



Anya and a Thousand Fish

Dyslexia-Friendly Edition

Accessible Reading Project

A calmer, clearer picture-book edition for children who need more accessible reading materials.



June Antson

Children's Author & Language Educator

The Dyslexia Landscape in the UK and the Netherlands

Dyslexia affects a significant number of children in both the UK and the Netherlands, though each country measures and reports it differently.

In the UK, dyslexia is commonly estimated to affect around **1 in 10** people, and a 2026 British Dyslexia Association report estimates around **900,000** dyslexic children in English schools. In the Netherlands, Dutch reporting on scientific estimates commonly places dyslexia around **3–5%** of pupils, while Dutch Inspectorate of Education data found dyslexia statements rising from **4.2%** among pupils in years 3 to 8 to **7.5%** by the end of primary school.

Together, these figures suggest that some children may not be formally recognised or clearly visible in the system, even when reading difficulties are already affecting their school experience.

Dyslexia is part of a wider learning-differences landscape: ADHD, developmental language disorder and other attention, language or processing differences can further affect how children experience reading and written information.

For children under 10, this is especially important. Many are still being noticed, assessed, or informally supported while their relationship with reading is already forming.

Sources: British Dyslexia Association, Dyslexia overview; British Dyslexia Association, Lost in the system: Councils' blind spot on dyslexia, 2026; NOS, Wat is dyslexie eigenlijk en hoeveel mensen hebben het?, 2017; Inspectie van het Onderwijs, Dyslexieverklaringen: verschillen tussen scholen nader bekeken,

About The Dyslexia-Friendly Edition

Anya and a Thousand Fish is a picture book about a girl who discovers a mysterious pond and meets Mudrik, a small frog who helps her understand what is happening inside her.

The story uses nature imagery to talk about emotions, self-acceptance, and regulation. The pond becomes a picture of emotional states: sometimes calm, sometimes lively, sometimes stormy. Within the pond, the fish symbolise feelings in a poetic but easily recognisable way. This gives children concrete images they can see, point to, and discuss, instead of asking them to explain emotions in abstract language.

This dyslexia- and other learning difficulties-friendly edition keeps the beauty and emotional depth of the original story, but adapts the reading experience. It uses clearer text presentation, more generous spacing, shorter reading sections, calmer page flow, and less visual clutter.

The aim is to reduce friction for children who may find reading tiring, stressful, or discouraging.

This edition is not a simplified afterthought.

It is a complete story, carefully reshaped to give children a fairer and kinder starting point with reading.

Why This Project Exists

I am June Antson, a children's author and language educator based in the Netherlands.

One year, while teaching, I worked with three students whose reading difficulties made me look more closely at dyslexia.

At first, I did what many young teachers do. I tried harder and changed methods. I looked for better exercises and changed textbooks.

Reading remained a barrier. Eventually, I realised the problem was not just which method I used. The materials and reading tasks themselves were not supporting the way my students processed written information.

That experience changed the way I think about writing for children and shaped my understanding of what accessibility means in practice.

And this is why I am creating a dyslexia- and ADHD-friendly edition of Anya and a Thousand Fish.

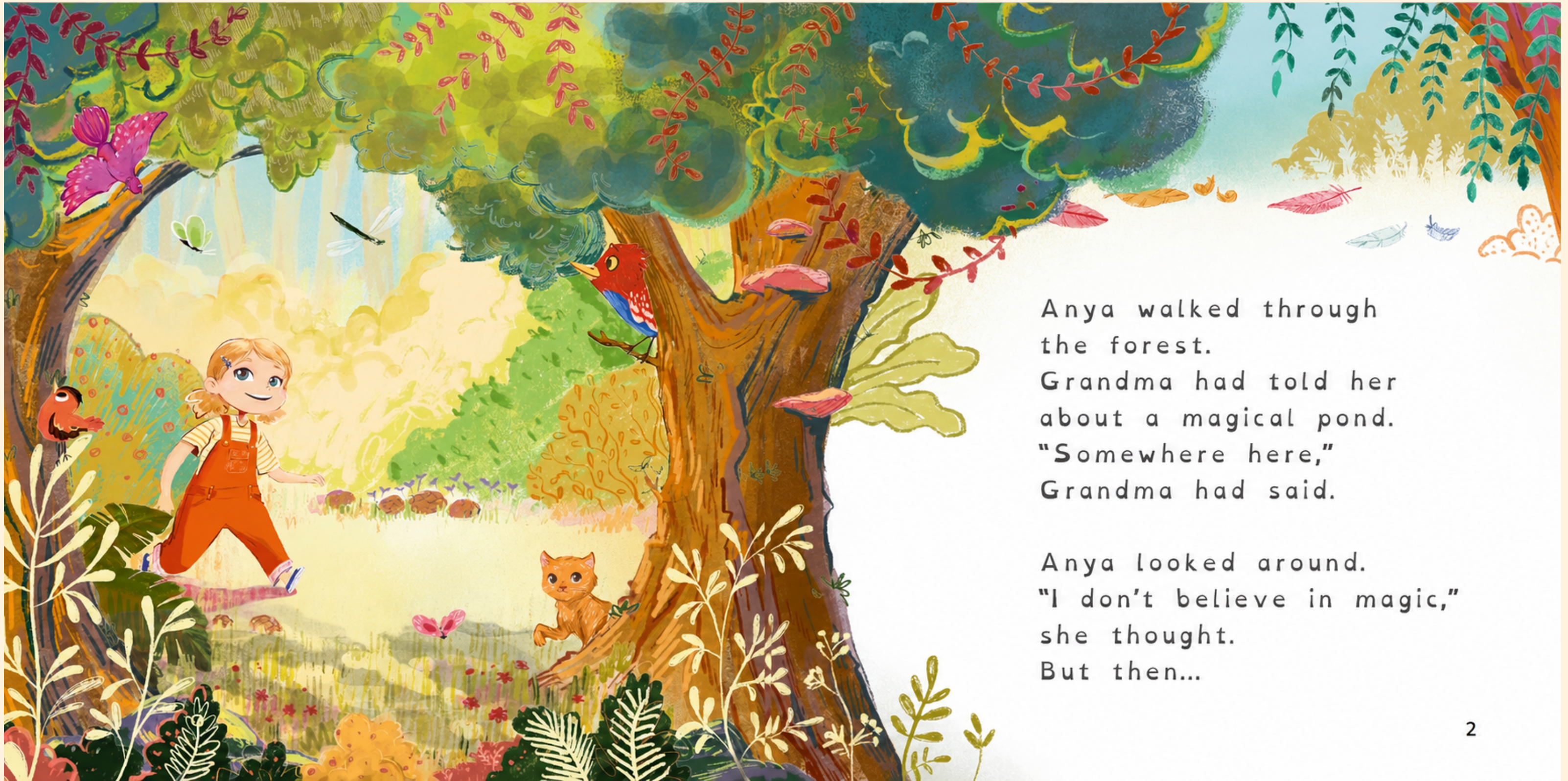
This edition is my attempt to create a book that feels clear, calm, accessible, and inviting from the first page.

The book keeps the original story's emotional depth and sense of wonder, but changes the way the reader meets the page.

Accessibility should feel intentional, not clinical.

Children with dyslexia, ADHD, and reading difficulties deserve books that respect both their needs and their imagination.

Inside the Book



Anya walked through
the forest.
Grandma had told her
about a magical pond.
"Somewhere here,"
Grandma had said.

Anya looked around.
"I don't believe in magic,"
she thought.
But then...

There it was. The pond.
Big. Bright. Beautiful.

Ducks swam across the water.
Butterflies danced in the air.
Anya smiled.





"Water is like feelings,"
said Mudrik. "Sometimes calm.
Sometimes not."

Anya looked at the pond.
"And I am like the water," she
said. "And like the fish. Always
Different."

Mudrik smiled.

"Yes.
Different is not wrong."

Professional Endorsement

A Specialist View on the Project's Educational and Emotional Value

I am a Speech and Language Therapist, trained in Brazil, with 20 years of professional experience in child language and communication development, a master's degree in Human Communication Disorders, and over 10 years of experience supporting bilingual children and families across educational settings in the UK.

Based on my professional experience, I strongly endorse Anya and a Thousand Fish as a high-quality, evidence-informed resource for children with dyslexia and ADHD. The book has been developed, with careful attention to accessible language, appropriate vocabulary, structured reading support, and a reading experience that encourages communication, shared reading, and emotional understanding.

Its focus on emotional self-regulation is particularly valuable, helping children recognise that emotions naturally change and providing an important opportunity to build resilience and self-awareness.

I fully support the dissemination of this project and believe it will be a valuable resource for families, educators, and professionals working to promote literacy, language development, and emotional wellbeing in neurodiverse children.

Priscila Faissola Caporali Verissimo

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Priscila Caporali". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Priscila" and the last name "Caporali" clearly distinguishable.

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Contact & Links

Thank you for taking the time to read my brief!

View the **Project page**:

<https://www.juneantson.com/dyslexia-friendly-books-partnership>

Special editions:

www.juneantson.com/anya-thousand-fish-dyslexia-friendly-editions



See more about my work:

www.juneantson.com



For sponsorship, endorsement, placement or further partnership enquiries, please contact:

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