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# GOOD NIGHT STORIES

FOR

# REBEL GIRLS

100 TALES OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN  
CHANEL CURIE  
JANE AUSTEN LOZEN ELIZABETH I SERENA WILLIAMS

Inspired by Rebel Girls: activities for children aged 7-11



## • INSPIRED BY REBEL GIRLS •

### For children, teachers, parents and carers

This pack is by writers from the Ministry of Stories, a creative writing charity that champions the writer in every child. In it, you will find ideas and activities to help you write your own stories inspired by the best-selling book, *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls* by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo.

#### Who is this for?

**Teachers** - We recommend using these activities with children in Years 3-6. They're great for looking at non-fiction, narrative, direct speech and women in history and for inspiring creative writing in general - particularly for those who may struggle to get writing.

**Parents and Carers** - Try these at home with your children aged 7-11. We encourage you to have a go at writing a story too as writing together can be really beneficial for children's confidence and enjoyment.

**Children** - Don't worry too much about spelling and grammar when you're doing these activities, we care more about your ideas. As one of our 7 year old writers says, 'Think bold. Think like an owl'.

These activities are for girls and boys to help them enjoy the book and write about women they admire.

To share your Rebel Girl stories with us, email [writing@ministryofstories.org](mailto:writing@ministryofstories.org)





# Good Night Stories FOR REBEL GIRLS

## • GETTING STARTED •

### What is a Rebel?

Does anyone in the room know? Can they give an example?

A rebel is someone who breaks the rules, but often in a good way.

### Rebels:

- Stand up for what they believe in
- Believe in themselves even when people say, 'You can't do it'
- Aren't afraid to be different
- Keep trying even when things are hard

**Act it out:** Get into a position that shows 'Rebel' using your face, body or both.

### Why do we need a book about Rebel Girls?

Do you think there are more books about girls or about boys?

Imagine you're in a bookshop looking at history books. In every ten books, there will only be three about women<sup>1</sup>. If you're looking at children's books, for every book with a girl main character, there will be two books with a boy main character<sup>2</sup>.

**Act it out:** If you're doing this at school, get 10 children to pretend to be history books with their bodies. Now ask all except for three of them to sit down. Then explain the statistic above.

<sup>1</sup>The Guardian, 11/01/2016

<sup>2</sup>The Guardian, 21/01/2018





# Good Night Stories FOR REBEL GIRLS

## • WATCH •

Watch this video about *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls*. You'll hear from Elena Favilli, one of the authors, and from children at the Ministry of Stories.

<https://www.channel4.com/news/elena-favilli-on-goodnight-stories-for-rebel-girls>

## • THINK •

Write a list of women or girls you admire. They might be:

- Famous
- From History
- People you know - teachers, family members, friends

Choose one woman or girl to write about. Someone you think is interesting and unique. You could even write about yourself in the future.

If you chose a famous woman or a woman from history, look up some facts about them - not too many as you want plenty of time to write and you can use your imagination.

You might want to think about where they grew up, what their greatest achievement was and what struggles they faced.





## Good Night Stories FOR REBEL GIRLS

### • READ •

Read some of the stories at the back of this pack. There is one from the book and three by children.

A few things to notice:

- They all start with 'Once upon a time'
- They are written in the style of fairy stories
- They all include somebody speaking
- They often include feelings - happiness, sadness, determination

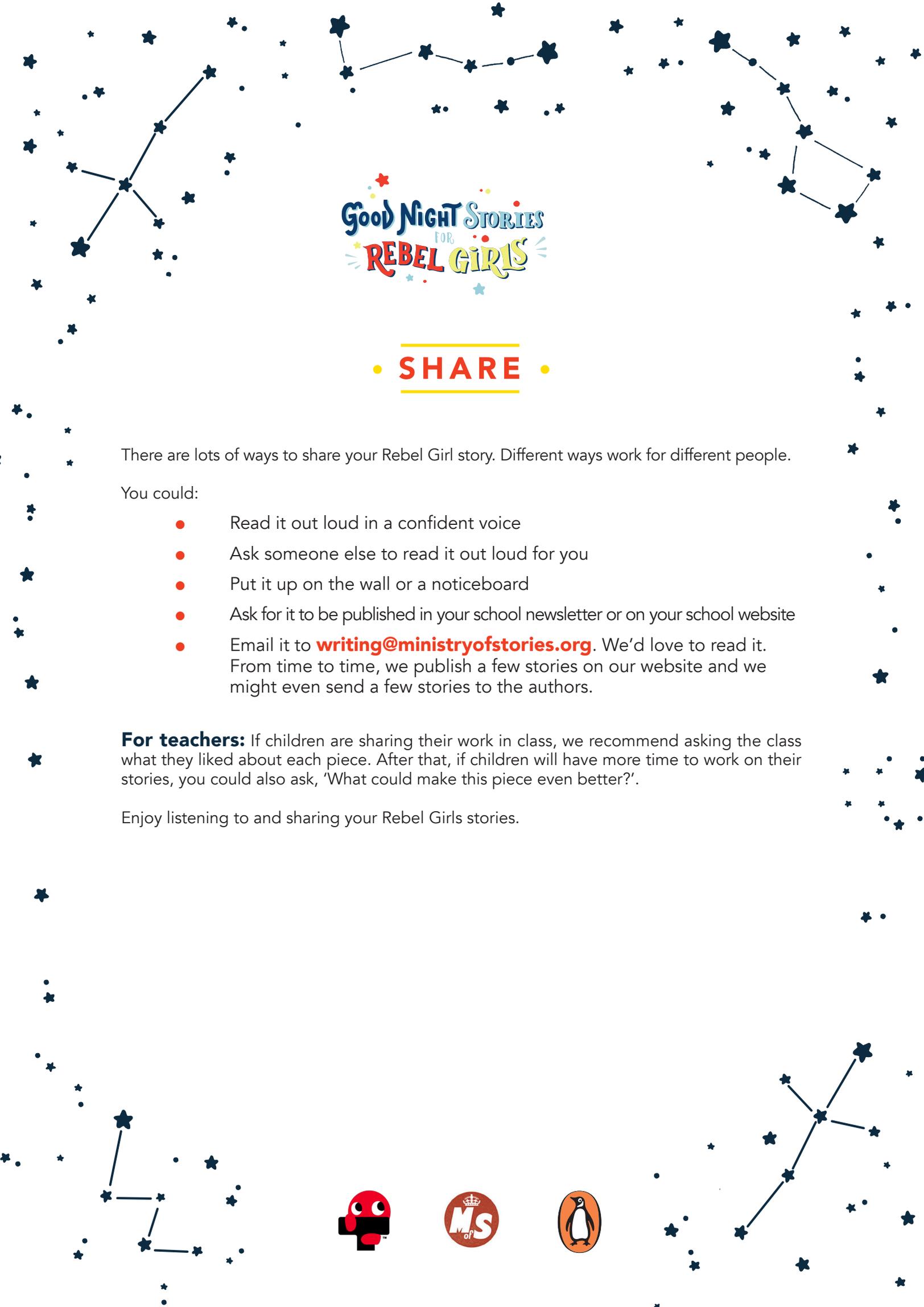
### • WRITE •

Now write your own Rebel Girl story about the woman or girl you chose. Try to imagine things about their life: where they lived, what they liked doing and how they felt at different moments in their life. Stories are best when they help us imagine things by including sounds, smells, tastes, sights and emotions.

Include some speech in your story and at least one feeling.

We recommend spending about 15 minutes writing. If you want to do more, take a short break (or at school do some sharing) and then come back to it.





## Good Night Stories FOR REBEL GIRLS

### • SHARE •

There are lots of ways to share your Rebel Girl story. Different ways work for different people.

You could:

- Read it out loud in a confident voice
- Ask someone else to read it out loud for you
- Put it up on the wall or a noticeboard
- Ask for it to be published in your school newsletter or on your school website
- Email it to [writing@ministryofstories.org](mailto:writing@ministryofstories.org). We'd love to read it. From time to time, we publish a few stories on our website and we might even send a few stories to the authors.

**For teachers:** If children are sharing their work in class, we recommend asking the class what they liked about each piece. After that, if children will have more time to work on their stories, you could also ask, 'What could make this piece even better?'.

Enjoy listening to and sharing your Rebel Girls stories.



Good Night Stories  
FOR  
REBEL GIRLS

Name:

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Choose one Rebel Girl and write their story.

Think about why you chose them and what you admire about them.



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Good Night Stories  
FOR  
REBEL GIRLS

• DRAW YOUR REBEL GIRL •



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## • FADUMO DAYIB •

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POLITICIAN

Once there was a girl whose childhood was spent trying to escape from war. Fadumo and her family had to stay one step ahead of the fighting, and she could not go to school. She did not learn to read and write until she was fourteen.

One day her mother told her, "You must leave the country. Take your brother and sister and go!" Fadumo knew that her mother was right: war-torn Somalia was one of the most dangerous places in the world for children.

When they finally arrived in Finland, they could do all the things that children can do when they live in a peaceful, democratic country. They had a home and beds. They had food every day. They could play, and go to school. They were never beaten, and they could see a doctor for free if they were ill.

But Fadumo never forgot about Somalia.

She wanted to learn everything she could so she could go back to her own country and help her people regain freedom and peace. After earning three master's degrees, she left her family in Finland and started to work with the United Nations to set up hospitals across Somalia.

"I have to be there," she told her husband.

Today, Fadumo is Somalia's first female presidential candidate. No Somali woman has ever run for president before because it's extremely dangerous. But Fadumo has no doubts: "My mother always told me, 'You hold all life's possibilities in the palm of your hands.' And that's true."

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BORN 1973

SOMALIA

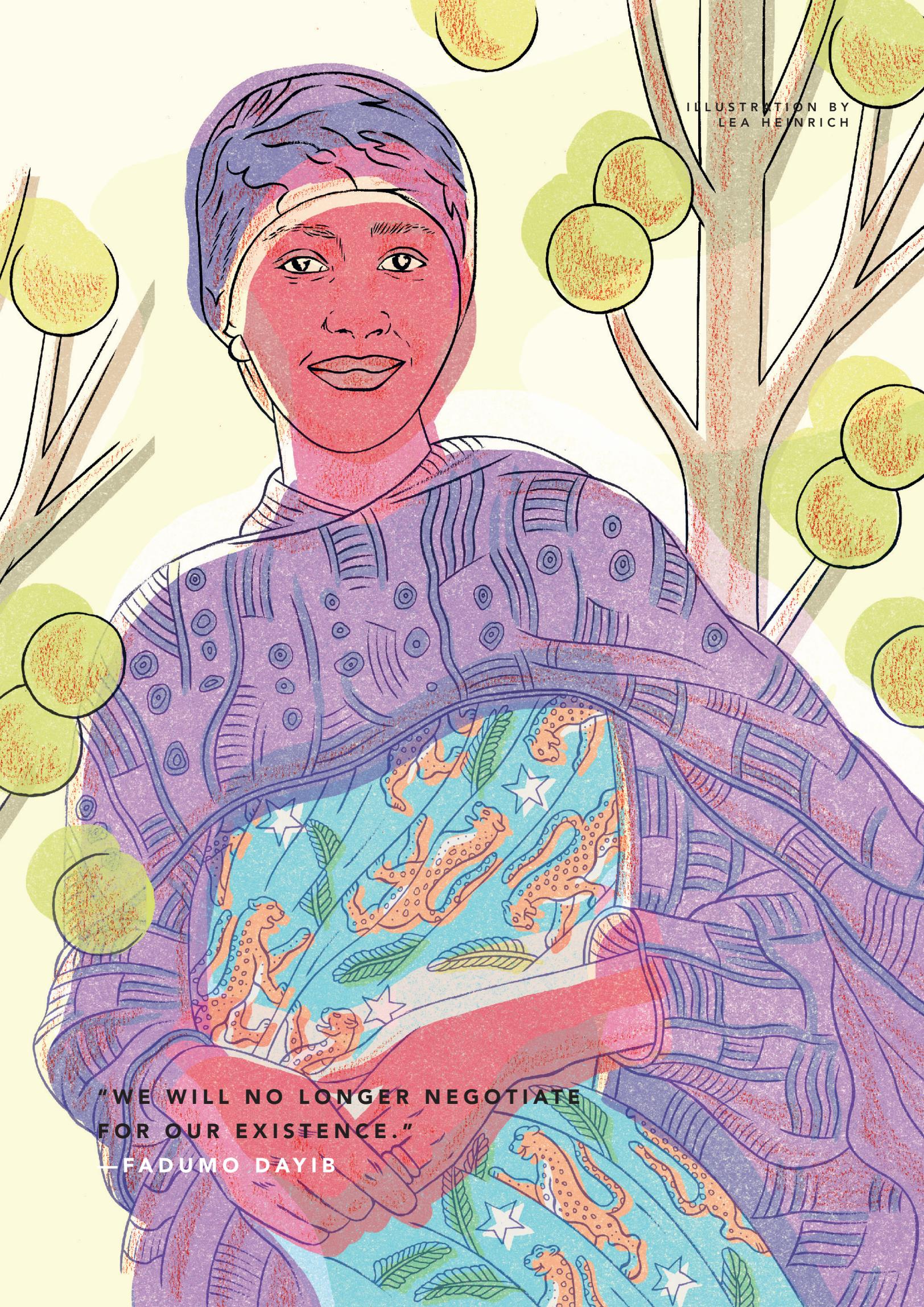
An illustration of a woman with short dark hair, wearing a purple patterned sweater. She is holding a red book with a tiger pattern. The background features stylized trees with yellow and green foliage. The text "ILLUSTRATION BY LEA HEINRICH" is in the top right corner.

ILLUSTRATION BY  
LEA HEINRICH

**"WE WILL NO LONGER NEGOTIATE  
FOR OUR EXISTENCE."**

**—FADUMO DAYIB**

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# • ISABEL ALLENDE •

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WRITER

**N**ot long ago in Chile, there lived a passionate young girl called Isabel.

Isabel protested every time she was treated differently for being a girl. Whenever someone told her she could not do something “because she was a girl,” her heart ignited with indignation.

She loved writing and was fascinated by people and their life stories, so she decided to become a journalist.

One day, she interviewed a famous Chilean poet called Pablo Neruda. “You have such a vivid imagination, you should be writing novels, not articles for a newspaper,” he told her.

A few years later, Isabel got some sad news: her grandfather was dying. She was far from home, in Venezuela, and could not go back to Chile to visit him, so she started writing him a letter.

Once she started writing, she found she couldn’t stop. She wrote about her family, about people who were alive and people who were dead. She wrote about a cruel dictator, about passionate love stories, a terrible earthquake, supernatural powers, and ghosts.

The letter grew so long that it turned into a novel.

The House of the Spirits became wildly successful, making Isabel one of the most famous novelists of our time. She has written twenty more books and won more than fifty literary awards.

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BORN AUGUST 2, 1942

CHILE

ILLUSTRATION BY  
PAOLA ROLLO

"WRITE WHAT SHOULD NOT  
BE FORGOTTEN."

—ISABEL ALLENDE





# Good Night Stories FOR REBEL GIRLS

## • FRAN KIRBY •

Once upon a time, there was a girl who longed to be a footballer and play for Chelsea F.C. For that, she needed practice, so one day Fran went to the park to practice her footwork. She saw some boys playing football, so she thought, "Why not join in?" She went to ask if she could play.

"You can't play with us, you're just a girl, I bet that you can't play."

With that, she left. But for her, she was more determined. She went and asked her mother if she could play for the local team. Her mother said yes. In two months time, she was scheduled to meet the England team. Little did she know that in years to come, she'd be the best women's football player in the country.

**By Hannah, Year 6, Manorfield Primary School**





## Good Night Stories FOR REBEL GIRLS

### • MUM •

Once upon a time, there was a girl called Mum (that's what I call her). One day, she had a son called Jacob (me!). She had a happy newborn. But then, people started to say, "You can't do this, you're a girl, you can't do that, you're a girl." She got annoyed.

Most people say that fighting is a bad thing, not this time. A cutthroat gang was picking on Jacob. Mum's heart ignited with anger. She karate chopped every one of the members of the gang and saved Jacob. So she broke a rule, in a good way.

By Khalid, Year 6, Manorfield Primary School

### • FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE •

Once upon a time, there was a person called Florence Nightingale who worked in a hospital. When a war was happening, soldiers kept dying in hospital so she decided to make a presentation to try and change stuff. She used a pie chart which she had invented. When she had finished the person who owned the hospital said, 'Ok, we'll try it.'

By Francis, Year 4, Lyndhurst Primary School





# Good Night Stories FOR REBEL GIRLS

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## • Q & A WITH AUTHORS •

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Questions by children

### **What inspired you to write this book?**

We run a company that makes playgrounds and toys for children. We noticed that there weren't many books for children about women role models. Stereotypes about girls and boys are often found in children's books as well as books for adults. Parents and carers were worried about this too. That's why we decided to create this book.

### **Do any of the girls in the book relate to you?**

There is a little piece of us in each of the stories! It's been magic to work surrounded by all these great examples of leadership, courage, and compassion. Being Italians, we particularly love the stories of the Formula 1 pilot Lella Lombardi, who is the only woman in history who has scored points in a Formula 1 race (and who learned how to drive delivering steaks and salami with her dad's truck in the hills of Piedmont, Italy) and the cyclist Alfonsina Strada, who fought for her right to race in the Giro d'Italia, one of the toughest cycling competitions in the world.

Serena Williams, Hillary Clinton, and J.K. Rowling are our role models today.





# Good Night Stories FOR REBEL GIRLS

## Is this book only for girls?

We chose this title because we believe that focusing on one gender does not exclude the others. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they grew up in a world where boys didn't find something boring just because it reads "for girls" in the title?

(Plus, boys love these stories!)

## How long did it take you to write the book?

It took one year in total, including researching and designing the campaign. We had tested out the interest for Rebel Girls by sending samples of some of the stories and art in Timbuktu's weekly newsletter.



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

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Foundation



The Breadsticks Foundation

To find out more about the Ministry of Stories and how we can work with your class, get in touch with us at [schools@ministryofstories.org](mailto:schools@ministryofstories.org) or call 020 7729 4159

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