



Collins Big Cat

Finny the Fairy Fish

Band 08/Purple

*Diana McCaulay, Illustrated by Stacey Byer,
Prepared for publication by Collins Big
Cat*

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Rights HCUE
Subject
Readership General

Diana McCaulay is a Jamaican writer, environmental activist, and lifelong resident of Jamaica's capital city of Kingston. She is the founder of the Jamaica Environment Trust, has written four novels, and numerous short stories and articles. Her upcoming book, *Daylight Come*, will be published by Peepal Tree Press in September 2020.

Born in the Caribbean, Stacey Byer graduated with a degree in Illustration from Ringling College of Art and Design. She returned to her island Grenada to use her skills to promote art education in schools. She has illustrated many educational materials that have become a permanent part of the local school curriculum.

Collins Big Cat supports every primary child on their reading journey from phonics to fluency. Top authors and illustrators have created fiction and non-fiction books that children love to read. Book banded for guided and independent reading, there are reading notes in the back, comprehensive teaching and assessment support and ebooks available.

Finny is a rare fairy fish living on a Caribbean coral reef. He has never seen another fairy fish, until one day he sees himself in a conch shell mirror and realizes he is different from everyone else. Finny believes he is ugly and worthless, but his friends persuade him to leave the reef and journey to the deep sea where an elder dolphin explains to him that difference is to be celebrated.

Finny the Fairy Fish deals with themes of tolerance, belonging and celebration of diversity, using a Caribbean coral reef as the setting. The book introduces the types of creatures living on a reef and some of the threats facing the sea. It also encourages children to identify and talk about emotions.

Purple/Band 8 books offer developing readers literary language, with some challenging vocabulary.

Ideas for reading in the back of the book provide practical support and stimulating activities.