



JOANA PASTRO

Author of Books & Architect of Stories



Bring Stories to Life with Joana Pastro,
Award Winning Children's Book Author | Educator | Literacy Advocate

Schedule your visit now!





Meet the author Joana Pastro



For as long as she can remember, Joana wanted to be an artist of some kind. Her first canvas was architecture, but once her first child was born, all the visits to the library, and the countless story times sparked a new dream: writing stories that would inspire and delight young readers.

Without a clear roadmap, Joana spent seven years quietly filling a little notebook with story ideas - capturing the seeds of what would one day become published book.

She dove headfirst into the world of children's literature - joining SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators).

Joana began participating in critique groups, attending workshops and conferences, and constantly refining her craft. Surrounded by a vibrant community of writers and mentors, Joana's manuscripts grew stronger with every revision. Today, Joana is living her dream with five picture books published since 2020, and more to come!

Originally from Brazil, Joana now lives in Georgia with her wonderful husband, three extremely creative children, a rambunctious morkie and a needy maltipoo. She's still writing, still dreaming - and bringing a little more magic into the world with every story she tells.



Joana would love to visit your school or organization!

Joana's favorite part of being an author is connecting with readers. She loves talking about her books, about the creative process, and about life as an author. Her visits inspire creativity, and empower children (and adults) to express themselves, which leads to more reading and writing. It's a win-win-win!

She's available for both in-person and virtual visits.



“ Mrs. Pastro was extremely easy to work with and was very accommodating and flexible to our school's schedule. She was able to adjust her presentation for a wide range of ages while still being engaging for all. She gladly answered questions for all of our students making them feel heard. We look forward to having her back again as we recognize the importance of displaying various cultures in literacy. ”

**Laura Bland | Principal
George L. Catrambone School
Long Branch School District**

Why bring Joana Pastro to your school?



Inspire Young Readers

Joana's relatable stories encourage children to celebrate their unique backgrounds while seeing themselves in her books.

Culturally Enriching

Her books and presentations introduce Brazilian culture in an accessible and engaging way, promoting global citizenship and empathy.

Curriculum-Connected

Her programs align with Common Core ELA standards and support school goals around diversity, inclusion, and literacy.

Bilingual Advantage

All sessions are available in English or Portuguese - perfect for dual language and ESL programs.

Flexible Formats

In-person or virtual options make it easy to fit Joana into your school's schedule and budget.





Inspiring Minds Through Storytelling with Author Joana Pastro



School Visit Goals

1. **Promote Literacy:** Inspire love for reading and writing through Joana's books and her personal journey as an author.
2. **Celebrate Diversity:** Introduce students to Brazilian culture and themes of resilience, independence, and self-expression found in her books.
3. **Encourage Creativity:** Provide students with the necessary tools to express themselves with confidence through writing and storytelling.

Benefits for Schools

- **Aligned with Curriculum:** Programs are tailored to complement reading, writing, cultural studies and social emotional learning in the classroom.
- **Customized Experience:** Joana can adapt sessions to specific grade levels or topics of interest.
- **Lasting Impact:** Students leave with an increased appreciation for reading, writing, and global cultures, while developing empathy and respect for one another.



Available Programs

In-Person, Full day visits

All inclusive! There are no additional costs for travel or lodging. Schools will receive an invoice with a single price. A full day visit includes 3 presentations and lunch with a small group of students.

Within 50 miles from ZIP code 30028 - \$850
51 - 250 miles from ZIP code 30028 - \$1350
251 - 700 miles from ZIP code 30028 - \$1950
701+ miles from ZIP code 30028 - please contact for pricing

Extra presentations can be added for \$200.

Multi-day discounts are given for consecutive-day visits in the same trip. Schools are encouraged to contact other schools in their area/district to maximize the discount.



Virtual, Full day visits

\$500 for 3 presentations.

An extra presentation can be added for \$150.

These are hosted via your school-hosted platform (Zoom, Google Classroom, or other).

Don't see what you are looking for? Contact us for a personalized plan.





PRESENTATIONS FOR CHILDREN

Story Time and Q&A (30 minutes)

Joana will briefly introduce herself, read one of her books aloud with your group, and answer questions.

Ideal for preschoolers and grades Prek - 1st

Any group size.

A book is born (45-60 minutes)

Joana will briefly introduce herself, read one of her books aloud with your group, talk about the process of publishing a picture book from idea to publication, and answer questions

Ideal for grades 2nd - 5th

Any group size.

It starts with an idea (45-60 minutes)

Joana will briefly introduce herself, talk about the very first steps of writing a book: generating and developing ideas. Students will learn idea generating techniques and how to turn an idea into a story.

Ideal for grades 2nd - 5th

Any group size.

Playing with words (45-60 minutes)

Joana will briefly introduce herself and talk about using literary devices to take stories to the next level using her own books as example. With the help of students create a new scene to one of her books using wordplay.

Ideal for grades 2nd - 5th

Any group size.



PRESENTATIONS FOR ASPIRING WRITERS

Author's life (60 minutes)

Joana will talk about her journey towards traditional publication, and answer questions.

Any group size

Within 30 miles of 30028 - \$200

30-50 miles of 30028 - \$300

Over 51 miles - please contact for pricing.

PRESENTATIONS FOR EDUCATORS

(TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, PARENTS)

Picture Books and SEL (60 minutes)

Joana will talk about using picture books as a **social emotional learning** tool, and answer questions.

Any group size

Within 20 miles of 30028 - \$200

20-40 miles of 30028 - \$300

Over 51 miles - please contact for pricing.

TIPS FOR A GREAT VISIT



Whether in person or virtual, Joana Pastro is committed to making every school visit meaningful, engaging, and inspiring. Below are the technical needs and helpful tips to ensure a smooth and memorable event:

For In-Person Presentations

To support a successful visit, Joana requests the following:

- A smartboard or projector/screen with sound and HDMI input for her laptop (or access to a computer with these capabilities).
- A remote control or touchscreen to advance slides.
- A microphone, if the group is large or the space requires sound amplification.
- Paper and pencil for each student, if writing exercises are part of the session.

For Virtual Presentations

For virtual visits, please ensure the following:

- Access to the virtual meeting platform used by the school.
- A staff member or teacher to assist and monitor students during the presentation.
- Paper and pencil for each student for writing exercises, if applicable.

Tips for an Even Better Visit

- Get students excited in advance! Teachers and students are encouraged to visit Joana's website—joanapastro.com—to learn more about her and her books before the event. Engagement increases when students are familiar with the author's work and come prepared with questions.
- Host a book pre-sale or stock the library with Joana's books. While optional, this enhances the experience. Students especially enjoy reading—and even owning—a signed book by the author they just met.

To schedule an author visit with Joana Pastro, go to the Author Visits section at joanapastro.com.

BOOK SALES



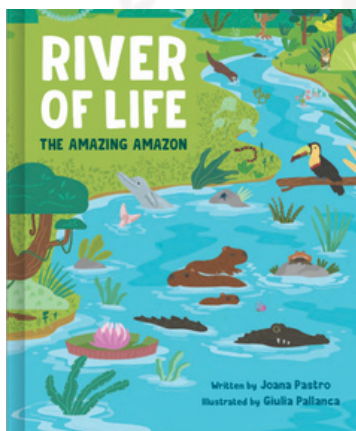
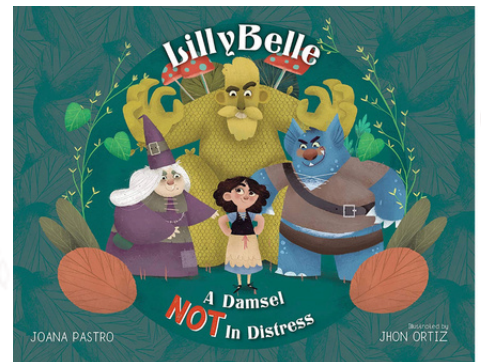
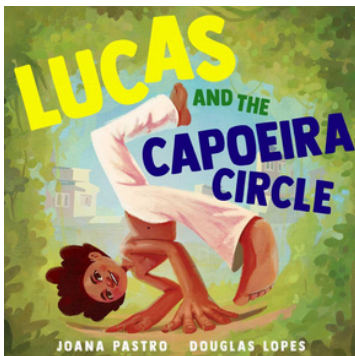
Schools are not required to participate in a book sale for Joana Pastro's visit, but doing so is always appreciated!

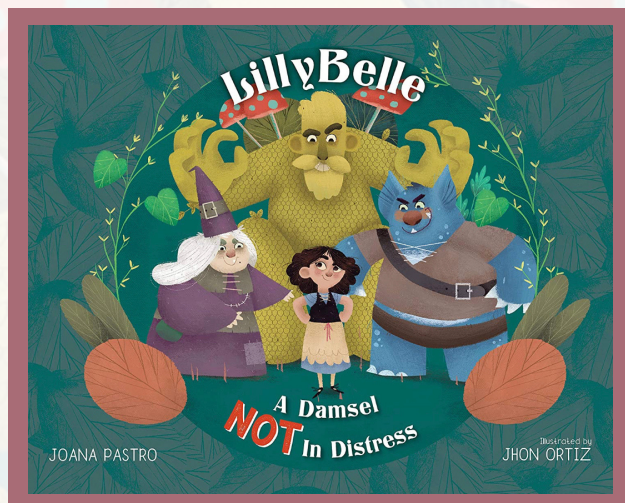
Joana prefers using AuthorVisitCentral.com for book sales because it's user-friendly, web-based, and supports independent bookstores. Plus, for every 20 books sold, the school receives a free book—perfect for the library or to give to a student who may not have been able to order one.

Joana will provide a ready-to-go flyer with all the details; the school's only task is to distribute it. It's that simple!

Books can be signed on the day of the visit, and for virtual presentations, Joana is happy to mail signed bookplates.

Want to know more about Joana's books? Keep reading the next pages!





LILLYBELLE, A DAMSEL NOT IN DISTRESS

By Joana Pastro

Illustrated by Jhon Ortiz

ISBN: 978-1635922967

Astra Kids

Publication Date: September 8, 2020

Follow damsel-in-training LillyBelle on her fun adventure in Joana Pastro and Jhon Ortiz's newest picture book, LILLYBELLE, A DAMSEL NOT IN DISTRESS.

At the School for Damsels, LillyBelle enjoys many damsel-in-training classes, like cake baking and vocal training, but the rule that a damsel must be in distress? Not so much. When she's captured by one villain after another, LillyBelle will need to use her charm and wit to save herself and prove once and for all that damsels don't have to be in distress—and all in time for tea!

Kirkus Reviews "(L)essons of self-empowerment, the importance of dialogue, and the value of understanding are efficiently rendered, aided by rounded, earth-toned illustrations that create a grounded fairy-tale world little readers will enjoy."



BISA'S CARNAVAL

By Joana Pastro

Illustrated by Carolina Coroa

ISBN: 978-1338617627

Orchard Books (Scholastic)

Publication Date: Fall 2021.

"Trumpets, trombones, tubas and saxophones sing louder, faster, faster, louder!
It's CARNAVAL!"

With help from her bisa (great grandma), a young girl in Brazil prepares for Carnaval: bright costumes, feathers, flowers, and plenty of glitter. But bisa must stay home. As the girl hugs bisa goodbye, the music pulls her in. Excitement is everywhere, on every sight, sound and scent. But...

Carnaval isn't the same without bisa.

With the blow of a whistle and lots of love, the girl will make sure BISA'S CARNAVAL is the best one ever!

Kirkus Starred Review "Joyous multigenerational fun."

School Library Journal review "A great addition to holiday collections, this book celebrates community and legacy."

YA Book Central "(T)his book takes readers to one of the most exciting holidays of the year and reminds us that no matter who or where you are, love is always worth celebrating."



A FESTA FOR LUANA

By Joana Pastro

Illustrated by Duda Oliva

ISBN: 978-1665924795

Atheneum (Simon & Schuster)

A young Brazilian American girl navigates the concept of belonging when she celebrates the Brazilian Festa Junina festival with her family in this remarkable picture book about embracing all aspects of one's identity.

Pretty little details can help...tell the story of who I am.

Luana has been counting down the days until she can visit her grandparents in Brazil. She's just in time for Festa Junina, a vibrant celebration where people dance, eat, and dress up in all sorts of colors!

But Luana feels...different. Her clothes are too plain, and her cousins comment on her American accent. She doesn't feel Brazilian. Luckily, with a little help from her family and a new tradition, Luana learns that every part of her story is important, and she belongs after all!

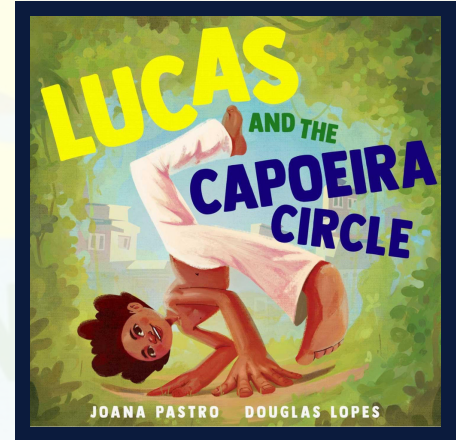
School Library Journal Review "A rare representation of the Brazilian celebration Festa Junina, this tender story of identity and belonging will linger in the hearts of readers."



By Joana Pastro
Illustrated by Douglas Lopes
ISBN: 978-1665924771
Atheneum (Simon & Schuster)
Publication date: September 24, 2024.

Tchik.
Tchik.

Tchik-Tchik-BOOM!



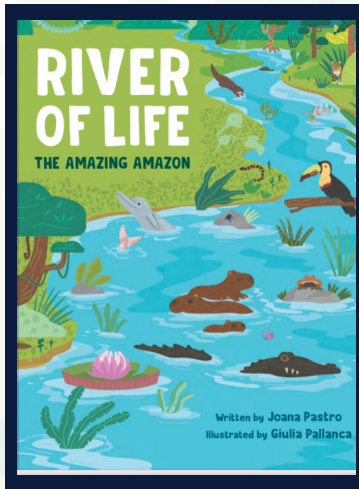
LUCAS AND THE CAPOEIRA CIRCLE

Lucas loves capoeira, the Brazilian martial art that combines music, dance, and acrobatics. He's been practicing his moves all week for his batizado—his moving-up ceremony—where he'll get his capoeira nickname.

But today, Lucas has...the nerves! Scared he'll lose his ginga—his courage and rhythm—in the capoeira circle, Lucas plays his trusty tamborim for comfort. Then he remembers his Papai's powerful words: your ginga lives inside of you. With a little help from his community, Lucas discovers that his courage is never too far away.

Kirkus Starred Review "Full of dynamic language set at a precise pace, Pastro's cadenced prose builds up Lucas' inner journey through the rush of initial excitement, anxieties of creeping dreads, and joys of eventual triumph. Similarly, Lopes' superb artwork depicts the elegance of capoeira via larger-than-life stances and extravagant gestures, all shaded in warm colors. (...) A marvelous celebration of inner strength and courage."

Booklist "The text dives into the world of capoeira, attempting to capture the rhythms of its music and introducing plenty of terms that will be new to many readers. (A glossary and informational page about capoeira in the back matter are helpful.) Lopes provides further atmosphere through illustrations that capture the bold style and movement of the martial art. An authentic-looking (and -sounding) glimpse into capoeira."



Coming Soon:

RIVER OF LIFE: THE AMAZING AMAZON

By Joana Pastro

Illustrated by Giulia Pallanca

KiwiCo - Atlas Crate

From colorful macaws to the beautiful *Victoria amazonica* flowers, to the legend of the Uirapuru, there are a million reasons to love the Amazon River. There's nothing average about the Amazon. It's a land of mosts, biggests, longest, and sometimes splendid smallest and shortest. And its magnificence is worth saving.

Join the journey down the amazing Amazon River with this book filled with fantastic facts the river's geography, breathtaking fauna and flora, the people, the history, and much more.

Written by Joana Pastro
Illustrated by Giulia Pallanca



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