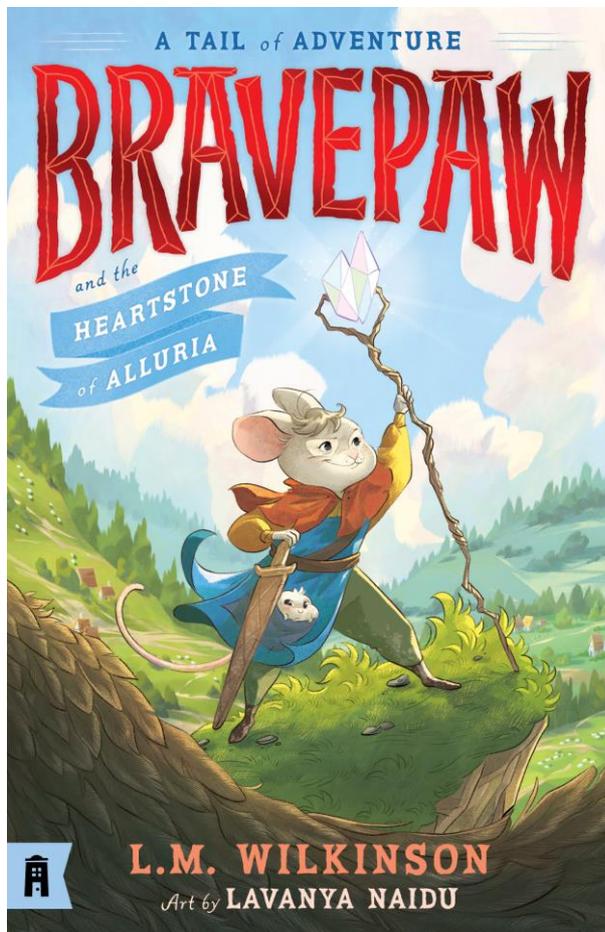


Bravepaw and the Heartstone of Alluria

By L.M. Wilkinson,
Art by Lavanya Naidu



An epic Tail of Adventure! Can one gallant mouse find the Heartstone and save her homeland from destruction?

RECOMMENDED FOR

7 – 11 (Upper Primary and Lower Secondary)

THEMES

Adventure quests, bravery, friendship, good vs evil, cosy, against the odds, gemstones and crystals

ISBN (AUS)

9781761180552

SYNOPSIS

Titch has always longed for adventure - just like the gallant mouse hero Bravepaw in all her favourite stories.

But she is the smallest mouse in her family, living in a peaceful little village where nothing exciting ever happens . . . until DIRE TROUBLE comes to the Plateau!

Titch and her best friend Huckleberry must set out on a DANGEROUS QUEST to take the Heartstone to repair the crack in the heart of Alluria before the whole world breaks apart.

Can Titch ever hope to live up to the legend of Bravepaw?

A fully illustrated and brilliantly readable adventure full of magic and prophecy, quests, heroism and loyal friendship – the world of Bravepaw will hook young readers until the very last page. This is the stuff of legend.

AUTHOR MOTIVATION

'Bravepaw sprung into existence over breakfast with my fabulous publisher Susannah Chambers. Our kids are besties, and we were discussing their reading and play. My kid Banjo loves reading funny, silly books like the Treehouse series and Real Pigeons, but when he plays, it's deadly serious, high-stakes adventure. I found myself longing to introduce him to the classic children's fantasy that I loved as a child – Brian Jacques' *Redwall*, Tamora Pierce's *Alanna* and Isobelle Carmody's *Obernewtyn*. But at the time he was still a bit too young for those. The Bravepaw series is an introduction to high fantasy for junior fiction readers. It's got all the tropes, all the adventure, but packaged in an easy to read, early chapter book format, complete with Lavanya Naidu's stunning illustrations.

Bravepaw and the Heartstone of Alluria is my twentieth published book, and it was hands down the most fun I've ever had writing anything. I love these brave little mice with my whole heart!

L.M. Wilkinson

ILLUSTRATOR'S MOTIVATION

'The main character in the book, Titch, had me hooked from the very beginning! When faced with a choice to protect the ones she loves or give into her fears, she chooses to take the leap. But Titch is consumed with self-doubt, often believing that she cannot possibly be 'the chosen one'. Thanks to her trusty friend Huckleberry and other reminders along the way, she eventually comes into her own and begins to believe in herself. I think it's often the case in real life as well, no matter how old you are. It can be so overwhelming at times to not feel like an imposter, and the importance of friends and loved ones who remind us that we have it in us and show us that which we are often unable to see is huge.

We all have heroes within us. She may be a little mouseling, but she is mighty! Also, I've always been a fan of fantasy adventure and jumped at the idea of illustrating this sweet story!

Lavanya Naidu

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



L.M. Wilkinson is the award-winning author of twenty books for children and teenagers, including *A Hunger of Thorns*, *Deep is the Fen* and *How to Make a Pet Monster*. She established the Inky Awards at the Centre for Youth Literature, State Library of Victoria. She has a PhD in Creative Writing, and lives in Melbourne with her husband, son, dog and three chickens.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Lavanya Naidu is a storyteller with a passion for building worlds and developing characters with heart. The twilight zone where they meet is where the magic happens! She is a graduate in animation film design, and over the last decade has illustrated several children's books and worked on games and animation production (television and film). When she isn't drawing, Lavanya is collecting dinosaur models, embroidering, hiking, cooking and patting all the dogs. Lavanya grew up in Kolkata, India, and now lives with her husband and their ever-growing collection of plants in Melbourne.

IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Discussion Questions

- Look closely at the cover of *Bravepaw and the Heartstone of Alluria* and decide if you think this story will be funny or serious, realistic or make-believe? What clues on the cover told you what sort of story to expect. Who do you think the character named Bravepaw will be? Find three things to describe her. What do you think the Heartstone of Alluria might be? How might you describe it?
- The way words are shown on the page can tell us a lot about how they should be read. How are the words, 'They ARE real!' on page 7 shown to make it clear that Titch vehemently disagrees with her mother's opinion that stories about Bravepaw are not real? The way words are shown on the page can also reflect what's happening in the story and make it more exciting to read. Turn to page 13 and describe how the words 'DIZZYING sheer drop' emphasise the drama of what is happening in the story.

- The sentence, 'There are lots of ways to be brave.' is repeated throughout the story. What do you think this sentence means? How do Titch, Huckleberry and Dollop each prove their bravery in the story? Name three other ways someone in real life can show bravery that doesn't involve being a warrior and fighting a battle.
- 'Maybe the bravest thing she could do right now was to believe in herself.' (page 151) What do you think you could tell yourself to feel braver when you're scared or unsure? What other ways can you build confidence in yourself?
- What do you think Titch learns about herself over the course of the story?
- Prince Vetiver recites 'The Prophecy' to Titch and Huckleberry to explain that Thistle Straightwhisker was not the only Bravepaw. What is a prophecy? What does this prophecy predict? Based on the prophecy, can you guess what might happen to Titch in the future?

Comprehensive Questions: Chapter 1-3

1. What is a puffling?
2. Where do Titch and Huckleberry live?
3. What occupations are considered more useful than being a warrior on the Plateau?
4. Who did the last Bravepaw fight?
5. What lies below the Plateau?
6. Who flies to the Plateau at the end of Chapter 1?
7. What is the real name for the creatures who look like shadow-eels?
8. What happens to you if you are attacked by them?
9. What happens to them when they are attacked?
10. How does Titch defeat the creatures?