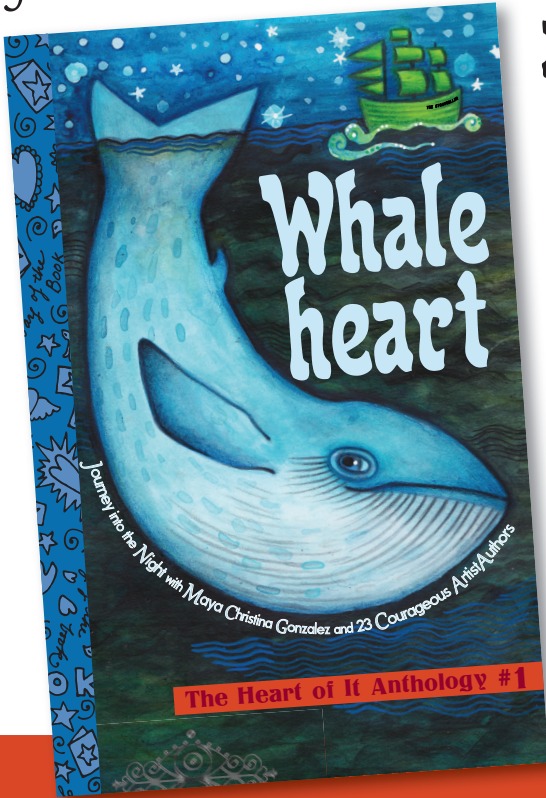


# Whaleheart: The Heart of It Anthology #1

Journey into the Night with Maya Christina Gonzalez and 23 Courageous ArtistAuthors



## Now Available!

By the light of the moon, the storyteller stands in the river and gathers what the storyfish bring her, but the wind promises something more. The river's flow carries her gently into the unknown as she finds herself traveling far out to sea in search of a great ship with an unlikely guide by her side.

The great ship holds the key: there are others out there spinning their tales into the night!

Whaleheart guides us out on the nightsea and brings us home again, reminding us that *“a story is a sail with a wind built into it”* and nothing is beyond our reach.

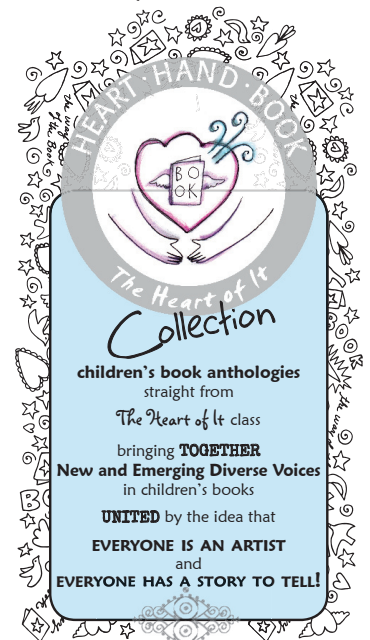
Paperback, 88 pages | ISBN 978-0-9843799-8-9 | Ages 4-11/Grades K-5  
Published by Reflection Press - [WWW.REFLECTIONPRESS.COM](http://WWW.REFLECTIONPRESS.COM)

Through a re-visioning of the anthology format, award-winning children's book artist and author Maya Christina Gonzalez conjures a night journey within which to showcase 23 new and emerging diverse children's book ArtistAuthors from around the world. Some share windows into future picture books, some poems, while others share memories and short stories. **All are inspiration for kids to tell their story, share their art and know that all stories are important, because all stories are connected.**

### Featured ArtistAuthors:

Victoria Bruno, Debbie Burran, Indelisa Carrillo, Jim Cartwright, Nicole Davis, Summer Edward, Silvia Garcia, Lauraine Gibbons, Carol Green, Rosalind Lord, Janine Macbeth, Katherine Mahler, Laurin Mayeno, Sanata Nacro, Innosanto Nagara, Judith Nasse, Melissa Reyes, Nataša Savelli, Carole Stedronsky, Kenji Tanner, Jorge Tevalan, Cynthia A. Weber, Laurie L. Young  
(read more about these ArtistAuthors on the Featured ArtistAuthors tab on our website)

**About Maya Christina Gonzalez:** Maya is an acclaimed fine artist, educator, and the illustrator of more than twenty award-winning picture books, several of which she also wrote. Her book *My Colors, My World* won the prestigious Pura Belpré Award Honor from the American Library Association. Her most recent picture book, *Call Me Tree* was listed in Kirkus' Best Picture Books of 2014 that Celebrate Diversity. She is passionate about inspiring others to create books, because she believes that creating children's books has the potential to be one of the most radical things you can do! Wanting to do more than just pass on her knowledge, Maya decided to use her online children's book course as a springboard to begin mentoring and publishing ArtistAuthors right away through the anthologies.  
(more about Maya on her website: [mayagonzalez.com](http://mayagonzalez.com))



**INSPIRING**  
our next generation  
of storytellers and artists

# About The Heart of It Collection

WWW.REFLECTIONPRESS.COM/HOIC

*Whaleheart* is the first book in *The Heart of It Collection*: annual anthologies in direct and immediate response to a lack of equitable and relevant representation of **the people** in traditional children's books.

After taking Maya's course, *The Heart of It: Creating Children's Books that Matter*, aspiring and emerging ArtistAuthors are invited to put the teaching into real life practice through the process of creating one full spread for *The Heart of It Anthology* for that year. Over the course of 4-5 months students are guided through developing their story and art to be published. Step-by-step submission packet and videos, scheduled reviews by Maya as well as encouragement to review course materials support students to more deeply integrate the process of creating art and story for children's books. The whole experience offers the opportunity to learn the balance between creative expression, honing one's craft, and the ability to follow through and how important that balance is to making truly powerful books for our children.

Emerging and established authors and artists who shared their wisdom through the course's Community Spotlights are also invited to submit work.

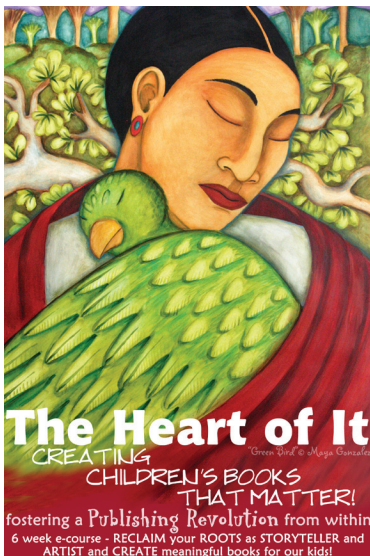
The final book is then used as a tool to support ArtistAuthors in getting their work out into the world and transform who creates children's books and how.

Sales of the book also support future ArtistAuthors as proceeds are put towards offering more scholarships for *The Heart of It* course providing a cyclical environment of mutual support.

## About The Heart of It e-course

Creating Children's Books Matter! with Maya Gonzalez

Fostering a Publishing Revolution from Within. A practical and personally empowering course based on a holistic approach to creating children's books developed and taught by award-winning children's book author and artist Maya Gonzalez



**Children's books hold the potential to be one of the most POWERFUL tools we have as activists, educators, caregivers, parents and everyone who cares about children and EQUITY in the world we live in.**

*Writing exercises, hands-on art projects, in-depth book reviews, community interviews, Q&A webinars with special guests, and more!*

For writers and non-writers, for artists and non-artists, for those who want to create powerful children's books and believe that we can change the world not only by what we do, but by how we do it!

