

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leap Forward Publishing and Deborah Mortimer Debut First Children's Book, 'Zorah and the Very Big Question'

New children's book gives girls a window into their future

ALLENTOWN, PA, JUNE 1, 2021 - Deborah Mortimer, the founder of Leap



Forward Publishing is thrilled to announce the official launch of her very first children's book. The new title, 'Zorah and the Very Big Question', is the first in a series of books aimed at inspiring children.

Mortimer is a lawyer, blogger, and mom who was motivated by her son, nieces, and nephews to branch out from her casual writing to create children's books, particularly ones with diverse characters.

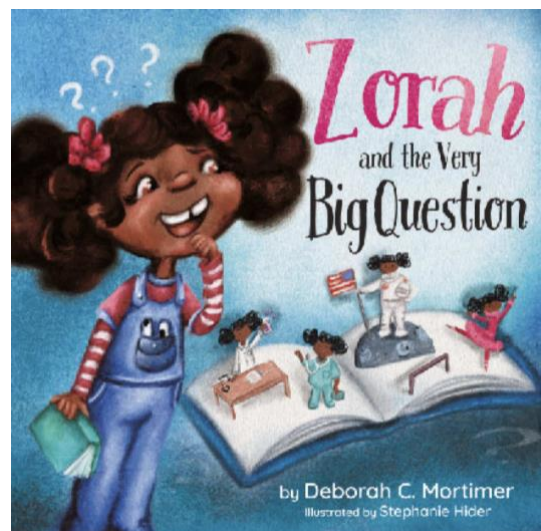
Statistics show that children's books featuring diverse characters are still poorly lacking in literature. In fact, in 2019, just 11.9% of children's books featured a Black/African main character, and the statistics are even lower for other underrepresented groups. Deborah Mortimer wants to curb this trend and reach children who've been poorly represented in the books they read.

"Representation is not only important to ensure that children see themselves in the world, but so that all children see, learn about and appreciate those who are different from them," said Mortimer.

At Leap Forward Publishing, the goal is to develop and promote stories that feature relatable and diverse characters to children, while also encouraging them. Along the way, Mortimer says she hopes to offer inspiration and guidance to other aspiring authors.

'Zorah and the Very Big Question' is the first book in a series that will follow Zorah as she journeys to learn more about the world around her. The first

book begins when Zorah's teacher asks her class what they want to be when they



grow up. Zorah, however, feels the more important question is, what *can* she be? Zorah then sets out to explore the possibilities. Readers join Zorah on an adventure to learn about different professions from teacher to president of the United States, realizing in the end that her possibilities are endless. It's a story that exudes girl power and representation for children everywhere.

According to Mortimer, the name 'Zorah' was inspired by her favorite author, Zora Neale Hurston. Zorah's adventures, however, are based on Mortimer's childhood, and Zorah's curious, imagination, and eagerness to learn make her a charming, beloved character from the start.

The next book in the series, 'Zorah, The Brave Ballerina', is slated for release in early 2022. 'Zorah and the Very Big Question' is now available in paperback, e-book, and hardcover. More information can be found at <https://www.leapforwardbooks.com/>.

Data on books by and about BIPOC published for children and teens compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

About Leap Forward Publishing

Leap Forward Publishing is a family-owned book publishing imprint.

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