

# *The Gifted Kid Book Series*

by Gloria van Donge



*Chelsea*



*Chadwick*



*Christina*



*Chevron*



*Charlotte*

*'A welcome expansion of my cheetah metaphor!'*  
*Stephanie S Tolan M.A. (Award Winning Author)*

Author :

Gloria van Donge

## *Media Kit*

Category:

Cheetah cubs - Juvenile fiction.

Animals - Juvenile fiction.

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# Author Bio

Gloria van Donge is a mother of a gifted child, but she only discovered this in her retirement! She recalls that at the age of 3 her daughter would recite story books on long car trips. All it took was the first sentence, *"Once upon a time"* and the words would tumble out. There was no stopping until *"they lived happily ever after"*.

As she grew, her daughter's level of empathy for her classmates often resulted in lengthy discussions, after school. She was a rapid learner. She processed information very quickly. Her inquisitive mind often asked more and more questions, often about deep subjects. She was a flexible thinker and creative problem-solver. Gloria didn't make the connection.

It wasn't until after her daughter became an educator and worked with schools to provide quality Gifted Education across Brisbane, Queensland, that Gloria learned about the area of giftedness. For the first time, Gloria realised that her daughter had grown up as a gifted child. It was this journey of discovery that sparked the creation of these books. There was a burning desire to help gifted kids understand who they are and to help them grow up feeling wonderful about themselves and their abilities.

So Gloria developed a family of five, playful cheetah cubs, each with an area of giftedness. Each of the characters face a struggle, common to those often encountered by gifted children.

Bronwyn, her daughter, took an active role in leading a design thinking approach, shaping the tone of the stories and providing expert guidance.

Gloria's series of five picture books creates a doorway into the world of the gifted and talented child.

Bronwyn and Gloria hope these stories will help gifted children talk to their parents about being gifted and assist parents to understand the key issues a gifted child could face.

Gloria van Donge B.A. B.A.B.St.



You can email Gloria or subscribe to her website.

Email: [giftedkidzone@gmail.com](mailto:giftedkidzone@gmail.com),

Website: [www.giftedkidzone.com](http://www.giftedkidzone.com)



# Books Bio

My series of 5 books is especially written to affirm gifted children. It is multi-layered and designed to grow with the child. Each book tells the tale of a young cheetah cub who has been given one area of giftedness. The cubs explore their world by playing games. These are simple, clear stories; but the implications are considerably more complex.

The second section, *Children's Choice*, extends the ideas behind the storyline and develops activities to engage the children and stimulate their creativity.

The third section is written for adults. The *Parents' Pages* explain the purpose of the story by drawing attention to some of the ways gifted children think. There are points to ponder under the headings, *Think Time* and *Target Thoughts*. *Talk Together* lists a number of questions designed to generate discussion that can go on and on and on.

The final page, *Family Tree*, distinguishes each of the cheetah cubs by highlighting their area of giftedness and their trademark.

*Happy reading, exploring and talking!*

Author: Gloria van Donge B.A. B.A.B.St.



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# *Target Audience*

## *Who should read?*

- Children in general
- Gifted children - 2-9 years of age
- Parents & grandparents of gifted children
- Teachers
- Counsellors
- Psychologists



## *Benefits of the Books*

### *For the Gifted child*

- To entertain children.
- To provide an initiative for the gifted child to reach out
- To stimulate an understanding of giftedness
- To engender acceptance of giftedness
- To encourage the child to maximize their capacities, physically, intellectually and socially
- To provide a platform to freedom – to grow and flourish

### *For Parents of Gifted children.*

- To stimulate dialogue between gifted children and their parents.
- Inform and explain some of the issues gifted children may face.

### *For Professionals*

- To illustrate acceptance of differences
- To show how giftedness can be inclusive of peers
- To showcase writing with a purpose
- To illustrate story writing – narrative, dialogue, descriptive



# Specialist Reviews



Deep, lasting, natural confidence is based on authenticity and the full realisation of our own unique talents and strengths. Gloria, Bronwyn and Pratima eloquently present insightful and vivid stories about high-ability in the wider population. Charming, accessible, and magical. The best part about the books to me is the far-reaching message; it is sustainable and can elicit a longer conversation that can go on and on with family, friends and through education!

**Alan D. Thompson. Founder of Life Architect.**  
National Gifted Children's Coordinator for Australian Mensa.



Gloria has a talent for using adorable characters to illuminate the delightfully nuanced thinking of gifted children. There is a tenderness to the characters and a tone of celebration of their uniqueness that all children would enjoy. The parent section is thought provoking and captures the essence of the joys and challenges parents and children face. Reading the books you cannot help but smile and I cannot wait to read them to my child. I highly recommend this book series to all parents of gifted children.

**Dr Kirsten Baulch MBBS FRACGP GCBA**  
Mentor at Extension Education



Gloria van Donge's delightful story about Chevron, the cheetah cub and his group of friends, provides a way for children to identify with others' strengths, interests and talents. Within the context of the cheetah cub's experiences, there are many opportunities to discuss with children the implications of being different and finding creative ways to relate to others. Expanding upon Stephanie Tolan's iconic story of the caged cheetah as a metaphor for the unchallenged gifted child, Chevron and the other cubs enjoy challenges, develop talents and successfully negotiate relationships. Insightful prompts are available to help adults guide children to explore their interests, think about ideas, discuss concepts such as identity and authenticity, within stories that hold great appeal for both children and adults.

## *The Gifted Kid Book Series*

by Gloria van Donge



*Stephanie S Tolan*

*M.A. (Award Winning Author)*

*'A welcome expansion of my cheetah metaphor!'*



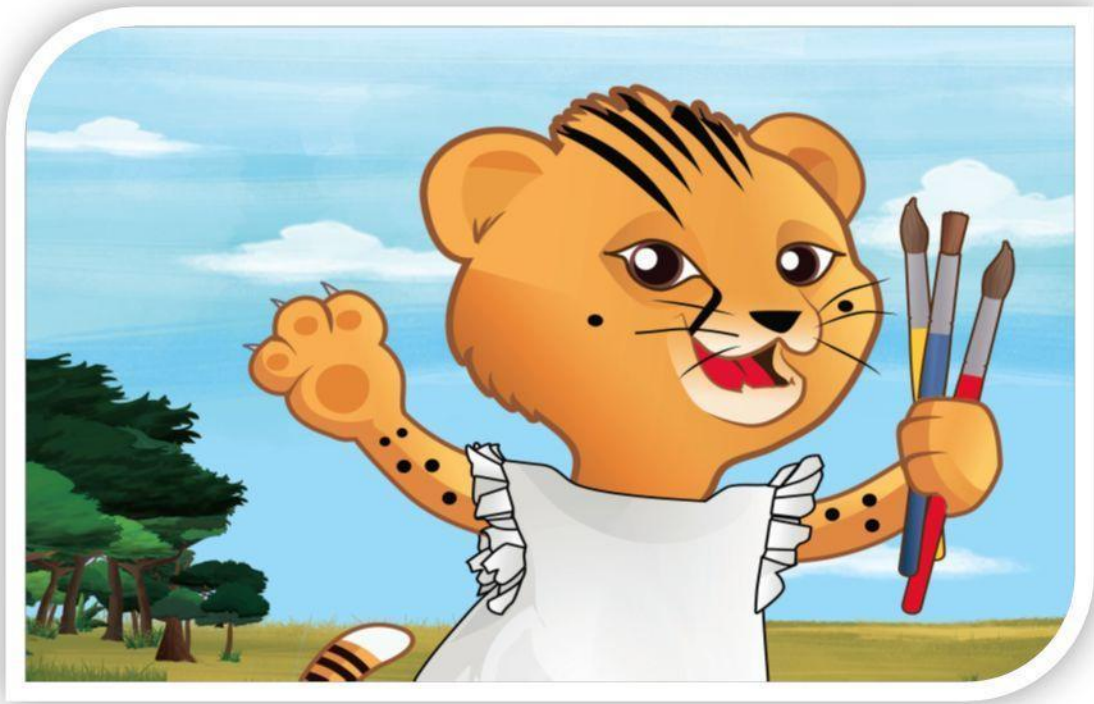
*Dear Reader,*

*Whenever and wherever you meet  
Chelsea, Chadwick, Christina, Chevron  
and Charlotte in real life,  
will you help them value their giftedness  
and embrace their possibilities.  
Will you help them to be accepted  
and to be free?*

*[www.giftedkidzone.com](http://www.giftedkidzone.com)*

By reading about Chevron and his adventures, children are encouraged to find themselves and learn how to develop friendships. This engaging series of books provide a fantasy world in which children can safely examine real world issues. What a wonderful way for caring adults to support gifted children.

**Michele Juratowitch, Director, Clearing Skies**



## *Book Excerpt*

Christina's white boots etched dance moves in the dirt. She e-a-s-e-d into her art smock. She tied a perfect bow. *"Today, I will do everything perfectly, not like last week when my colouring-in was a MESS!"*

Lion, Tiger and Leopard collected their things. There was a twinkle in their eye because they knew they could do whatever they liked in art class today.

Christina settled down at her tree stump. She squared up one sheet of paper. She placed her paintbrushes evenly at the side.

*"What are you doing, Christina?"* asked Lion. *"Why did you bring your paintbrushes?"* puzzled Tiger. *"We don't need them for paw painting today,"* said Leopard.

*"I do need them today, because I want to do everything perfectly. Paw painting isn't real painting and I want to make a proper picture."* Christina flattened the frills of her art smock. She dipped the tip of her brush in the yellow paint and... *"Oh NO!"* she cried.

The pot toppled over. Thick yellow glug oozed over her page. It dripped down and stained her smock. *"How could I be so silly?"* she cried. She flicked the goo off her smock. She crumpled up her page and walked straight to the bin.

At the same time, Lion dipped her paws in blue paint and stomped on her page. Tiger plastered his page with yellow paint and sprinkled it with sand. Leopard ploughed his toy truck through the red paint and peppered his page with tyre treads.



# *Interview Questions*

## *About being an author*

1. Most authors write one book at a time. Why did you write five books?
2. What ties these five books together?
3. How long did it take?
4. How did you keep the continuity for the books over such an extended period?
5. Just leafing through your books, I can see they don't conform to the usual format. Can you tell me about that?
6. What did you learn in the process?
7. Would you describe some of your characters?
8. You also have some Checkpoint cards. Can you tell me about those?
9. You have published independently. What does that mean?
10. What advantages are there by following this course of action?
11. What are the disadvantages?
12. What was your motivation in writing, especially for gifted children?

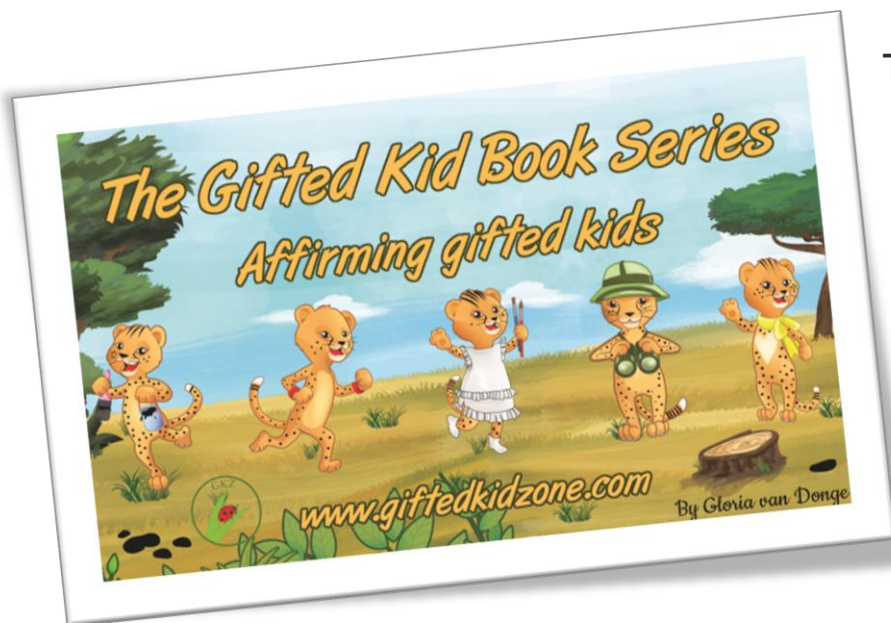
## *About giftedness*

- a. What is giftedness?
- b. Does giftedness express itself in the same way for all gifted children?
- c. Can your readers find these characteristics in your books?
- d. Are there different levels of giftedness?
- e. Is it easy to recognize?
- f. Do gifted children need special help?
- g. Is giftedness worth treasuring?
- h. What do you hope your books will achieve?
- i. What tips would you give to parents of young gifted children?



# Celebrity Endorsement

Stephanie S. Tolan, M.A. playwright and Newbery Honour winning author of 24 critically acclaimed novels for children and young adults, is co-author of 'Guiding the Gifted Child'. Since its publication in 1982, she has served as a consultant to parents and educators about the social, emotional, spiritual and academic needs of the gifted. Her article, 'Is It a Cheetah?' has been translated into more than 20 languages and reprinted by individuals, publications and organisations for the gifted all over the world, many of whom have adopted the Cheetah as a logo.



This series of five books for young gifted kids, is a delightful introduction to the five "over-excitabilities" that so often affect the life experiences of the gifted.

Using five cheetah cub characters, each of whom represents one of these intensities, the stories explore how they affect

both the children who have them and the other children they interact with in their daily lives. *The stories are simple and clear, but the implications are considerably more complex.*

Each story is followed by Child pages, with suggested activities for exploring the subject and Adult pages to help adults both understand these intensities and help the children they raise (or teach) deal with them and the social interactions the intensities create. The illustrations are wonderfully done and will appeal to the intended readers. These books do not "feel" like texts, and are *a welcome expansion of my cheetah metaphor!*

*Stephanie S Tolan M.A. (Award Winning Author)*



# *Connect with Gloria*



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