



Enter a fantastic new children's competition!

CREATE YOUR OWN CHARACTER

Enter our fantastic competition for the chance of having YOUR character professionally published in the third instalment of the hugely successful series of children's books – The Zartarbia Tales!

The Zartarbia Tales Book 3
Isabella Zophie and The Piraten written and illustrated by Ana Fischel
(due to be published Spring 2006)

This swash buckling pirate adventure is set on the high seas surrounded by mermaids, fearsome sea monsters and all sorts of magical characters!

YOU COULD WIN THE FOLLOWING FABULOUS PRIZES!

FIRST PRIZE

The winning character will be published as part of the storyline in Book 3 including the author's interpretation of your illustration PLUS you will receive the original artwork drawn by Ana Fischel. PLUS you and your school library will receive signed copies of the first three instalments of The Zartarbia Tales.

SECOND AND THIRD PRIZE

YOUR original character illustration will be published at the back of Book 3 PLUS you and your school library will receive signed copies of the first three Zartarbia Tales.

30 RUNNER UP PRIZES

YOUR original character drawing will be placed on the official Zartarbia website as part of the 'create a character competition' PLUS you and your school will receive signed copies of The Zartarbia Tales - Book 3.

After completing a series of hugely successful workshops in conjunction with Reading Is Fundamental (part of the National Literacy Trust), where children were encouraged to create their own characters, Ana Fischel decided to launch an international competition following similar lines. The guidelines are included in this package with details on how to run a similar type of workshop.

A competition poster has also been included along with an entry form that you are welcome to photocopy.

The aim of the competition is to encourage children that reading and writing is fun! Your school is one of 10,000 schools nationwide who have been sent these details and we hope that your pupils will enjoy entering the competition. This competition is in partnership with the children's charity ChildLine who will be involved with the judging along with the author Ana Fischel.

Closing date 31st December 2005

For competition information and to download more entry forms visit www.zartarbia.com
For book information contact Joanna Anthony at Pen Press Publishers on email:
joanna@penpress.co.uk



WORKSHOP GUIDELINES FOR CREATING YOUR OWN CHARACTER

Your character can be whatever you want it to be. You can use any medium; pencils, paints, collage, crayons, felt pens, computer generated etc. The only limitation is your imagination so really think about how you can bring your character to life in visual terms.

For example if you have created a mermaid character then you might want to use glitter for the tail or wool for the hair. If your character is a sea monster then you might want to use foil or sandpaper for the skin.

Focus on the things YOU ENJOY when you are thinking about what sort of character you want to create – this is essential if your character is to be believable and interesting. You have to remember that everybody is inspired and influenced by all sorts of things - it might be a film you particularly like; a book you've read; perhaps it's a piece of music you enjoy or a person you've met. Saying that try not to copy these ideas directly, it doesn't matter where your inspiration comes from as long as you make it your own.

For example if you are a fan of Harry Potter, then try not to focus on creating another wizard but maybe focus on some of the monsters or magical creatures that he encounters.

Write down a list of qualities your character might have by answering the following questions; for example:

- Is your character a baddie or a goodie? Or neither... maybe it is a monster / part human and part animal / maybe it's a robot / an alien / a mermaid or a fairy?
- Does it have any magical abilities? Maybe your character has X-ray vision or the ability to make itself invisible?
- Does it fly, walk, swim or maybe it has wheels for feet
- Does your character have skin / feathers / scales / fur - or maybe it's made from metal / or fire / or ice?
- Does your character have a special costume?
- How does your character move and speak? Maybe it has its own language that nobody else understands?
- Perhaps you could write a short story about your character?

Don't be worried about your piece of artwork being realistic or your short story being 'technically' correct. Art and writing are very personal - this is about how you want to express yourself.

Don't panic if you're not able to create a character you are happy with straight away, it often takes me up to 10 attempts, so keep trying and don't get disheartened.

**To see some of my sketchbook ideas visit www.zartarbia.com.
Remember reading and writing should be fun, so I hope you enjoy this workshop**

Ana Fische



ABOUT THE ZARTARBIA TALES

An exciting series of seven fantasy adventure books set in the magical world of Zartarbia, an ever-changing jigsaw of territories.

The central villains in each book are based around the seven deadly sins (an organisation known as The Syndicate) who are constantly trying to outwit agents from The Federation Against Dark Forces (FADF). It is only after Isabella Zophie accidentally discovers The Locket of Fire and Water and finds herself in this strange and ancient world that she begins to realise the fate of Zartarbia could rest in her hands....



THE ZARTARBIA TALES – BOOK 1 ISABELLA ZOPHIE AND LE CIRQUE DE MAGIQUE

Written and illustrated by Ana Fischel (£5.99 / ISBN 1-904754-72-4)

Roll Up! Roll Up! Prepare to be amazed by the fabulous performers in Le Cirque de Magique, terrified by the demonic Gliders and delighted by the cheeky clown brothers Tig, Tag and Toe!

After discovering an ancient locket hidden in her great aunt's attic, Isabella Zophie finds herself tumbling headlong into Zartarbia – a previously uncorrupted paradise now threatened by the dark forces of The Syndicate. Under the wing of a travelling circus headed by the roguish ringmaster, Krock O'Dile, Isabella quickly realises she is in grave danger from the evil Mistress Sectica (a Syndicate member representing the sin of PRIDE). With the help of FADF Agent Lujzka, Isabella tries to discover the significance of the locket's powers but will it be enough to save her from The Cabinet of Nightmares? Encounter flying camels, a talking compass, Fifi the wolf and the crazy Thinker. In a world where nothing is as it seems, who can she trust?

NUMBER 3 BESTSELLER – BORDERS BOOKSTORES (NOV 2004)



THE ZARTARBIA TALES – BOOK 2 ISABELLA ZOPHIE AND THE HOTEL GASTRONOMIC

Written and illustrated by Ana Fischel (£6.99 / ISBN 1-905203-16-0)

In this the second delicious instalment of The Zartarbia Tales, Isabella returns to the fantastical world of Zartarbia to do battle once again with The Syndicate – this time facing Oro Cazador (representing the sin of GLUTTONY).

Isabella teams up with her old friend and FADF agent Lujzka and they find themselves going undercover in this most mouth-watering of hotels - where clothes change colour to match rooms, the furniture is edible and the scrumptious food can control any emotion! But who is the secret chef that Cazador is so keen to acquire for his own diabolical plans? And will Lujzka and Isabella be able to rescue the mysterious Rat Child before the sinister spy Betrug discovers their true identities? Join them on another enthralling Zartarbian adventure along with The Magic Cutlery, snobby twins Lady Dee and Lady Dah and visit the amazing Rat Kingdom of Water and Discarded Treasure. (Available in all good book stores from June 11th 2005)



THE ZARTARBIA TALES – BOOK 3 ISABELLA ZOPHIE AND THE PIRATEN

Written and illustrated by Ana Fischel

On the horizon is a skull and cross bones heralding the third swash buckling Zartarbian adventure! Isabella takes to the high seas on the trail of Tempest Pestilencia (based on the Sin of ENVY).

Tempest is a brutal pirate who roams the deadly Seas of Uncertainty, surrounding himself with fierce monsters and sultry sirens. When he and fellow Syndicate member, Espectro Underwelt hatch a plot to unleash the terrifying Demonicals into Zartarbia, it is up to the FADF to stop them but there seems to be a spy in their midst...Is Devin Fortuno is up to his old tricks again? And what of the beautiful Celestia, Espectro's wife, who is bound to a dark and dreadful secret? Before long the two Syndicate allies are pitted against one another – both determined to take what they want regardless of the consequences. Will Isabella Zophie be able to prevent the tidal wave of their diabolical plans destroying the future of Zartarbia? Prepare yourself for another fantastic journey into this crazy world as Isabella encounters the scissor handed bartender Raoul, the devious Keeper and an old friend Mr. Krock O'Dile.

(Due for release Spring 2006)



PRAISE FOR THE ZARTARBIA TALES

CBBC Television Programme Xchange – *A cast of intriguing and unusual characters that keep you glued to the adventure....this book is a real page turner and definitely one I would recommend to our book club!*

The Guardian – *The Zartarbia Tales read as an exciting and magical adventure...the key to her (Ana Fischel's) work is making it accessible and enjoyable for all children.*

Amazon.co.uk – *The first print run was an immediate sell-out! A truly delightful book...for anybody who loves fantasy and adventure.*

Best Magazine – *A modern twist on a classic fantasy theme...it gripped me to the end!*

Rugrats Magazine – *A marvellous epic tale set in a mysterious and magical world.*

Hi! Society Magazine – *It takes a strong creative adult to successfully transport young readers into a world of make believe and author Ana Fischel is definitely one such talented person.*

Book and Magazine Collector – *A runaway success...children and collectors alike are in for another treat!*

Lincolnshire Today – *Sure to be a classic children's book.*

THE ZARTARBIA COMMITMENT TO CHILDLINE:

"By collaborating with ChildLine, we hope to raise as much awareness for the helpline as possible. We are living in an age where an increasing number of children and young people are subjected to abuse and I hope by reading my books they will see this is unacceptable. The Zartarbia Tales proudly support ChildLine and the vital 24 hour telephone helpline for any child that has a problem. As the author of these books, I am delighted to have formed an alliance with this essential children's charity and hope that by having ChildLine telephone number and details printed inside the books it will help children to address any concerns they might have with one of their trained counsellors."

Ana Fischel, author and illustrator of The Zartarbia Tales.

"The Zartarbia Tales creates a magical world of fantasy that children can escape into, but at the same time help children to navigate some of the aspects of life that are challenging, scary or unpleasant. That mirrors what we do at ChildLine, supporting children to find ways through their problems and giving them hope and emotional resilience, which is why we're delighted to be working in partnership with The Zartarbia Tales."

Natasha Finlayson, Director of Communications and Policy at ChildLine.

"The runaway success of Tracy Beaker author Jacqueline Wilson has demonstrated a huge appetite for children's books that confront difficult social issues, so it is understandable that writer and illustrator Ana Fischel has decided to address controversial subjects such as abuse in her books. However a collaboration between Fischel and the charity ChildLine appears to be taking the idea a step further. Fischel, who is about to publish her second title in her seven fantasy adventures, The Zartarbia Tales, says it makes sense to offer those children reading about issues such as abuse or eating disorders (both featured in her books) somewhere to turn to if they need it."

Mary O'Hara Reporter, The London Guardian, Guardian society supplement

INFORMATION ABOUT CHILDLINE:



Reg'd charity no.1003758

Children can call free of charge on **0800 1111** from any phone, at any time and speak to a professional counsellor in confidence. ChildLine depends on donations and always needs funds to pay for the children's calls and to train counsellors. Donations (cheques should be made payable to ChildLine) can be sent to ChildLine (Zartarbia Partnership), Freepost NATN 1111, London E1 6BR. More information can be found at www.childline.org.uk including how to become a volunteer counsellor. **Please support this vital charity for children.**