



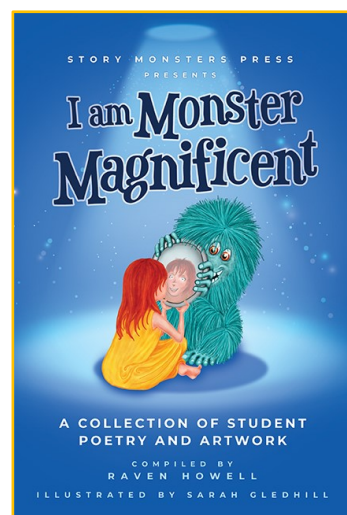
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Contact: Linda F. Radke
Story Monsters LLC
480-940-8182
info@storymonsters.com

High-res photos available to the media upon request

Student Poetry and Artwork Collection Celebrates Magnificence in a Monstrous Way

CHANDLER, AZ (October 2021) — What makes you *monster magnificent*? This is the question that students in grades two through seven answered in their poetry submissions to the Monster Magnificent Children’s Poetry Contest. Featuring the winning student poems and artwork, *I am Monster Magnificent: A Collection of Student Poems and Artwork* (Story Monsters Press), compiled by award-winning author and poet Raven Howell and illustrated by Sarah Gledhill, is the culmination of the yearlong contest sponsored by Story Monsters LLC.



“As a former teacher and the publisher of Story Monsters Ink, I wanted to find a way to celebrate the best in children through their writing and artwork, and I thought that a contest specifically for students was just the way to do that,” shared Linda F. Radke, president of Story Monsters LLC and publisher of Story Monsters Press.



Raven Howell

Raven Howell, who serves as Story Monsters' poetry director, was integral in soliciting entries from students and even entire classrooms, including special education classrooms at elementary schools across the country.

"I was honored to have the opportunity to collaborate with Raven for this contest and book." Radke said, "I truly cannot think of a better person to be our poetry director."

Howell also had the daunting task of choosing the 33 original poems and eight self-portrait drawings for publication. The collection of poems selected vary in form and feature fun subjects such as baseball, dragons, classroom Zooming, and friendships. The book also includes a guide written by Howell on writing poems. In recognition for their magnificent entries, winners will receive a complimentary copy of the book and a small payment upon publication.

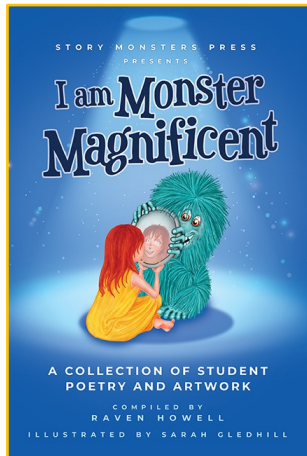
"When Linda and I were brainstorming ideas, we wanted this contest and subsequent book to be an uplifting reminder to celebrate each day with cheer and gratitude," said Howell, "Each applicant expressed and shared joy and magnificence to their finest capability with their submission."

I am Monster Magnificent: A Collection of Student Poems and Artwork (ISBN: 978-1-58985-201-3, softbound, \$14.95; eISBN: 978-1-58985-205-1, eBook, \$3.99) is slated for release on October 26, 2021 and will be available for purchase from Amazon and at www.monstermagnificent.com. For more information about *I am Monster Magnificent*, Story Monsters Press, or Raven Howell, visit www.storymonsters.com, email publisher@storymonsters.com, or call 480-940-8182.

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I am Monster Magnificent
A Collection of Student Poetry and Artwork
Compiled by Raven Howell
Illustrated by Sarah Gledhill

FACT SHEET



Compiled by:	Raven Howell
Illustrator:	Sarah Gledhill
Publisher:	Story Monsters Press, an imprint of Story Monsters LLC
Email/Phone:	publisher@storymonsters.com ; (480) 940-8182
Retail Price:	\$14.95 US
Pub Date:	October 2021
Trim Size:	6"x9" (paperback, perfect bound, 36 pages)
ISBN:	978-1-58985-201-3
eISBN:	978-1-58985-205-1
Interest Level:	Ages 8 and up
Website:	www.MonsterMagnificent.com

"Budding poets here! These magnificent kids tell us who they are from that place where their inner and outer worlds meet—the seat of the imagination."

—Brian Gene Olson, Children's Poet and Songwriter

What is this book about?

This vibrant showcase of poetry and artwork by young students celebrates their joyous nature and magnificence. The collection of poems, varying in form, feature entertaining subjects such as baseball, dragons, classroom Zooming, and friendships. An art gallery of whimsical self-portraits and "magnificent" images rounds out the anthology. Writers and artists are elementary-aged children across the U.S. from diverse backgrounds, including special education classrooms.

What makes this book unique?

Story Monsters Press presents *I am Monster Magnificent* is the culmination of a yearlong contest in which students in grades 2 through 7 across the U.S. submitted their original poems and artwork about their own magnificence. The contest's poetry director is award-winning children's author and poet Raven Howell. This compilation of winning poetry and artwork is whimsically illustrated by Sarah Gledhill and is a delightful reminder to everyone to celebrate each day with cheer and gratitude. It also prompts the question: What makes YOU *monster magnificent*?

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THE CREATIVE TEAM



Raven Howell – Poetry Director

Raven Howell, residing in the Hudson Valley region of New York, is a multiple-award winning author and poet of more than a dozen picture books. In addition, she writes for several magazines, including *Story Monsters Ink*, *Highlights for Children*, *Cricket*, *Jack and Jill*, *Humpty Dumpty*, *Fun for Kidz*, *Ladybug*, and *The School Magazine*.

Raven avidly embraced the prospect of offering a poetry contest for young students. The opportunity to express themselves and then to memorialize their creative output in the form of a book resulted in *I Am Monster Magnificent*. Raven is proud to celebrate this sunshiny kids' anthology with communities around the world. And although she's never met a monster, she believes that most of them are quite magnificent.



Sarah Gledhill – Illustrator

Sarah Gledhill lives in Lancashire, United Kingdom. After decades spent bouncing around the hot African veld in a Landi, sharing life and adventures with four sons and a wonderful variety of animals, she is now happily rediscovering the cherished, fragile worlds of the hedgerows, woodlands, waterways and drystone walls of the UK.

Sarah has a conviction that everyone has their own special talent, their personal magic, as indeed this collection shows so brilliantly. She and “The Pen,” happily joined in the monstrous, magnificent fun with adding the decorations to the pages of this delightful compilation. This is Sarah’s second collaboration with Raven Howell.



Story Monsters Press – Publisher

Great Reads for Growing Minds

Story Monsters Press, an imprint of Story Monsters LLC, is a publisher of children’s books that offer hope, value differences, and build character. Every title also includes a curriculum guide complementing the story for parents and educators to use with young readers.

www.storymonsterspress.com

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BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

Mon-strous *adjective*

Extremely and dauntingly large.

Mag-nif-i-cent *adjective*

Impressively beautiful, elaborate, or extravagant; striking.

10-word description:

Through poetry, students in grades 2-7 explore their own magnificence.

15-word description:

A vibrant showcase of poetry and artwork by students celebrating their joyous nature and magnificence.

25-word description:

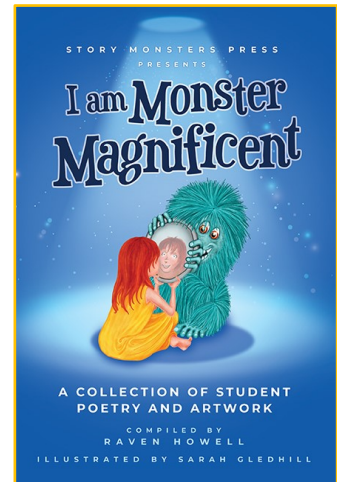
A showcase of student poetry and artwork that celebrates their joyous nature and magnificence. Writers and artists are from diverse backgrounds, including special education classrooms.

50-word description:

A vibrant showcase of poetry and artwork by students in grades 2-7 that celebrates their joyous nature and magnificence. The collection of poems, varying in form, features subjects such as baseball, dragons, classroom Zooming, and friendships. An art gallery of “magnificent” self-portraits rounds out the anthology. Writers and artists are from diverse backgrounds, including special education classrooms.

100-word description:

Story Monsters Press presents *I am Monster Magnificent*, the culmination of a yearlong contest, is a vibrant showcase of poetry and artwork by elementary-aged students from diverse backgrounds, including special education classrooms. Answering the question, *What makes YOU monster magnificent?*, this collection is a celebration of each young student’s joyous nature and magnificence. Compiled by award-winning children’s author and poet, Raven Howell, the poems, varying in form, features subjects such as baseball, dragons, classroom Zooming, and friendships. A gallery of “magnificent” self-portraits rounds out the anthology and is a delightful reminder to approach each day with cheer and gratitude.



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SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did the idea for a poetry contest using the theme, “Why I am Monster Magnificent,” come about? What made you want to work with Story Monsters on this project?
2. What was the main goal in holding this contest and how do you feel like that goal was achieved?
3. How has your experience as an children’s author and poet prepare you for the role of Story Monsters Poetry Director?
4. There are 33 poems published in *I am Monster Magnificent*. What criteria did you use to decide which poems would be published?
5. You received submissions from entire classrooms, including special education classrooms. Tell us why you wanted to include self-portrait drawings by these students in the book.
6. What do the contest winners receive?
7. What has been the most rewarding part for you about managing the contest and compiling the book?
8. You began writing poetry and playing with words and sounds since before kindergarten. Did you ever enter a poetry contest as a child?
9. Has taking part in this contest changed anything about how you might approach your own writing in the future? What are you working on now?
10. What advice would you offer to aspiring poets and writers?

