



Her Majesty, Thundercat of the Universe: Supporting Young People to Design Their Own Lives

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Intention

Her Majesty, Thundercat of the Universe came to life by projecting my areas of perceived strength onto a separate character to help me work through some areas of perceived weakness. What I realized in writing this character and her stories was that I can address these insecurities by making them central themes or even “superpowers”. If I could identify what specifically I felt was an insecurity, rather than generalizing, then I could isolate that issue and confront it with Her Majesty, Thundercat.

It is inevitable that young people (all people) will encounter moments in life when they feel small, helpless, or less than. The *Her Majesty, Thundercat* series is designed to help young people see ways to acknowledge these moments and move through them with their unique spirits in tact.

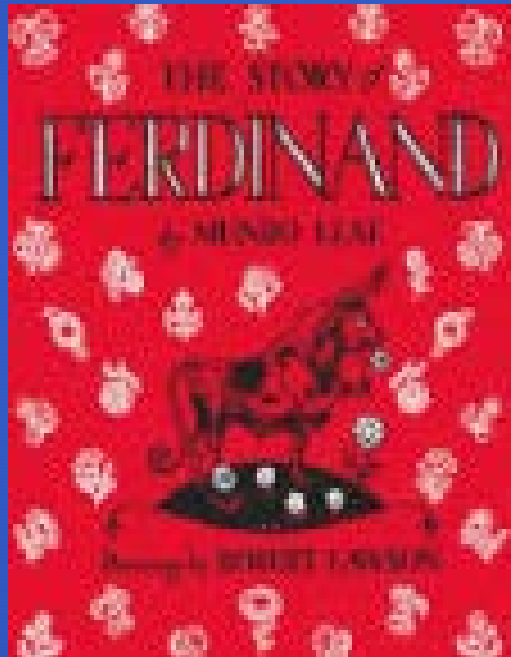
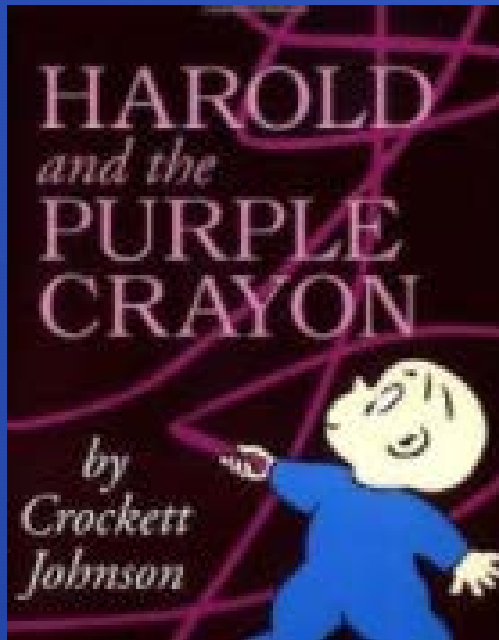
Audience

- Children ages 4-7
- Parents of young children
- Kindergarten classroom teachers
- Anyone who enjoys picture books

How will these stories help young people design their lives?

- Showing a “powerful” central character grow through internal conflict
- Offering ways to *use* individuality as a strength
- Supporting differences in all creatures (no teasing)
- Allowing characters time to struggle
- Obliging characters save themselves with minimal assistance

Inspirations



Among countless others...

Pure Forms

Image



Text

Her siblings would meow where she
chose to stay quiet.

They coaxed and cajoled her to
"Come on" and "Try it!"

Her Majesty found all those noises
confusing;

She liked looking at stars and
dreaming or musing.

Storyboard

As a picture book, *Her Majesty, Thundercat of the Universe* is already designed to illustrate moments as a narrative using text and image. The goal of each storybook will be to draw on painful experiences (someone is better than I am, I am alone and different, I don't know what to do, I don't want things to change) and provide positive ways to think through these issues.

Children (and to an extent, many adults, too) have few opportunities to exhibit control over their lives. They may not know what they want from life just yet, and that may be appropriate, but they can learn how to control their behavior and their outlook.

Her Majesty, Thundercat will not give instructions or directions for what to do, but will demonstrate how to think creatively to accomplish a goal, overcome an obstacle, or reach a realization. The life-design element will always be about developing self-awareness, self-confidence, and eventually self-reliance.

Principles

- Whenever possible, allow characters to use their “weakness” to their advantage
- Don’t hide from insecurities and fears—as long as there is no immediate danger, confront whatever intimidates
- Support others in their quests—remember their dreams belong to them
- Help when it is necessary and in a way that facilitates growth
- Believe in a whole self—not just strength, not just weakness

Invitation to Participate

On a piece of paper or on your computer, please take a moment to think about, select, and write the following items:

- An Animal
- Something about yourself you really like
- Something about yourself that makes you feel uncertain

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