

Michael Faraday's Candle



by Darcy Pattison

Illustrated by Peter Willis



MIMS HOUSE

SPRING 2016

Mims House, est. 2008, publishes children's fiction and nonfiction picture books, middle grade novels, how-to write books, and teacher resources.

BURN:

MICHAEL FARADAY'S CANDLE

SCIENCE + SCIENCE HISTORY

Step back in time to December 28, 1848 in London, England to one of the most famous juvenile science Christmas lectures at the Royal Institution.

British scientist Michael Faraday encouraged kids to carefully observe a candle and to try to figure out how it burned. Since Faraday's lecture, "The Chemical History of a Candle," was published in 1861, it's never been out of print.

Darcy Pattison has adapted the first 6000-word lecture to about 650 words for the modern elementary students. Known as one of the best science experimenters ever, Faraday's passion still echoes across the years and inspires kids today to answer the basic questions of science: "What is the cause? Why does it occur?"

Pattison is the author of *Abayomi, the Brazilian Puma: The True Story of an Orphaned Cub*, which was named a 2015 National Science Teacher's Association Outstanding Science Trade Book. Her book, *Desert Baths* was a 2013 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book. For more information, see darcypattison.com/books.

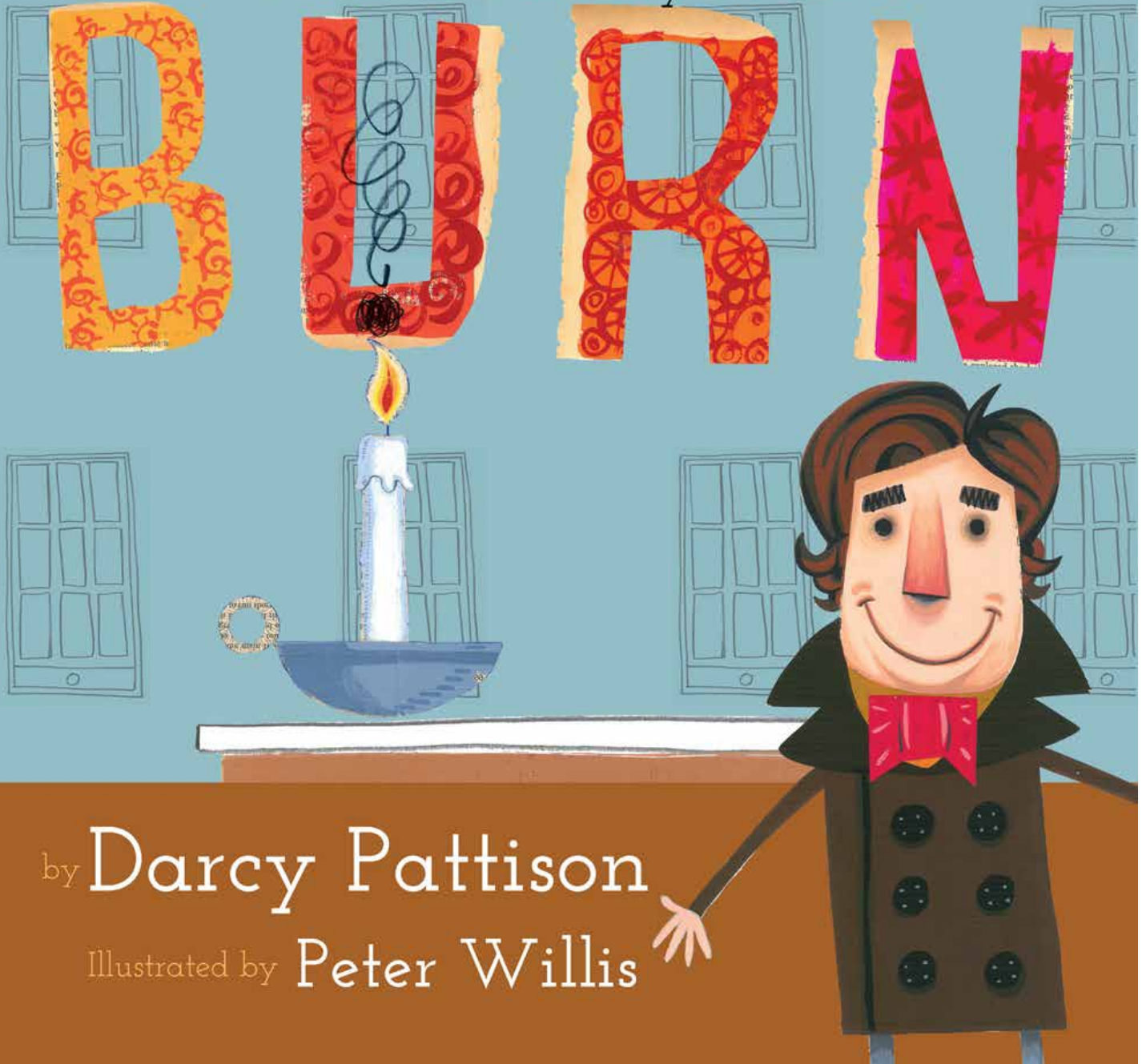
In his debut picture book, British illustrator Peter Willis brings humor to the story, but he also conveys accurate information about matter and its physical properties. For more, see <https://behance.net/pnw1969>

REVIEWS FROM SCIENCE EDUCATORS

"Good, simple explanation of a complex chemical process. Great enrichment possibilities for teachers. I loved the illustrations, the science, and the British tone. Overall, thumbs up!" -- Deb Thrall, President, New Mexico Science Teacher's Association

"With this delightful book, Darcy Pattison brings one of Michael Faraday's famous scientific lectures for children to a whole new generation of young learners. Peter Willis' colorful artwork illustrates Faraday's own explanations in a scientific, yet kid-friendly style. This book is a wonderful way to introduce children to this extraordinary scientist and to teach them about changes in matter with a familiar, yet remarkable, object - a candle." - Karen Ansberry and Emily Morgan, Authors of *Picture-Perfect Science Lessons*

Michael Faraday's Candle



by Darcy Pattison

Illustrated by Peter Willis

FINALLY - THE CHILDREN'S LECTURE AS A CHILDREN'S BOOK

Since it was first published in 1861, Michael Faraday's "Chemical History of a Candle" has never been out of print. Though it was given as a "juvenile" lecture, this is the first time it is published as a children's picture book.

8.5" x 8.5"

Available February 9, 2016

HC ISBN: 978-1-62944-044-6

PB ISBN: 978-1-62944-045-3

THE READ AND WRITE SERIES

Children's book author Darcy Pattison has provided professional development for over 25 years to teachers on the topic of teaching writing to kids. She's carefully studied the Common Core State Standards and applied them to her teaching. Here's what she says about teaching opinion essays.

OPINION WRITING : CRITERIA & PREWRITING

The Common Core State Standards, with its emphasis on students who are college-and-career ready, has pushed opinion writing to the forefront of elementary writing exercises. As a professional writer, a writing teacher and a mentor of other writing teachers, I know the importance of great prewriting. Opinion writing is only as strong as the opinions held by the writer. But how does a writer develop opinions?

To form opinions, a writer engages with a topic and struggles to distinguish among conflicting viewpoints. The final opinion is decided by a set of criteria. The problem with most opinion writing is that the criteria are left unspoken and unexamined. These books, *I WANT A CAT* and *I WANT A DOG*, bring the criteria to the forefront and places the criteria squarely where they belong, in the prewriting phase.

Prewriting for opinion essays must encompass a discussion of criteria that form the basis for a decision. The companion books clearly show that the final opinion can vary, even when the same criteria are used. Dennis and Mellie back up their opinion with facts about their family situations and how the criteria for choosing a pet clearly helps them make the right decision about breeds.

"...the perfect resource when teaching persuasive writing and opinion essay." Peggy Carlisle, National Science Teacher's Association Preschool/Elementary Division

8.5" x 8.5"

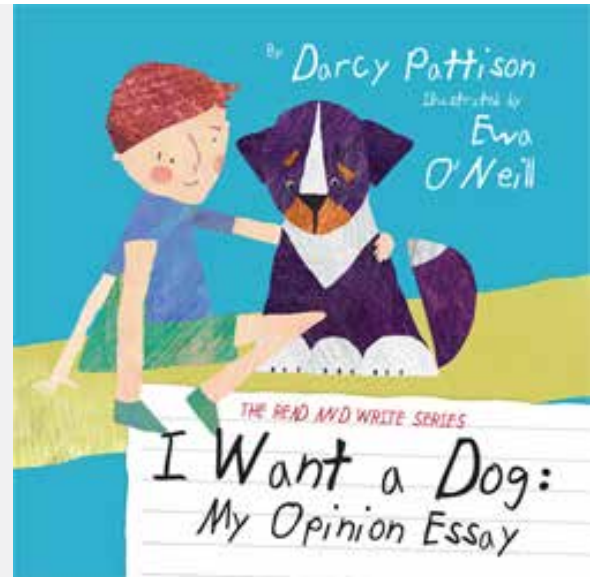
BOOK 1:

I WANT A DOG: MY OPINION ESSAY

When cousins Dennis and Mellie decide to get pets, they must make hard decisions about the best cat or dog for their families. They use nine criteria to help decide among the breeds.

"...fill(s) a niche for teachers..." - *School Library Journal*

"...a remarkable children's book..."
-Fred Kampo, President of the Labrador Retriever Club



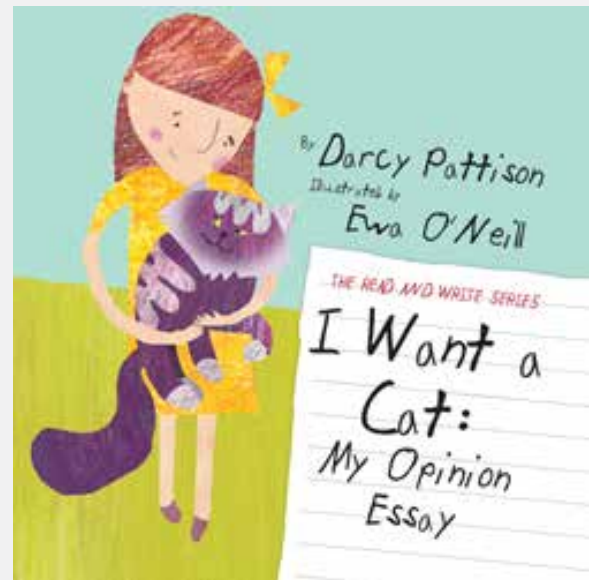
BOOK 2:

I WANT A CAT: MY OPINION ESSAY

Mellie wants a cat that pounces, but Dennis wants a lazy cat. Using nine criteria, these cousins consider cat breeds, then write an opinion essay.

"...absolutely delightful..." Joan Miller, Cat Fancier's Association

"...as informative a cat book as any text out there."
Alexis Mitchell, Maine Coon Cat Breeders, Cat Fancier's Association.



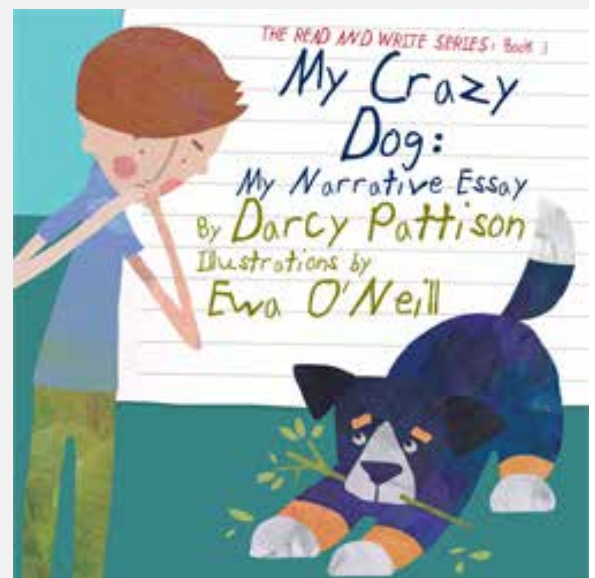
BOOK 3:

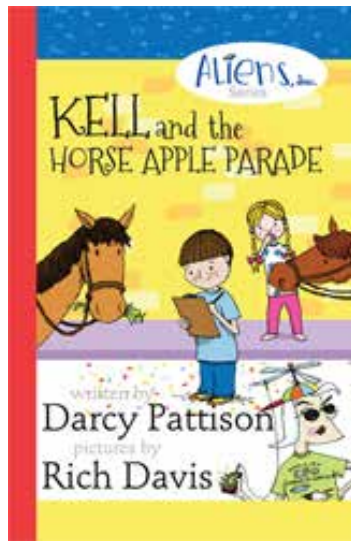
MY CRAZY DOG: MY NARRATIVE ESSAY

Dennis must take his dog to the vet—if he can catch him. The adventure inspires a narrative essay full of details.

"...breezy and engaging introduction to genre writing." - *Booklist*

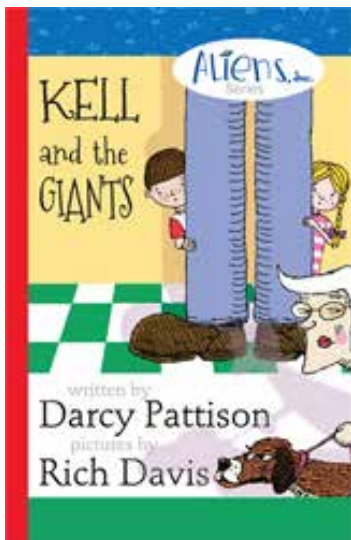
"VERDICT: A good choice to help the visual learners write narrative essays." - *School Library Journal*





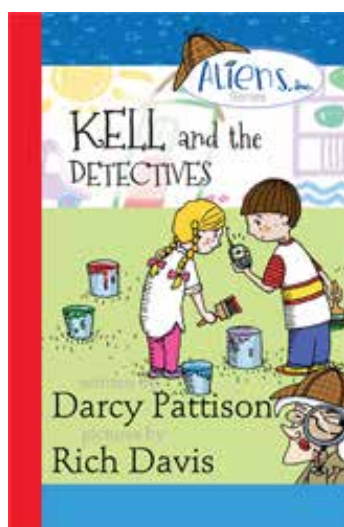
**THE ALIENS INC. CHAPTER BOOK
SERIES, BOOK 2:
KELL AND THE HORSE APPLE PARADE**

For Kell, the Friends of Police Parade is a big deal, his first Earthling parade. With Bree's help, he must figure out how to deal with City Hall, figure out fund-raising, and find superheroes and superheroines to march in the parade. To make things worse, Principal Lynx believes someone in third grade is an alien, and she has a new Alien Catcher App on her smart phone.



**THE ALIENS INC. CHAPTER BOOK
SERIES, BOOK 3:
KELL AND THE GIANTS**

If you're an alien on Earth, you have one giant secret to keep. Kell and Bree plan a birthday party with giants—Big Foot, Cyclops, Goliath and the Jolly Green Giant—while they struggle with keeping their own giant secret. But Principal Lynx and the Society of Alien Chasers is back with a dog trained to sniff out an alien in a crowd.

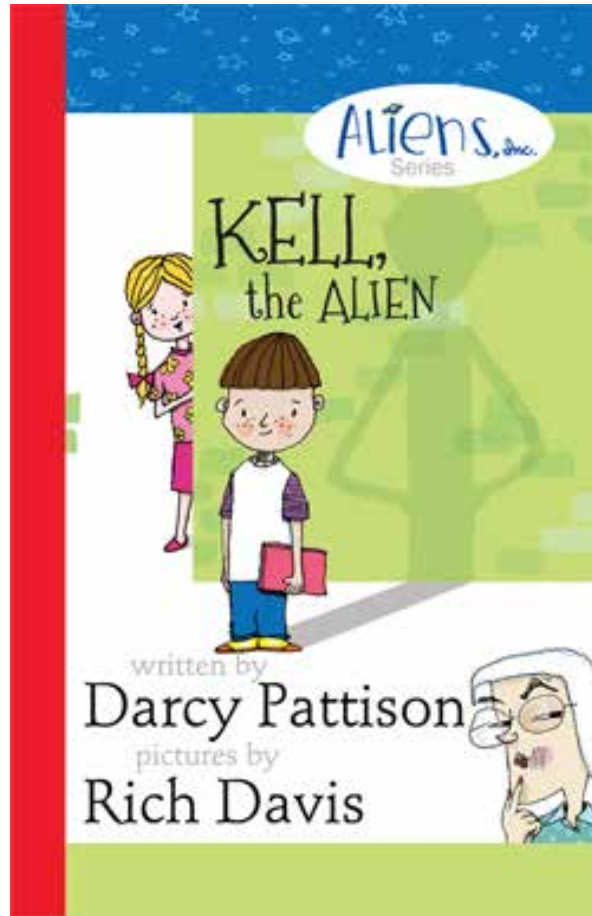


**THE ALIENS, INC. CHAPTER BOOK
SERIES, BOOK 4:
KELL AND THE DETECTIVES**

Kell makes a startling discovery: he has zigzag fingerprints. Worse, Mrs. Lynx and the Society of Alien Chasers know about the fingerprints, and they are on the hunt. Everyone turns detective in this continuing adventure of an alien family from planet Bix, who struggles to make ends meet by putting on birthday parties for kids. But the stakes are higher than ever because Kell's mom has just laid a beautiful green egg. With Mrs. Lynx on the prowl, can Kell and Bree keep the egg safe?

THE ALIENS, INC. SERIES

Each book features over 90 humorous black-and-white illustrations from Rich Davis. For added fun, we've hidden special images throughout each book for kids to find. 5.5" x 8.5"



THE ALIENS, INC. CHAPTER BOOK SERIES, BOOK 1: KELL, THE ALIEN

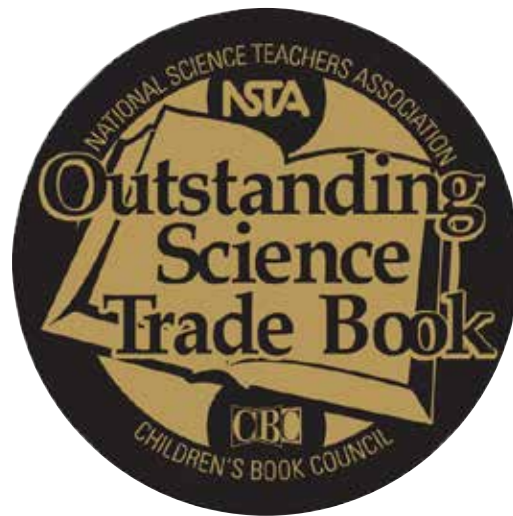
Kell discovers that his neighbor, Bree Hendricks, turns 9-years-old next month, and she wants a party with an alien theme. That should be simple as flying from star to star. But Earthling's ideas about aliens are totally wrong. Even worse, Principal Lynx is a UFO-Chaser and suspects aliens around every corner.

Publisher's Weekly Review of Kell, the Alien

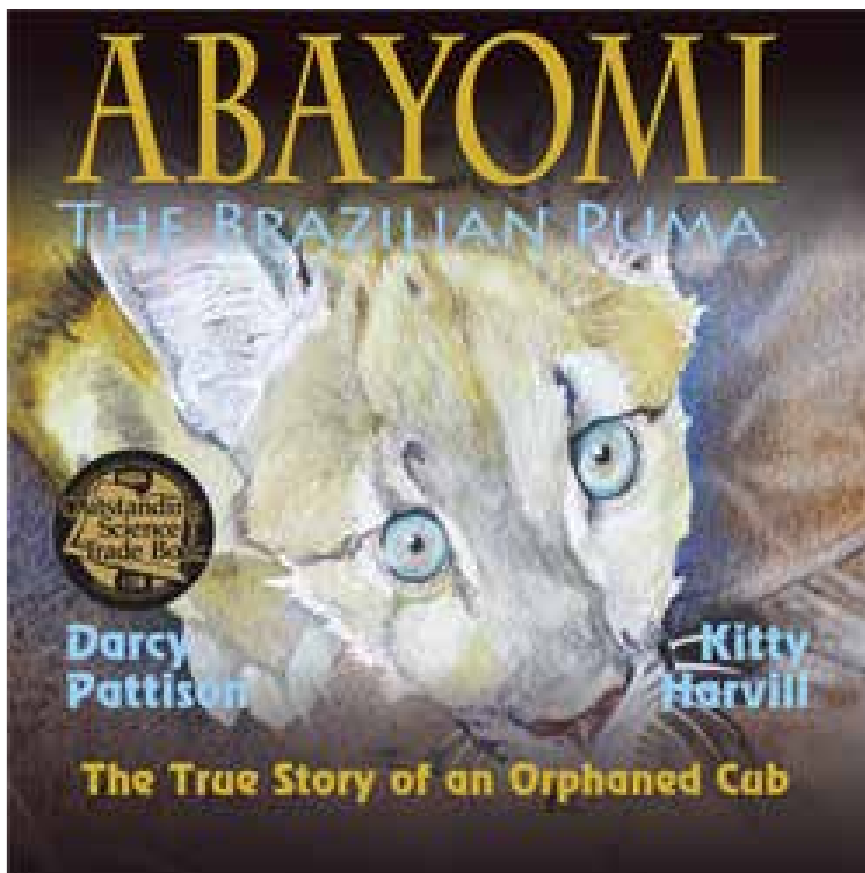
"Kell's observations of Earth and details about life on planet Bix are amusing, and Davis's wiry b&w line art further enlivens an engaging, accessible story. Kell's struggles to fit in will resonate just fine with Earth's readers."

School Library Journal Review of Kell and the Detectives

"Kell's observations of Earth and details about life on planet Bix are amusing. The black-and-white line art further enlivens an engaging, accessible story. Kell's struggles to fit in will resonate with readers. . . VERDICT This fun chapter book series is out of this world."



NSTA - OUTSTANDING SCIENCE TRADE BOOK SCIENCE + LITERATURE



ABAYOMI, THE BRAZILIAN PUMA

A mother puma, an attempt to steal a chicken and an angry chicken farmer—the search is on for orphaned cubs. Will the scientists be able to find the cubs before their time runs out?

"Pattison briefly discusses the problems that human development poses for Brazil's pumas before moving on to the cub, named Abayomi ("happy meeting") by his rescuers. . . Harvill's muted, realistic portraits of Brazilian fauna and aflora give a strong sense of the puma's threatened natural habitat." - *Publisher's Weekly* review

8.5" x 8.5"

**AUDIOBOOK NOW AVAILABLE:
FOLLETT, MACKIN, B&N OR BAKER & TAYLOR.
NOW IN PORTUGUESE/BRAZIL.**

ANIMAL BIOGRAPHIES: BIRD, PUMA, AND SPIDER

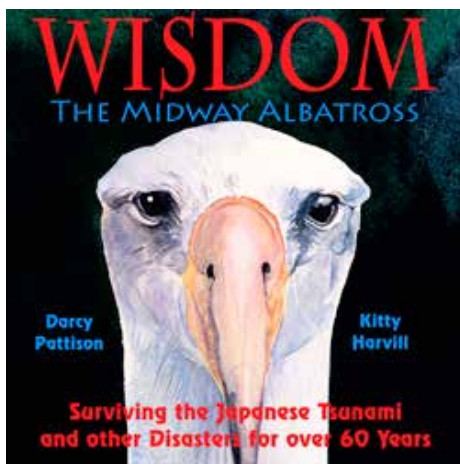
In these “Biography in Text and Art” stories, Harvill takes original photos as references to create accurate wildlife illustrations. These aren’t generic cats, but one particular individual in detail.

Pattison’s careful research, vetted by scientists in the field, brings to life this true story of an infant cub that must face a complicated world alone—and find a way to survive.

“...PATTISON WRITES CRISPLY
AND EVOCATIVELY...”

“HARVILL CONTRIBUTES CAREFULLY DETAILED
AND NATURALISTIC ILLUSTRATIONS.”

☆PUBLISHER’S WEEKLY STARRED

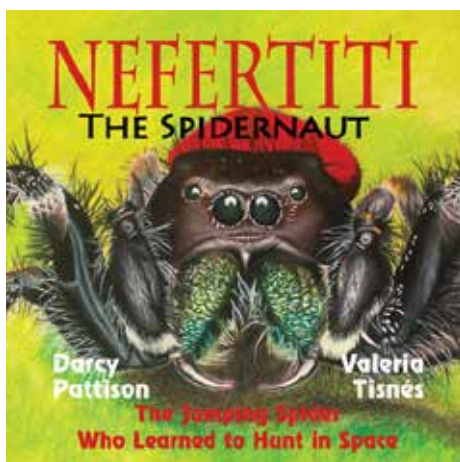


WISDOM, THE MIDWAY ALBATROSS

The story of the oldest known wild bird in the world and how she survived the Japanese tsunami. At the age of 60+, she’s still laying eggs and hatching chicks.

First banded on December 10, 1956, Wisdom has raised an estimated 40 chicks on Midway Island. Follow her Facebook Page, run by the National Park: [Facebook.com/WisdomtheAlbatross](https://www.facebook.com/WisdomtheAlbatross)

8.5” x 8.5”



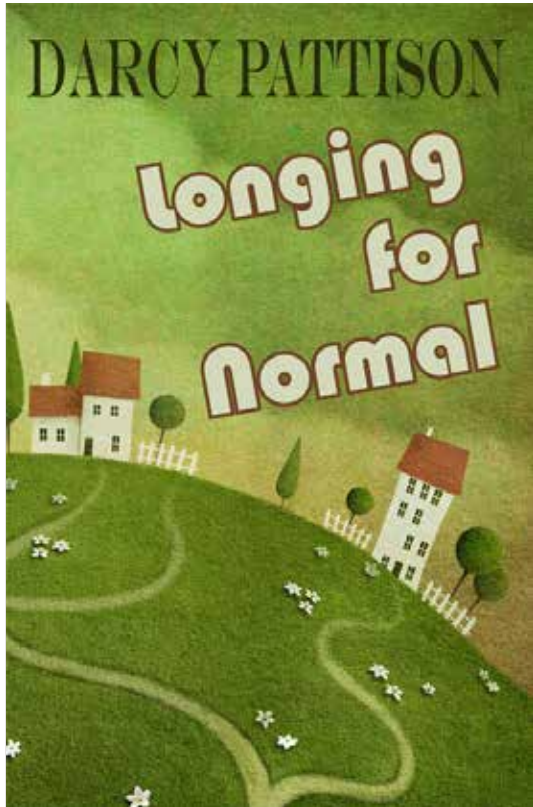
NEFERTITI, THE SPIDernaut: THE JUMPING SPIDER WHO LEARNED TO HUNT IN SPACE FALL, 2016

In 2012, a Johnson jumping spider was sent to the International Space Station. These spiders don’t hunt passively by spinning a web; instead, they hunt by jumping to catch prey. Scientists wanted to know: when the spider jumped in the weightless environment of space, what would happen?

8.5” x 8.5”

MIDDLE-GRADE NOVELS

CONTEMPORARY FAMILY STORIES



LONGING FOR NORMAL

A boy unites an immigrant community and rebuilds his family—using a simple sourdough bread recipe.

“Pattison’s characters provide a reason to keep reading. In voices old before their time, due to years in the system, they describe their desperate attempts to stay relevant to the adults in their lives. A rare book featuring foster kids in realistic scenarios.” *Booklist*

5.5” x 8.5”



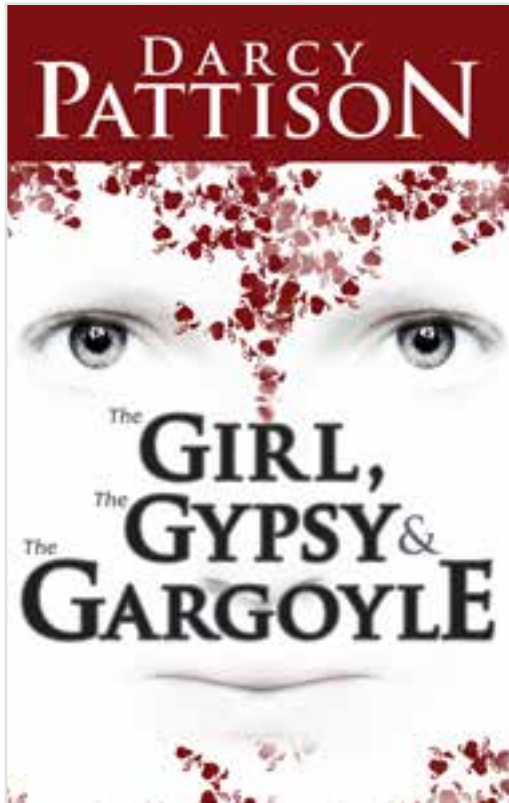
SAUCY AND BUBBA

This is a heartbreakingly simple story that weaves through the tangled threads of a family and builds to an ending full of hope.

“... compelling and ultimately hopeful story. Highly recommended.” -- Debby Dahl Edwardson, National Book Award finalist and author of *My Name is Not Easy*

5” x 8”

FANTASY



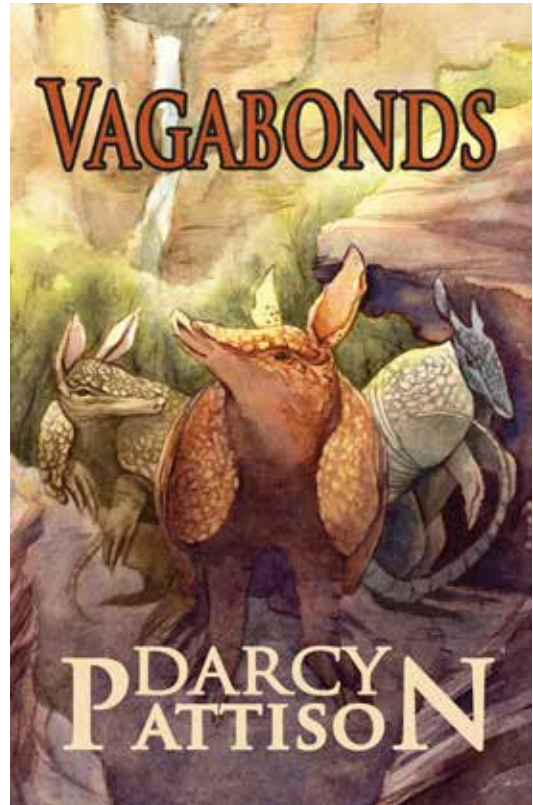
THE GIRL, THE GYPSY AND THE GARGOYLE

"Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it."

—Michelangelo

But what if an unscrupulous sculptor could trap someone inside a block of stone, just so he could carve them?

5.5" x 8.5"



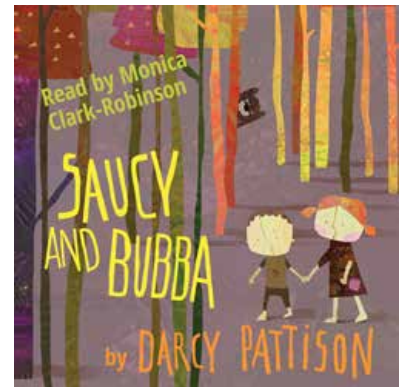
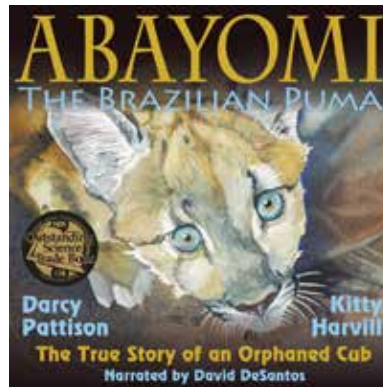
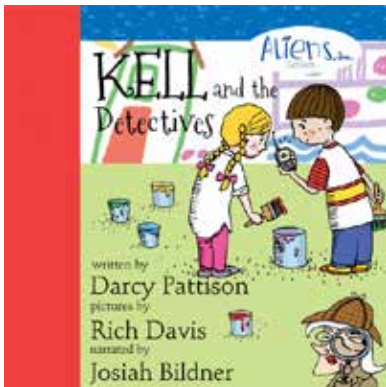
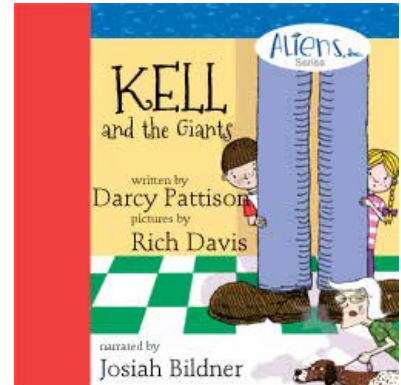
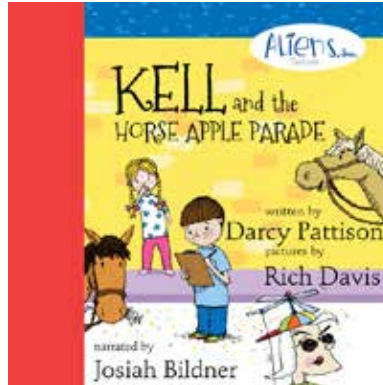
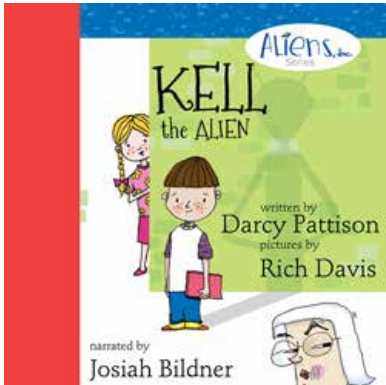
VAGABONDS

New Cover!

In the tradition of *Charlotte's Web* or *The Underneath* comes the American fantasy, *Vagabonds*, the saga of El Garro's armadillo colony, the scouts and pioneers who have always been at the forefront of the migration. Rumors from their original homeland, the jungles far to the south, indicate that El Garro's colony may be nearing the fabled Faralone Falls, where they will find the answer to why they have traveled northward for decades.

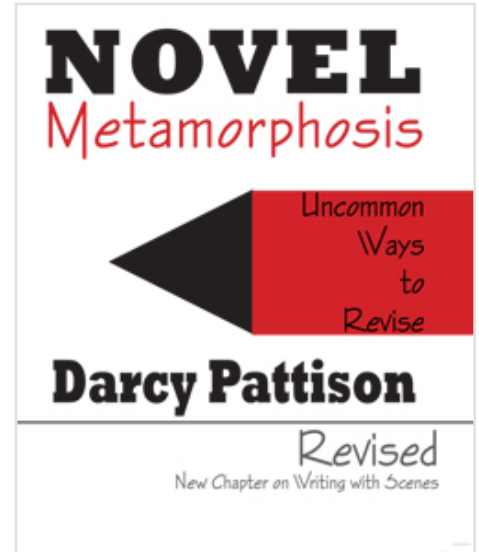
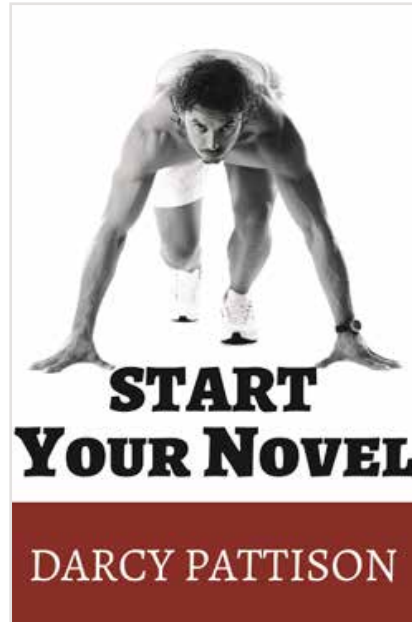
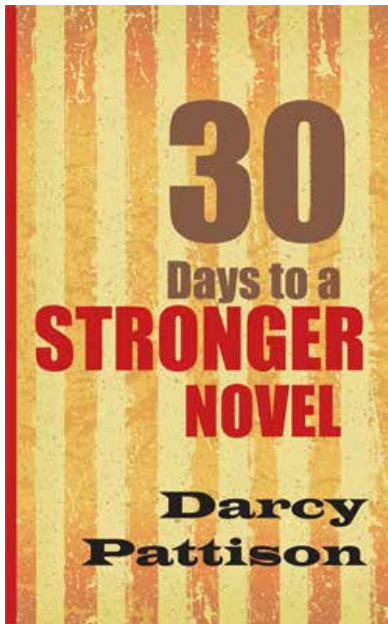
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AUDIOBOOKS



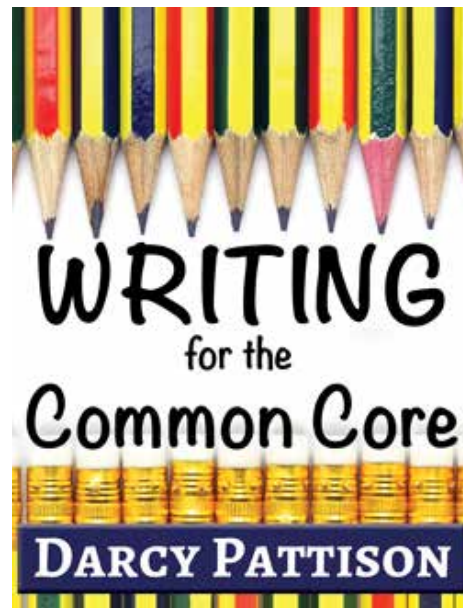
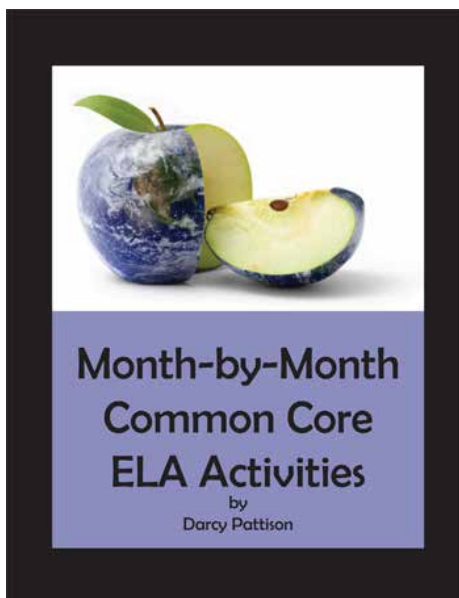
AUDIOBOOK DISTRIBUTION

Selected titles are now available as audiobooks from talented narrators. Look for the audiobooks at Amazon, Audible, iTunes; through Findaway, selected audiobooks are distributed to Follett, Mackin, Permabound, Baker & Taylor, and more.



HOW TO WRITE BOOKS AND TEACHER RESOURCES

Drawing upon 20+ years as a professional writer and writing teacher, Darcy Pattison provides a variety of resources for learning to write or learning to teach writing.





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30 Days to a Stronger Novel	PB 978-1-62944-040-8		\$ 9.99		
Abayomi, the Brazilian Puma	HC 978-1-62944-000-2		\$ 24.99		
	PB 978-1-62944-001-9		\$ 11.99		
Burn: Michael Faraday's Candle	HC 978-1-62944-0446		\$ 24.99		
	PB 978-1-62944-045-3		\$ 11.99		
Common Core ELA Activities	PB 978-0-9798621-9-9		\$ 12.99		
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I Want a Dog: My Opinion Essay	HC 978-1-62944-012-5		\$ 24.99		
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	PB 978-1-62944-019-4		\$ 11.99		
Kell, the Alien	HC978-1-62944-020-0		\$ 22.99		
	PB 978-1-62944-021-7		\$ 11.99		
Longing for Normal	HC 978-1-62944-041-5		\$ 25.99		
	PB 978-1-62944-042-2		\$ 14.99		
My Crazy Dog: My Narrative Essay	HC 978-1-62944-052-1		\$ 24.99		
	PB 978-1-62944-051-4		\$ 11.99		
Month by Month ELA Activities	PB978-0-97986-219-9		\$ 14.99		
Novel Metamorphosis:	PB 978-09852134-1-1		\$15.99		
Rowdy: The Pirate Who Could Not Sleep (Fall, 2016)	HC 978-1-62944-035-4		\$ 24.99		
	PB 978-1-62944-036-1		\$ 11.99		
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	PB 978-1-62944-009-5		\$ 12.99		
Start Your Novel:	PB 978-09852134-2-8		\$ 12.99		
Vagabonds	HC 978-1-62944-014-9		\$ 27.99		
	PB 978-1-62944-015-6		\$ 15.99		
What is Common Core?	PB 978-09852134-4-2		\$ 10.99		
Wisdom, the Midway Albatross	HC 978-0-9852134-5-9		\$ 24.99		
	PB 978-0-9798621-7-5		\$ 11.99		
Writing for the Common Core	PB 978-16294-401-7-0		\$18.99		
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			TOTAL		

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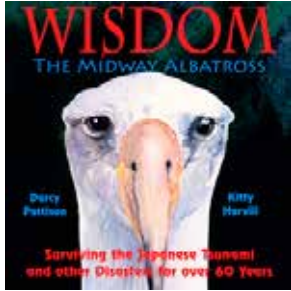
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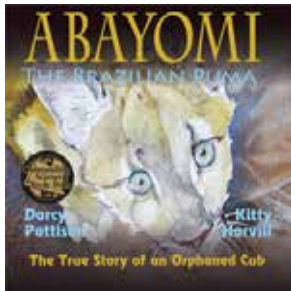
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SELECTED REVIEWS OF MIMS HOUSE BOOKS



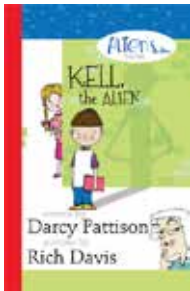
☆"Pattison writes crisply and evocatively," - Starred *Publisher's Weekly*

"It's marvelous! I LOVE it! And I got a lump in my throat, tears! And I'm a biologist! Your book is beautiful, meaningful, simple, elegant." - Kim Rivera, National Seabird Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries, Deputy ARA, Protected Resources Division, Alaska Region



2015 National Science Teacher's Association Outstanding Science Trade Book

"... Harvill's muted, realistic portraits of Brazilian fauna and flora give a strong sense of the pumas' threatened natural habitat." - *Publisher's Weekly*



Aliens 1: "amusing" and "engaging and accessible."
- *Publisher's Weekly*

Aliens 2: "VERDICT This fun chapter book series is out of this world" - *School Library Journal*

Aliens 4 - Audiobook: "Doing alien voices gives narrator Josiah John Bildner a fun challenge. . . This is a worthy addition to the alien genre for kids." *Audiofile Magazine*



"... compelling and ultimately hopeful story. Highly recommended." -- Debby Dahl Edwardson, National Book Award finalist and author of *My Name is Not Easy*

"Author Pattison and narrator Monica Clark-Robinson imbue this update of "Hansel and Gretel" with just the right mix of youthful idealism and harsh reality." - *Audiofile Magazine*



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"Pattison's characters provide a reason to keep reading. In voices old before their time, due to years in the system, they describe their desperate attempts to stay relevant to the adults in their lives. A rare book featuring foster kids in realistic scenarios." - *Booklist*



"...fill(s) a niche for teachers..." - *School Library Journal*

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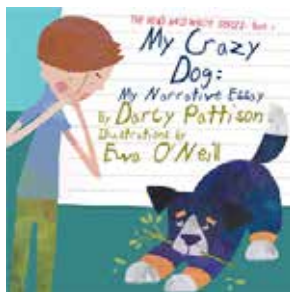
"...the perfect resource when teaching persuasive writing and opinion essay." Peggy Carlisle, NBCT, Director, NSTA Preschool/Elementary Division



"This is an absolutely delightful book..." Joan Miller Cat Fancier's Association

"...as informative a cat book as any text out there." Alexis Mitchell, Main Coon Cat Breeders of Cat Fancier's Association

"...creative and entertaining story." Julie Keyer Oriental Cats, Cat Fancier's Association



- "...breezy and engaging introduction to genre writing."
- "The model essay can be used across multiple genres (informational and narrative nonfiction in addition to opinion)."
- "...useful for teachers showing early elementary students the relevancy, power, and importance of effective writing." - *Booklist*

"VERDICT: A good choice to help the visual learners write narrative essays." - *School Library Journal*



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