

Milly, Molly®



"We may look different
but we feel the same"®



www.millymolly.com

Little girls tackle big issues

Two unpretentious New Zealand-grown girls with good values are tackling some of the most challenging social issues facing today's society.

The title characters of Gill Pittar's Milly, Molly book series – one fair, one dark – tackle issues like sexual abuse and AIDS, obesity, violence and respect. They also espouse themes of honesty, responsibility, consideration and coping with grief. In so doing the 64 story books in the series are empowering children, building self-esteem and providing valuable resources for Police, teachers and parents. Their inherent simplicity has already made them firm favourites for millions of children throughout the world.

The Milly, Molly series, launched at the 2001 Frankfurt Book Fair, promote the acceptance of diversity with the central message "we may look different but we feel the same".

Written for children between four to eight years and sold to 109 countries in 26 languages, the books follow Milly, Molly and their multicultural friends through a variety of adventures and experiences.

The launch of a 13-episode television series at Cannes in October sealed a contract with Australia's ABC network and negotiations are advancing with networks throughout the world.

Author Gill Pittar says Milly, Molly address difficult issues in a way to which children can easily and enjoyably relate. This allows teachers and parents to introduce discussion, thought and change in a manner that best suits their own philosophies and cultures.

"Academic education must be accompanied by character education from a young age. Children's books are the perfect vehicle for that."

The author knows full well the debilitating effects of low self-esteem. Sexually abused as a child, she says her career was curbed as a result.

"Education as a child would have made all the difference. If only I'd had the support and confidence to say 'don't touch my body, it belongs to me'."

That's one of the phrases from Milly, Molly and Meg, one of three of her books dealing with child abuse and anger and adopted by the NZ Police as key resources for promoting personal safety and strength.

"Character education can empower a child to take ownership and control of their body, their world and destiny. Education is the only long-term solution to world problems like child abuse, obesity, respect, violence and destruction of the environment.

"Children must also be taught that health and well-being, good diet and exercise are their own responsibility."