

Being an Ally: Real Talk About Showing Up, Screwing Up, and Trying Again World Book Day 2023 £1/€1.50 book information sheet

Editors

Shakirah Bourne (she/her)

Shakirah Bourne is a Barbadian author and filmmaker. Her debut children's novel, *Josephine Against the Sea*, was published by Scholastic in 2021, and received starred reviews in Kirkus and Booklist, and was a School Library Journal Best Book of 2021. She is the co-editor of YA non-fiction anthology, *Allies: Real Talk About Growing Up, Screwing Up and Trying Again* (DK/PRH, 2021).

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Dana Alison Levy (she/her)

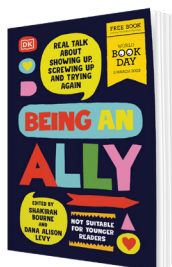
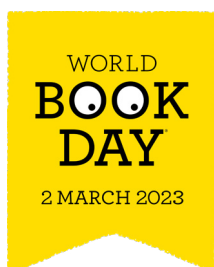
Dana Alison Levy is an American author of many acclaimed books for young readers, including *It Wasn't Me* and the Family Fletcher novels. Her first novel for teens, *Above All Else*, was published in 2020. When not writing, Dana enjoys traveling, eating, taking photos of her cats, and smashing toxic white supremacist patriarchal norms. She makes a lot of mistakes and tries to learn from them.

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Contributors

A. J. Sass (he/they)

A. J. Sass is an author whose narrative interests lie at the intersection of identity, neurodiversity, and allyship. His debut novel, *Ana on the Edge*, is a 2020 Booklist Editors' Choice, an ALA 2021 Rainbow Book List Top 10 for Young Readers, and a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection. He is also the author of *Ellen Outside the Lines* (Little, Brown, 2022), which has received starred reviews from Booklist and School Library Journal and is a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection, the co-author of *Camp QUILTBAG* (Algonquin, 2023), and a contributor to the *This Is Our Rainbow* (Knopf, 2021) and *Allies* (DK/PRH, 2021) anthologies. When he's not writing, A. J. figure skates and travels as much as possible. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his partner and two cats who act like dogs.

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Photo credit: Deven Sass-Cao

Lizzie Huxley-Jones (they/them)

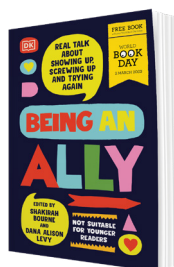
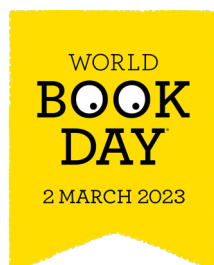
Lizzie Huxley-Jones is an autistic author and editor based in London. They are the author of the forthcoming queer holiday rom-com *Make You Mine This Christmas* (2022) from Hodder Studio. They are the editor of *Stim* (2020) an anthology of autistic authors and artists, author of the children's biography *Sir David Attenborough: A Life Story* (2020) and a contributor to the anthology *Allies: Real Talk About Showing Up, Screwing Up, And Trying Again* (2021). They also work with writers and publishers as a sensitivity reader and editorial consultant, and were an editor at independent micropublisher 3 of Cups Press. In their past career lives, they have been a research diver, a children's bookseller and digital communications specialist. They are represented by Abi Fellows of The Good Literary Agency.

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Photo credit: Jamie Drew



Natalie and Naomi Evans (she/her)

Naomi and Natalie Evans are the founders of the anti-racism platform, @everydayracism_ which has over 180k followers on Instagram. They share stories from BIPOC and educational posts focusing on how to be anti-racist, provide anti-racism sessions, working with the likes of Bupa and Lloyds Bank, and write articles for Red, Grazia and more. Their work has been featured in the i newspaper and they recently appeared on the Channel 5 news documentary *Everyday Racism*.

Naomi and Natalie are committed to empowering people to make a difference in the world. They are natural communicators who believe education and action is the fundamental route to stopping social injustice. Their aim is to help dismantle systemic racism by empowering BIPOC and teaching white folk how to use their privilege for change.

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Derick Brooks (he/him)

Derick Brooks is a Virginia-based author and illustrator who loves to create adventurous stories about people of colour. He is the illustrator of *Bright Family* (Epic) and Lamar Giles' *The Last Chance for Logan County* (HMH 2021). He is slated to contribute to Dapo Adeola's collaborative picture book *Hey You!* (Puffin 2021) and is also hard at work on his debut graphic novel *Grip Up!* about an interplanetary thumb wrestling camp for kids (Iron Circus 2022). He is married to Dr Lauren D. Kendall Brooks, a brilliant Black woman who stutters, and is glad to continue the conversation on how to be a stuttering ally and stand in solidarity with persons who stutter.

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