

# PINK FROG BOOKS

JULY 2021



## *Independence Day*

In the United States, we celebrate our country's independence during the month of July. This is a time for us to reflect on our history, show gratitude for those who fight to keep us safe, and celebrate our independence and the freedoms we enjoy as citizens.

We are so grateful to be based out of this wonderful country. Each day gives us something to be excited about, from the natural beauty that is around us, to some of the unique circumstances we enjoy.

One thing we are especially grateful for is opportunity. While having opportunities to do whatever you dream is not unique to the United States of America, it is definitely a large part of our ethos. Without the ability to make our own success through hard work and determination, we would have never been able to start Pink Frog Books.

During this time, we challenge you to look at your goals and aspirations. Have you let yourself slide since the beginning of the year? Are you working hard to reach your dreams? Wherever you are in life, remember the opportunity you have to be successful.

It doesn't need to take much to start. Find a goal you can easily reach in order to begin. Then, stay determined and put in the hard work you need to reach your own success.

Remember that lots of little steps can eventually take you on a trip of a thousand miles. Don't worry if your dream is a long way off. Instead focus on each little step and, enjoy the trip.

Happy Fourth of July to everyone in the United States!

Thank you,

*The Staff at Pink Frog Books*

“Be Brave. Take Risks.  
Nothing can substitute experience.”

– Paulo Coelho

# YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

*This contains excerpts from an article by Haymarket Children's Academy, published in 2019. [See the full article here.](#)*

## *The Library*

Reading itself is essential to a child's success, but the role of libraries in child development should not be overlooked. With the technology and resources available in the world, some people question how libraries impact children today. These centers provide free resources, access to professionals, and a variety of other services that benefit children. Forming a close relationship with the local library at a young age teaches a student that these resources are available to them.

## *An Example Set by You*

One of the key benefits of taking a child to the library is that you, as the parent, are establishing an example as a reader. By going to the library with your children when they're young, you can make sure they develop a sense that reading is a natural thing for people to do. When children learn from an early age that reading is an essential part of life, they develop habits that make the decision to continue reading that much easier. Forming these habits early can be one of the most important factors in gaining early access to literacy skills.

## *Freedom of Choice*

Educators have found that significant improvements in motivation and student engagement occur when children are offered choices and can have some control in how they learn. In fact, researchers have

found that student learning improves when options are provided, even if the options themselves have little relevancy in how a task is completed.

Providing students with options isn't only about allowing them to choose a book on a topic they enjoy. It's also teaching them that their voice and preferences matter and that they have many options in what they read and how they interact with the material. This developmental concept is a crucial one, teaching students that they play an integral role in forming their own education and seeking out materials or topics that interest them.

Choice provides students with a solid platform on which to establish their reading preferences and develop a sense of how they define themselves as learners and readers.

## *Free Entertainment*

One of the most overlooked values of the library is that it provides resources for free. This quality can be especially important during the summer months when keeping kids entertained with summer camps, family vacations, and other opportunities quickly eat into a family budget.

Libraries frequently offer events or get-togethers that offer educational value and cost no money. These free resources can even help save money on other types of entertainment. Taking a car full of kids to see a summer movie can get extremely expensive. Fortunately, many libraries offer films or other media for free or very little cost, providing a replacement activity at a fraction of the expense.

# BOOK HIGHLIGHT: IT STARTS WITH ME

A COLORING BOOK WITH POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS FOR SELF-CARE

BY: JENNY COLLINS

## *About the Book*

*It Starts With Me: A Coloring Book with Positive Affirmations for Self-Care* features 30 unique coloring pages. These images are printed on one side of each page to try and reduce bleed-through. Each image was hand-illustrated by the author, Jenny Collins. Throughout the book you can find positive phrases to help lift the spirits of you or your loved ones. Some of these phrases include "I can do anything", "Celebrate your wins", and many more.

This coloring book was designed specifically for women, but can bring enjoyment to anyone's life. This book was published in 2020, a year full of trials, as a way to help bring more positivity into the world and in hopes to help those who struggle with self-love or just need a pick-me-up.

## *About the Author*

Jenny Collins struggled with how she thought of herself growing up. She describes herself as a "young woman who struggled with self love through her childhood." In her early twenties, she was diagnosed with depression. It was around this time that she also discovered that being creative helped her to feel happier. She began making and selling crafts at local farmers markets, including prints of her lettering and artwork.

This is the first book that Jenny has published. About the book, she says

"With so much doubt and negativity in the world today, I wanted to put something positive out there. With my talent and love for typography and doodling. I decided to create a coloring book designed to be a positive influence on... the colorer, so that you can feel good about yourself while doing something therapeutic."

## *Coming Soon*

Jenny has hand-illustrated all new designs that will be featured in an upcoming book. These designs - including the background image to this page - deal with the beauty of nature. Just like the first book, the upcoming coloring book will be filled with uplifting messages as you color.

Jenny has completed the illustrations for this book, and is completing the formatting for release. This book is expected to be released by the end of August. Keep your eye out for more information, including the final title as well as the release date on this new, beautiful coloring book.

Do you have an idea for a future coloring book theme? Let us know what you would like to see and color! Email us with your ideas at:

[ideas@PinkFrogBooks.com](mailto:ideas@PinkFrogBooks.com)



# AN INTERVIEW WITH VICTORIA HYLA MALDONADO

The road to becoming an author has many paths. For Victoria Hyla Maldonado, her journey started because of a crush she had at the age of 15. Her first book - *In Death We Part* - was started when her crush asked for a book about himself. Victoria mentioned "I didn't work on it all the time, sometimes not for years at a time, and I actually lost the majority of it in a power-surge computer crash once." At the age of 31, the book was published. "It grew up with me," she stated, "and I published it when I was ready to give it wings."

Victoria Hyla Maldonado, also published under Victoria J. Hyla, grew up in Illinois, USA. She loved writing from a very young age, and has always wanted to become an author. Along the way, she has been an editor as well as written articles for magazines and websites. Victoria's favorite is still an author, as she "really get[s] to express [herself] and what [she] uniquely bring[s] to the world."

Victoria bases her stories off of her own life experiences. These are sometimes based off of what she has done, who she has met, or the idea of how her life would be different if she had made a different choice. She mentioned "I think writing that stems from what I've seen in this world keeps it grounded and yet offers me vast creativity to explore beyond what 'is.'"

Victoria has currently published eight books: *In Death We Part*, *Running in the Mists*, and *Awake in Elysian Fields* from her *Hearts Drawn Wyld* trilogy, two children's books: *Bartleby the Brave* (as well as a Spanish version, *Miedosin el Valiente*), and *Tears for the Butterfly* (and it's Spanish counterpart, *Lágrimas para la Mariposa*), as well as a posthumously poetry anthology, *The Evidence I Have Lived: The Complete Writings of Lisa F. Gullo*".

The anthology was created to remember her dearly departed friend, and is an epic, intimate journal of her life struggles. Victoria wrote the introduction, as well as compiled and organized the writing within.

This book was published in hopes of helping Lisa's family offset the crippling medical debt she left behind.

Victoria is currently working on *Monstery Donstery Dock*, which is a monster twist on *Hickory Dickory Dock* and will be released for Halloween, as well as a second book to *Bartleby the Brave* and a new trilogy called *The Hotel Brisas*.

Two of Victoria's books - *Awake in Elysian Fields* and *The Evidence I Have Lived* - received nominations for the 2020 American Book Fest Award. Additionally, Victoria informed us that she has been on several industry podcasts, had her interviews published online and in magazines, and has been on the radio. Her children books have



# AN INTERVIEW WITH VICTORIA HYLAL MALDONADO

been read online and in podcasts, as well. Her website ([www.victoriajhyla.com](http://www.victoriajhyla.com)) has more detailed information about the global exposure that she and her books have received.

Victoria hopes that one day, she will be able to participate in speaking engagements where she can tell the story of her journey in her faith, and what it's meant to her. Other than that, she let us know that she is already doing what she loves, and would love to be able to become an author full time.

Victoria enjoys many books, especially classics, written by a wide variety of authors. When asked if she has a favorite, she replied: "Every author... brings something interesting into the world of literature... that leaves an iconic shift in culture in its wake." In addition to loving books, she also loves movies, including *Labyrinth*, *The Never Ending Story*, *The Princess Bride*, *Book of Life*, *Moana*, and many more. Her favorite play to watch is *Hamilton*, though she also enjoys *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sound of Music*, and *1776*, and has been attending theater since she was five.

One of Victoria's favorite things to do in her spare time is to travel. She has been to 43 states so far, and is hoping to visit all 50 of them. She always travels with a Fu Dog statue, and will take pictures of him doing interesting things in odd places. Her Fu Dog even has a blog, [found here](#). In her travels, Victoria has been skydiving, completed the Chicago Marathon, and knows Paris better than her hometown of

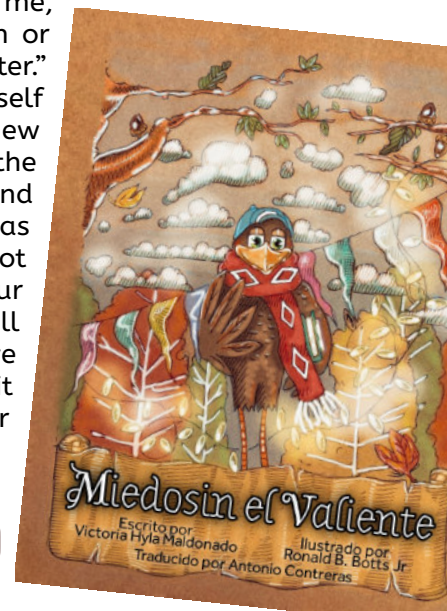
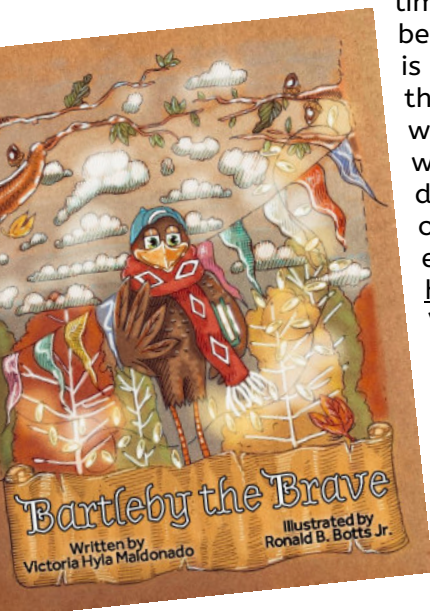
Chicago. Each time she travels to a foreign country, she takes the time to learn their language enough for directions, stores, transport, and to be polite, even when she was visiting Croatia for a few hours.



Some other hobbies Victoria enjoys are cooking, playing piano, directing theater, and leading her Alpha group at church. She mentioned that she did Aikido - a type of martial art - for six years, but had to stop due to time, money, and arthritis.

When asked if there was anything she wanted her fans to know, she told us a few interesting facts about herself. She said, "I absolutely despise mushrooms. I'm terrified of spiders, even fakes ones and pictures. My favorite ice cream flavor is Mamey. My favorite sushi is Super White Tuna."

Victoria loves the idea of others becoming authors, and had this advice to anyone looking to publish a book: "Tell your story, not a copy of someone else's. As long as it comes from you, it has worth. And just keep writing and keep plugging along. The best solution I have for writer's block is getting up and walking around and doing something mundane. Generally in that passive thinking time is when inspiration strikes me, and I can write it down or rush back to my computer." She also has found herself on the inside of a new publishing company as the chief editor, and mentioned, "As far as publishing, there are a lot of options out there. Our publishing company will look at anything, and we will let you know if it needs work or just minor edits."





# PINK FROG PUZZLES & GAMES

## Nonograms

To solve a honogram, you will need to fill in cells to produce a black-and-white image based on the numbers provided in the grid.

Every number indicates how many groups of black are located in the appropriate row or column. These continuous sequences must be separated by at least one blank cell.

							2		1				1	5	1		
						2	1	5	2				2	1	1		
				1	5	2	2	1	1	1	4	2	4	1	2	1	1
3	3	3	14	3	2	1	1	1	12	8	7	8	12	1	1	1	

[illegible]

## *Zig Zag*

First complete the 7-letter word at the top of the diagram. Then use the last two letters of the first word as the first two letters of the second word. Repeat until all words have been filled in.

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		S	C	A		
--	--	---	---	---	--	--

		C	C	O		
--	--	---	---	---	--	--

		S	H	O		
--	--	---	---	---	--	--

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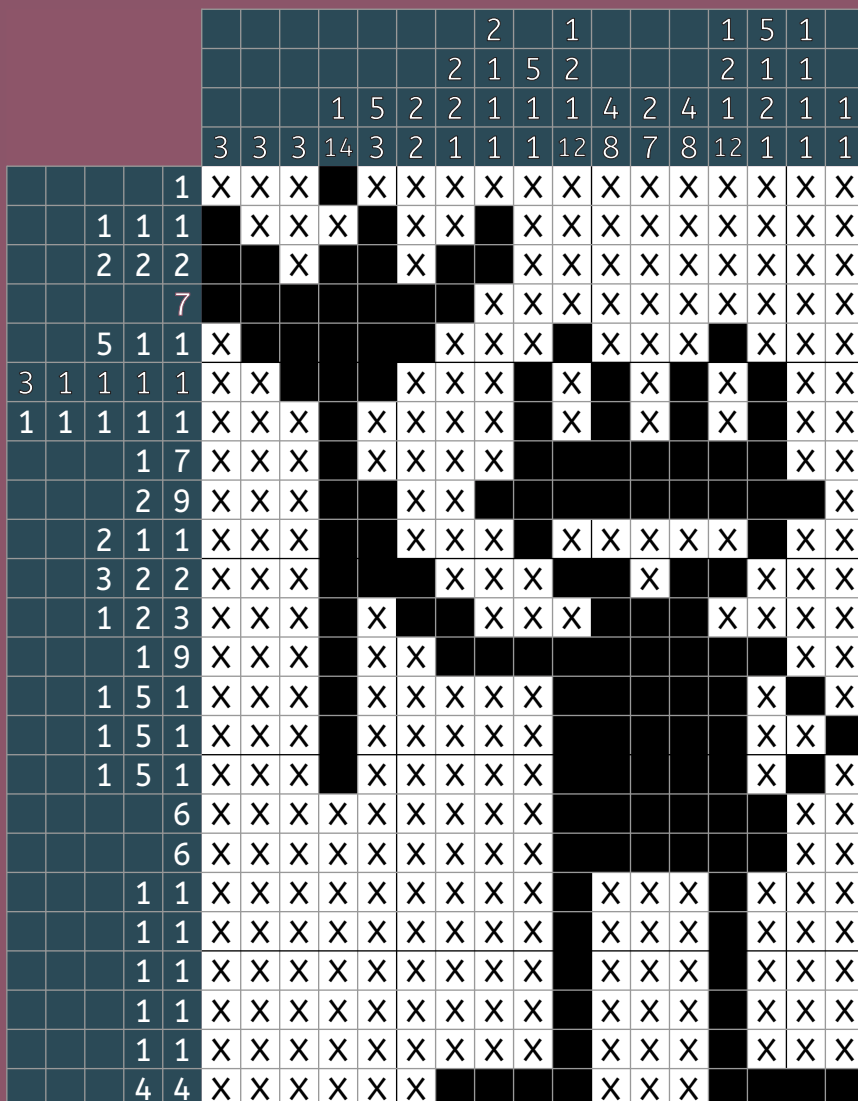
		V	E	L		
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D I P L O M A

M A S C A R A

R A C C O O N

O N S H O R E

R E A L T O R

O R E G A N O

N O V E L T Y