very rude, in fact. Before you speak, you better think twice. It is important to remember to always be nice." Maggie was so happy that Felicia was so kind. A good person like Felicia can be sometimes hard to find.

Felicia showing kindness was definitely courageous, and hopefully the other kids find her behavior contagious. Make sure that you are kind to people every single day. Be sure that you show kindness in all the words you say.

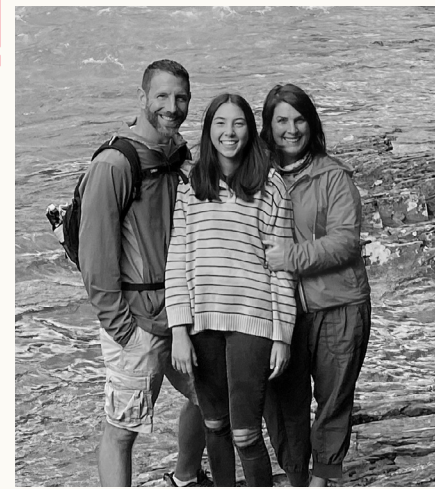




ABOUT THE ARTIST: Azusa Okumura

Azusa Okumura is a Japanese illustrator currently based in Brisbane, Australia. Drawing has always been her passion, and illustration is something that shares her message to the world. Her style is full of strong shapes and sophisticated color palettes. The vibrant mood of the city and her Japanese cultural background are the primary inspirations for her work.

 @azu_illustration



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Kevin Davis

Kevin is an engineering manager in Adobe's IT organization. Kevin wrote "Maggie's New Boots" with help from his wife, Brooke, and daughter, Ellie. He hopes that his story will inspire kindness at a time when it is definitely needed!

CREATE A STORY



The Perfect Pirate



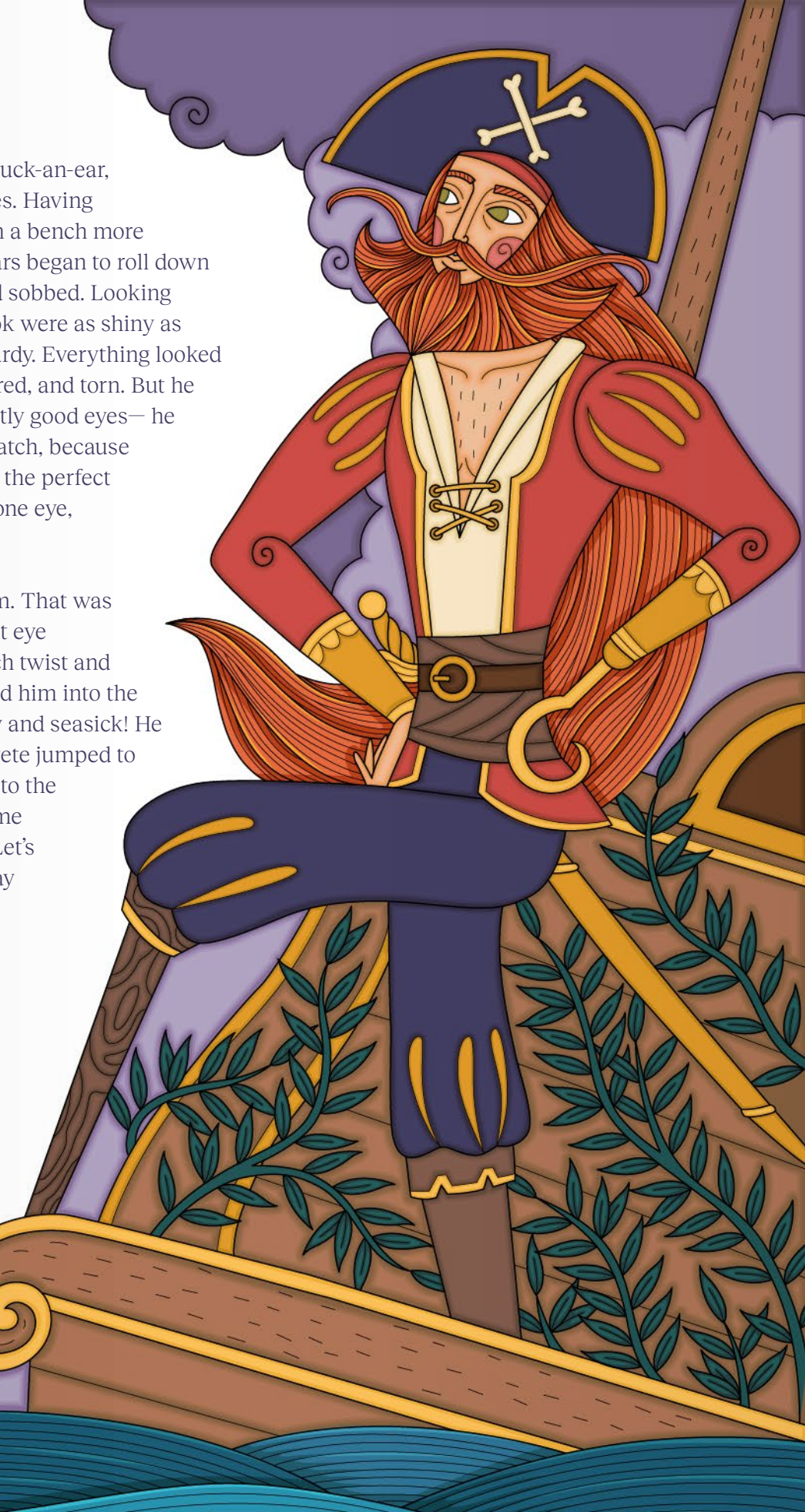
Pete was the PERFECT pirate. Complete with sword, peg leg, hook, and eye patch, Pete the Pirate looked the part, and played it even better— except for one thing— he was a puking pirate. Yes, Pirate Pete was a seasick sailor. No one knows what happened, maybe he had rounded the seven seas one too many times, but whatever it was, he had suddenly lost his sea legs and now the swaying motion of the deep blue sea made his face turn an awful shade of deep green seaweed.

His sea chantey changed from “Yo ho, Yo ho” to “Oh no! Oh no! A pirate’s life...just isn’t for me anymore.” Sadly, he hung up his pirate hat and stepped off his ship onto the solid, sturdy, stable land...of unemployment. His pirate days were over, and his new life on land would surely cost an arm and a leg— neither of which he could spare any more of— so with hardly a doubloon to his name he set out in search of a new profession. Pirate Pete searched high and low, but could never quite get it right. He tried ballet, but he was anything but graceful. He tried his hand at comedy, but he could never really hook the audience. (Turns out pirate jokes aren’t that funny.) He spent a few days as a plumber, but quit after he realized he had been revealing far too much pirate booty.

He enjoyed trimming beards as a barber— black beards, red beards, you name it. Plus he did ear

piercings, but he could only charge a buck-an-ear, which wasn’t enough to cover expenses. Having failed so many times, Pete sat down on a bench more discouraged than ever. Big alligator tears began to roll down his face. He removed his eye patch and sobbed. Looking down, Pete saw that his sword and hook were as shiny as ever, and his peg leg felt strong and sturdy. Everything looked good except his eye patch. It was tattered, and torn. But he didn’t really need it. He had two perfectly good eyes— he just recently started wearing the eye patch, because he thought it made him look more like the perfect pirate. Besides, ever since he covered one eye, he’d felt very off balance.

And then, all at once, it occurred to him. That was it! It was the day he began wearing that eye patch that he started to feel his stomach twist and turn at sea! The eye patch hadn’t turned him into the perfect pirate—it was making him dizzy and seasick! He had been the perfect pirate all along! Pete jumped to his feet (Ok, foot)! He tossed his patch to the wind and rushed back to his ship. “Come on you barnacle-backed landlubbers! Let’s set sail! Treasure awaits!” From that day forward, Pete was the most Perfect Pirate to ever set sail across the deep blue sea.





ABOUT THE ARTIST: József Vass

József Vass is a vector artist based in Transylvania, Romania, who in his free time loves to experiment with traditional media as well. He is the founder of the Romanian ILLUSTRART association and aims to bring the contemporary illustrators of Romania and the public together through some collective art projects.

 @vassjozsef




ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Mark Walker

Mark, who just completed five years at Adobe, worked closely with his wife, Lauren, and son Christian to author "The Perfect Pirate". As a family they've been telling stories for several years. The full version of "The Perfect Pirate" will be their third original story performed live at the world-renowned Timpanogos Storytelling Festival this fall.



**ABOUT THE ART DIRECTOR:
Anna Daviscourt**

Anna Daviscourt is a children's book illustrator and Adobe Creative Resident from Portland, Oregon. She makes lush, fantastic scenes filled with diverse and charming characters. Anna loves spreading knowledge and meeting people by speaking and teaching online or in person.

 @annadaviscourt



**ABOUT THE GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
Danica Ricciardi**

Danica Ricciardi is a South African graphic designer and illustrator working in Cape Town. She loves finding inspiration in antique stores and bringing them to life through digital art.

 @danicaricciardi



A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped make this project happen, including the story authors, illustrators and graphic designer Danica Ricciardi; former Adobe Creative Resident Anna Daviscourt; Adobe Creative Residency Senior Manager Julia Tian; Save the Children Director, Community Impact, Lesley Graham; Adobe Vice President, Creative Cloud Product Marketing, Mala Sharma; Adobe Education Evangelist Tanya Avrith; and the creators of Day by Day podcast, Jamie Dolan and Adam Faze.