



Publicity contact: Hallie Patterson
hpatterson@abramsbooks.com

ABRAMS CHILDREN'S BOOKS ANNOUNCES ABRAMS AMPLIFY AWARD AIMED TO UPLIFT UNPUBLISHED AUTHORS FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

**Winners will be selected by a panel of publishing professionals
and will receive editorial feedback and prize money**

New York, NY [March 21, 2023] – Andrew Smith, Senior Vice President and Publisher of Abrams Children's Books, announced today the **ABRAMS Amplify Award**, a contest established to honor and uplift the voices of children's book creators from marginalized communities. By providing resources in the form of editorial feedback and funds, the contest aims to develop the winners' writing into work with greater publishing potential. ABRAMS strives to be inclusive in its publishing and organization and to celebrate a diverse array of voices, cultures, and ideas. The ABRAMS Amplify Award is part of the company's effort to share and support—in a word, amplify—those whose voices have traditionally been excluded.

A panel of five publishing professionals, including ABRAMS editors and a published author, will review all submissions and judge each submission on originality, strength of voice, unique and memorable characters, appeal to readers, and thought-provoking themes.

The first installment of the ABRAMS Amplify Award is seeking middle-grade manuscripts, aimed at children ages 8 to 14; creators who are Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latinx, Middle Eastern, or Native American/Indigenous are encouraged to enter. ABRAMS is thrilled that middle-grade author **Aisha Saeed** will join the judging panel this year. Future contests will focus on different children's book categories and age groups; the 2024 ABRAMS Amplify Award judging panel will be seeking picture books.

"Our mission at ABRAMS is to be inclusive in our publishing and bring vibrant stories to children. We remain steadfast in our aim to publish books where creators from any and all identities can share their authentic stories. So we're thrilled to read new work and support creators through this exciting initiative, the ABRAMS Amplify Award," says Smith. "And we're honored that Aisha Saeed will join the judging panel of the inaugural award. Aisha's incredible work as an award-winning author and founding member of We Need Diverse Books™ perfectly aligns with our mission for this award—to support creators whose voices have traditionally been excluded."

Entries will be accepted between April 1, 2023, and June 1, 2023, and winners will be announced in October 2023. Three prize levels are available:

- 1st prize = \$5,000, editorial notes, and a one-on-one video conference meeting with an ABRAMS editor to discuss the creator's submission
- 2nd prize = \$2,500 and editorial notes on the creator's submission from an ABRAMS editor
- 3rd prize = \$1,000 and editorial notes on the creator's submission from an ABRAMS editor

For more information about the ABRAMS Amplify Award, please visit abramsbooks.com/abramsamplifyaward/.

ABOUT AISHA SAEED

Aisha Saeed is an award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of books for children. Her middle-grade novel *Amal Unbound* received multiple starred reviews and was a Global Read Aloud for 2018. Her picture book, *Bilal Cooks Daal*, received an APALA honor, and she was the co-editor of the critically acclaimed *Once Upon an Eid* and co-author of the middle grade novel *Grounded*. Aisha is also a founding member of the nonprofit We Need Diverse Books™.

About the ABRAMS Amplify Award

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A purchase will not increase your chances of winning. Begins at 5:00 pm ET on 4/1/23 and ends at 5:00 pm ET on 6/1/23. Open to writers who are legal residents of the 50 U.S. (D.C.) who are at least 18 years old and have not previously had any children's fiction or children's nonfiction published. Void where prohibited. For Official Rules, and prize descriptions, visit abramsbooks.com/abramsamplifyaward/. Sponsor: ABRAMS, 195 Broadway, New York, New York 10007.

About ABRAMS

Founded in 1949, ABRAMS was the first company in the United States to specialize in publishing art and illustrated books. The company continues to publish critically acclaimed and bestselling works in the areas of art, photography, cooking, craft, comics, interior and garden design, entertainment, fashion, and popular culture as well as narrative non-fiction and new works of fiction for adults; children's books ranging from middle grade to young adult fiction to picture books to board books. ABRAMS creates and distributes brilliantly designed books with the highest production values under the following imprints: Abrams; Abrams ComicArts; Megascope; Surely Books; Abrams Image; Abrams Press; The Overlook Press; Cernunnos; Cameron + Company; Abrams Books for Young Readers; Amulet Books; Abrams Appleseed; and Magic Cat. ABRAMS also distributes books for Booth-Clibborn Editions, Bungie, Alain Ducasse Édition, Éditions de La Martinière, Editions BPI, Global Golf Group, Lucky Spool, Milky Way Picture Books, The Museum of Modern Art, SelfMadeHero, Skittledog, Tate Publishing, V&A Publishing, and The Vendome Press.