

The Midnight Panther

Written and Illustrated By: Poonam Mistry

Synopsis: Panther loves the rainforest, but sometimes he feels as though he doesn't belong in the same way the other animals do--especially the other big cats. Panther desperately wishes he had the same bold qualities as Tiger, Lion, and Leopard. Through some adventures, Panther finally discovers his own strength and beauty among the stars in the night sky.

Suggested Reading Date: October 29 (National Cat Day); November 29 (International Jaguar Day); February 13 (Self-Love Day); May 3 (International Leopard Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss: Read the dedication at the beginning of the book: "to everyone who was ever made to feel different." At the end of the book, discuss the dedication. What does the dedication mean? What does it mean to feel like you belong?
- Create a display: Use gold and silver paper and have students write what makes them unique to display in the library; alternately, use black paper and have the students write their words with gold or silver markers.
- Art Style: Learn about Kalumkari Art - <https://www.childrensartmuseumofindia.com/post/kalamkari-art>
- Watch a tutorial to learn about the Kalumkari Art Style (perhaps making a bookmark using the simple video tutorial): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSyO7fDM-pg>
- Research the similarities and differences in Big Cats: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/big-cat-week>
- Learn about the genetics of Black Panthers: <https://www.britannica.com/animal/black-panther-mammal>

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://www.poonam-mistry.com/>
- Research and Discussion Questions from The Carnegies Award (formerly Greenaway): https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/The_Midnight_Panther_Shortlist_Pack1.pdf
- SciShow Kids: Roar! Meet the Big Cats! - https://youtu.be/8cQmky_wQao?si=pYrdNCHsx395_8m

Text to Text Connections:

- *I Am a Cat* by Galia Bernstein
- *A Boy and a Jaguar* by Alan Rabinowitz and illustrated by Catia Chien
- *Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho and illustrated by Dung Ho
- *Flat Cat* by Tara Lazar
- *Big* by Vashti Harrison

Created By: Erin Quarterman