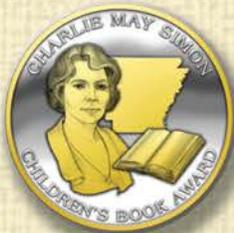
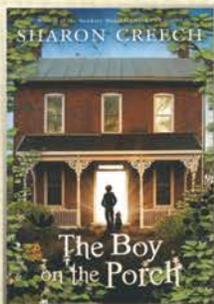


OVERVIEWS

2016-2017 School Year



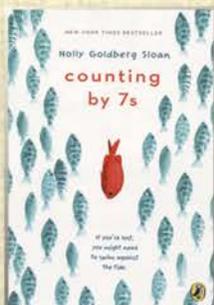
**Grades
4-6**



Winner

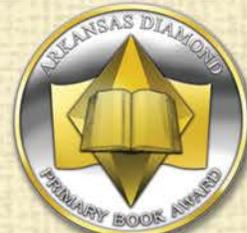


Honor

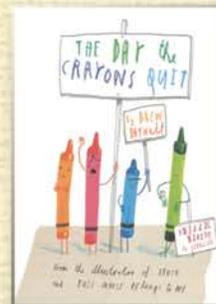


Third

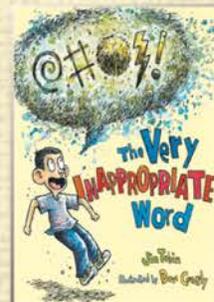
Winners for 2015-2016



**Grades
K-3**



Winner



Honor



Third

Almost 59,000
Arkansas Students
Grades K-6
Voted For Their
Favorite Book
In The 2015-2016
School Year!

Please Join The
Group In
2016-2017

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PERMA-BOUND BOOKS

Brief Synopsis Of Each Book

(Arkansas Diamond Award Books K-3)

Page 2. Ivan, The Shopping Mall Gorilla: How would you like to spend 27 years in a cage without anyone of your kind being around, and only people watching your every move---every day?

Page 3. My Grandfather's Coat: Grandfather came to America from England when he was just a young man. He became a tailor and made himself a nice overcoat. As it wore out, he decided not to throw the rags away!

Page 4. My Teacher Is A Monster! Or, is it maybe it's just that I don't like all the rules she has created. What's wrong with me sailing my airplane across the room or, if I keep my voice real low when I talk in class?

Page 5. Elizabeth, Queen Of The Seas: Why can't those city fathers and mothers understand why I like the fresh water in the Avon River? To be an elephant seal, eight feet long and weighing twelve hundred pounds, I'm agile!

Page 6. Where's Mommy? I don't understand the thoughts behind this story. What does it matter if a colony of mice has moved into the basement? That shouldn't bother the humans living upstairs. Let's all get along, please!

Page 7. Catch That Cookie: I'm agreeing with Marshall on this one. I've never heard of a gingerbread cookie actually running away. Someone must be kidding---of course. The fleeing cookies had to have been eaten....

Page 8. Meanwhile, Back At The Ranch: Sound like a real tall Texas tale! Someone in England inherits 35 million dollars and a ranch in Texas, USA. Just as Tulip did in 1870, I too would catch the next boat out of town.

Page 9. Sequoia: Neat story, to read and discuss with a class. The content of nearly every page in this book is loaded with facts and visuals about nature, the seasons, and wildlife. Also good for further student research.

Page 10. Beauty And The Beast: Baby daughter seems to have a mature thinking mind, compared to her three older sisters. After her father gets into trouble with a huge ugly beast, it's Beauty that wants to take the blame.

Page 11. Poor Doreen: A Fishy Tale: Doreen is actually out for a leisure swim to see a distant cousin who lived up the creek a ways. She couldn't resist the dragon fly that almost seemed suspended in the water, it was lunchtime.

Page 12. I Wanna Go Home: Alex seems to be whining again! This is the third book of the "I Wanna" series. Grandma and Grandpa have invited the children to their retirement home for the weekend. Alex is not happy!

Page 13. Fiona's Lace: The Hughes family is moving from Ireland to Chicago because Fiona's father's job at the mill ended. This story is sad, but has several bright moments too.

Page 14. Blizzard: This story covers the great blizzard that hit the northeast United States in 1978. The author was actually in that blizzard. Living through that storm featured danger, limited travel, and taking chances.

Page 15. Albie's First Word: We become acquainted with Albert Einstein (Albie) when he was only three-years-old, and had not yet spoken his first word. His immediate family has about exhausted everything recommended.

(Charlie May Simon Award Books 4-6)

Page 17. The Crossover: This is a powerful story of a basketball family. We see twin boys in junior high school as they compete, not only against their school's opponents, but at times they become aggressive with each other.

Page 18. El Deafo: This is a Graphic Novel book. Cece Bell is the author/illustrator and provides frequent comments throughout the text. She explains in detail her health problems beginning when she was four-years-old.

Page 19. He Has Shot The President: The story gives vivid details of the last moments of President Abraham Lincoln's life on that day in April, 1875 when John Wilkes Booth shot him. There were no civilian or military guards in the theater.

Page 20. The Map Trap: Andrew Clements has once again involved the students and the teaching staff with this novel. Alton, is determined to be a cartographer, and he is making huge progress. The students will enjoy it.

Page 21. Under The Egg: It is a good mystery story, to be enjoyed by both girls and boys. Theo (a girl) plays a major role as she follows up on her grandfather's dying words, after he was killed in a car accident. Read it, please!

Page 22. Winter Sky: Climbing the high ladder on a big fire to rescue a person is one job that "Pop" still loves to do. But someone is setting small fires scattered throughout the area and that makes folks nervous.

Page 23. Absolutely Almost: Albie has learning difficulties. He is under pressure by his parents, the nerds at school, and the school staff to get "his act" straightened out. Mom and Dad finally hired a nanny to help him.

Page 24. Courage For Beginners: Mom refuses to leave the house, night or day. Dad was climbing a tree and fell several feet to the ground, and ended up in the hospital. That leaves little brat sister, and Mysti to carry the load.

Page 25. The Secret Hum Of A Daisy: After 12 years away, Grace and her mom (Anna) return to Grandmother Miranda's home for a visit. Grace's mom died in a water incident. Grace didn't want to stay any longer.

Page 26. Rain Reign: Rose has Asperger's Syndrome. She is obsessed with prime numbers, and words that sound the same (homonyms). She expects everyone to follow all rules properly, including classroom teachers.

Page 27. What The Moon Said: Ma came forth with another of her profound superstitions. After seeing a ring around the moon the previous night she proclaimed that, "Something bad is going to happen."

Page 28. Another Day As Emily: Suzy Quinn described how bad luck is coming at her from several directions. Her little brother called 911 and is a hero. She and a best friend tried out for a part in a play, she lost that chance too.

Page 29. Eliza Bing Is (Not) A Big Fat Quitter: To prove she's not a quitter, Eliza begged her Mom and Dad to let her attend Taekwondo classes over the summer. After some hesitation they agreed. Eliza had been diagnosed as having ADHD.

Page 30. Kaboom Academy: The question of the day on campus is, "How do I make an appointment with Dr. Marcel Kaboom the Kaboom Academy Principal?" Several have asked that question, all have been denied.

Page 31. Arcady's Goal: In pre-World War II the Soviet Russia Government put a witch hunt on for citizens they determined were "Enemies of the State." After the parents were arrested, their children were sent to a state run children's home.

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2016-2017 (Fifteen titles)

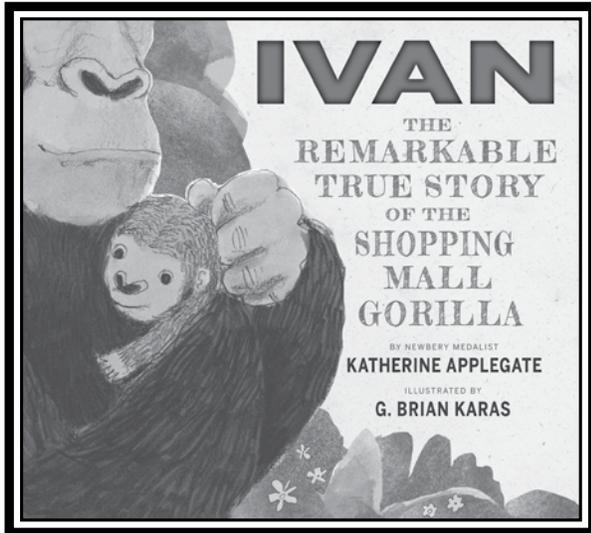
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(See Inside Back Cover For More Info)

Ivan, the Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla

Author: Katherine Applegate

Illustrated by G. Brian Karas



Factual: 40 pages. *Ivan, the Shopping Mall Gorilla*.

Setting: Central Africa; Tacoma, Washington---USA; Zoo Atlanta.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Adaptability; Optimism.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; School Library Journal; Wilson's Children's Catalog; Kirkus Reviews; Publisher's Weekly.

Main Characters: Ivan (Male gorilla); Burma (Female gorilla). African poachers; Shopping mall owner.

About the Story: It tells the true story of Ivan. He was known as *the Shopping Mall Gorilla*. A special baby male gorilla was born in a tropical forest in Central Africa in 1962. When he was only six-months-old poachers stole him and an equally young female gorilla from their parents in the forest. The poachers placed the fragile baby gorillas into a crate for the long journey to Tacoma, Washington—USA. They were delivered to a shopping mall owner who had placed an order for them to serve as gimmicks to attract shoppers. The mall owner held a contest to “Name the Babies.” Burma was the name chosen for the baby female gorilla. The young male would be called Ivan in the future. Not long after receiving her new name, Burma died. That left Ivan to face the future with only a limited number of humans to help him. Normal eating habits resulted in Ivan growing and gaining weight. He was removed from the private home he lived in and placed in a cage within the mall. This put his daily living status in full view of the public. What did the future hold?

About the Author: Katherine Alice Applegate was born October 9, 1956 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is mainly a fiction writer of young adults and children's books. Some of her most popular books are science fiction, fantasy, and adventure novels. Katherine's many books include the *Roscoe Riley Rules* chapter books series, and the award winning novel, *Home of the Brave*. With her husband, Michael Grant, she wrote the hugely popular series *Animorphs*, which has sold more than 35 million copies worldwide. Katherine published *The One and Only Ivan* in 2012, and that book won the Newbery Medal in 2013. In 2014 she came forth with *Ivan, the Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla*. She lives in California with her husband and two children.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 169750 – Reading Level 3.7 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.2 – Points 1.0. Lexile AD 680L.

My Grandfather's Coat

Retold by Jim Aylesworth

Illustrated by Barbara McClintock

Folklore: 32 pages. A retelling.

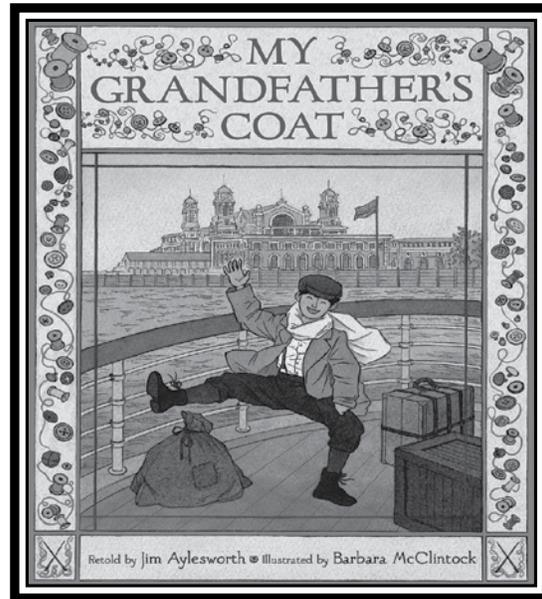
Setting: Coming to America. Several generations later.

Guiding Principles: Perseverance; Imagination; Compassion.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---School Library Journal; Kirkus Review; Publisher's Weekly. Other---ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Wilson's Children's Catalog; New York Times Book Review.

Main Characters: Grandfather; Grandmother; My mother; Me; My child.



About the Story: Grandfather came to America when he was very young. He became a tailor and married grandmother. For the wedding he made himself a **Handsome Coat**. He wore it and wore it and wore it out. He took the remains and made a **Smart Jacket**. He wore it and wore it and wore it out. He took the remains and made a **Snazzy Vest**. He wore it and wore it and wore it out. He took the remains and made a **Stylish Tie**. He wore it and wore it and wore it out. He took the remains and made a

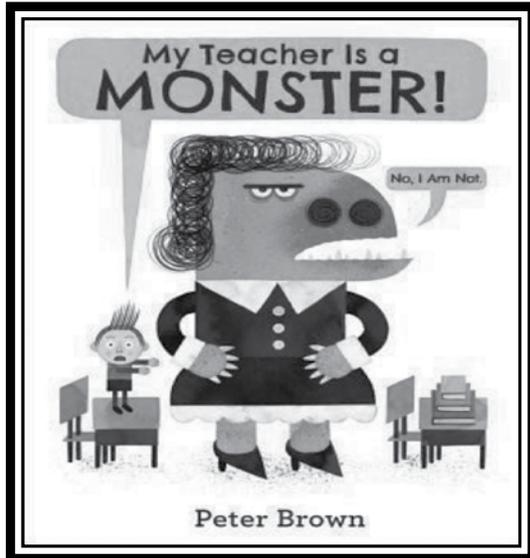
About the Author: Jim Aylesworth was born in Jacksonville, Florida. During his childhood he lived in Alabama, Indiana, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas. When he was 15-years-old his family settled in Hindsdale, Illinois, where he graduated from high school in 1961. In 1965 he graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with a B.A. in English. After a series of assignments as a substitute teacher he ended up in a primary classroom. Jim earned a graduate degree in Elementary Education in 1978. He has received many awards from educational institutions from within the state of Illinois. It was his experience as a teacher that led him to writing children's books. He said, "Writing children's books is my way of being the teacher beyond the walls of my classroom for students that I may never know." His books are filled with rhythm, rhyme, and repetition. He has written more than 30 books for young readers. Jim and his wife, Donna, raised two sons in Hindsdale. In 1996 he decided to write and visit schools full-time.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 170972 – Reading Level 4.1 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.3 – Points 1.0. Lexile AD 910L.

My Teacher is a Monster! (No, I am Not)

Author/Illustrator Peter Brown



Fiction: 40 pages.

Setting: In the classroom at school. At the park.

Guiding Principles: Friendship; Respect; Imagination.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---Kirkus Reviews; ALA Booklist; Publisher's Weekly; Library Media Connection. Other---Horn Book; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Bobby (Robert); Ms. Kirby (Monster teacher); Several other students; Ducks in the park.

About the Story: Young Bobby is pretty sure his classroom teacher, Ms. Kirby, is a monster. All day long she stomps on the floor, roars like a Lion, and keeps students in at recess if they throw paper airplanes in class. When Ms. Kirby wants to speak with him directly she calls him Robert, while all the students refer to him as "Bobby." To get away from the school routine, Bobby spends a lot of time at the local park during his free time and on weekends. On his last visit he had just arrived at the park when he discovered Ms. Kirby was sitting on a bench just a short distance away. He wanted to run! He wanted to hide! But either of those moves could just make things worse. He was face-to-face with the monster. He sat down on the other end of her bench and raised his hand. She said, "Robert you don't have to raise your hand out here." Bobby wasn't sure what to expect next.

About the Author/Illustrator: (From his bio information) Peter Brown has always loved telling stories. Growing up in New Jersey, he told stories by drawing whimsical characters and scenes from his imagination. Then, as a teenager, he fell in love with writing and began telling his tales with words. While studying illustration at Art Center College of Design, Peter's love of both words and pictures led him to take several courses on children's books, and before long he knew he'd found his calling. He moved to New York City to be closer to the publishing industry and signed a book deal to write and illustrate his first picture book, *Flight of the Dodo*. Peter quickly signed up his second and third books, and his career as an author and illustrator of children's books was under way. Since then Peter has written and illustrated many books for children. His books have earned numerous honors, including a Caldecott Honor, a Horn Book Award, Children's Choice Award for Illustrator of the Year, and a Golden Kite Award.

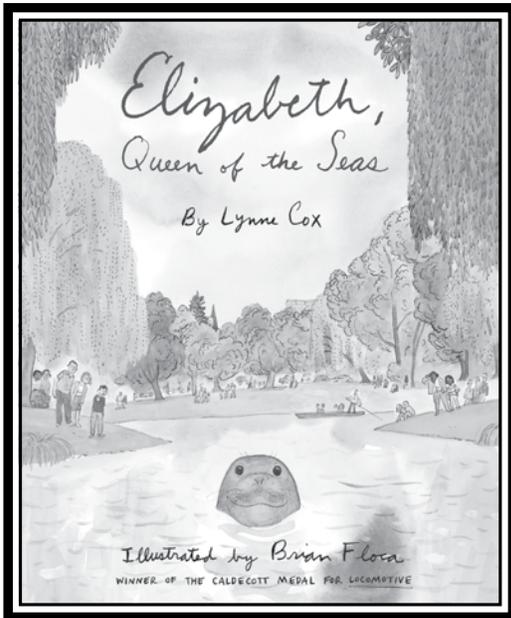
Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 167313 – Reading Level 1.7 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 2.1 – Points 1.0. Lexile 310L.

Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas

Author: Lynne Cox

Illustrated by Brian Floca



Non-Fiction: 48 pages. Fact based information.

Setting: Christchurch, New Zealand; Avon River; Pacific Ocean.

Guiding Principles: Perseverance; Adaptability; Courage; Friendship.

Awards: School Library Journal—Best book of the Year; Washington Post—Best Children’s Book of the Year; California Book Awards, Juvenile Finalist 2014; Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---ALA Booklist; Publisher’s Weekly. Other---Horn Book; Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: *Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas* (Elephant seal); Michael (Small boy who cared); Many citizens of Christchurch.

About the Story: Normally elephant seals live in the ocean. However, Elizabeth loves the fresh water of the Avon River that flows through the city of Christchurch. She feels comfortable in resting on the ground at the park, or just stretching out in the middle of the busy street. Elizabeth’s coat is silvery brown, she is eight feet long and weighs about twelve hundred pounds. People come to the river and park just to get a glimpse of her. Because of several near accidents with vehicles and people the city leaders decided to return Elizabeth to the sea. She was not happy with her sea home, and quickly found her way back to Christchurch.

About the Author: Lynne Cox was born in Boston, MA in 1957 and grew up in Los Alamitos, CA, where she presently lives. She was swimming almost as soon as she could walk. She has held open-water swimming records all over the world. For example, by age 16 she had broken all records for swimming the English Channel. Later in life she also swam a mile in the Antarctic. As an athlete, Lynne is often remembered for her string of long-distance water swimming feats, and she has also won acclaim for her writings covering many of her events. She wrote her first novel, *Swimming to Antarctica*, in 2004. Lynne’s second book *Grayson* was about a lost baby gray whale she encountered while swimming off the coast of California in 2006. Her *South With the Sun* was published in 2011. That was followed by *Open Water Swimming Manual* in 2013. She has drawn lots of attention for *Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas* published in 2014.

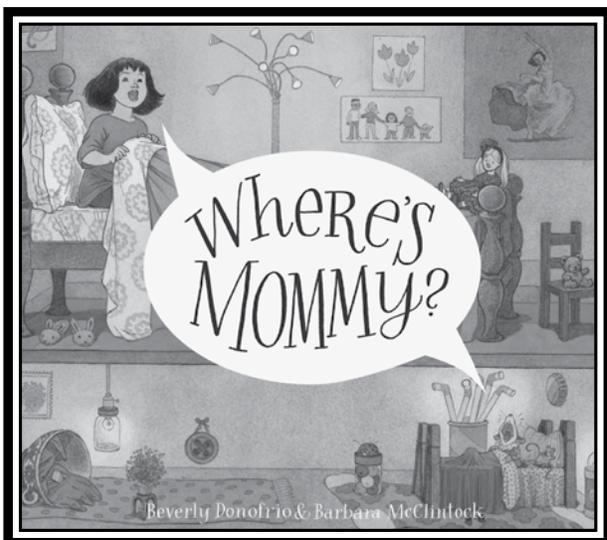
Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 166179 – Reading level 5.2 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 5.2 – Points 2.0. Lexile AD 900L.

Where's Mommy?

Author: Beverly Donofrio

Illustrated by Barbara McClintock



Fiction: 32 pages. Companion book to *Mary and the Mouse, the Mouse and Mary*, 2007.

Setting: Maria's family home.

Guiding Principles: Respect; Friendship; Adaptability.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Maria; Mouse Mouse; Maria's mother; Mouse Mouse's mother; Maria's father; Mouse Mouse's

father; Maria's baby sister; Mouse Mouse's little brother messe; Maria's brother; Mouse Mouse's sister.

About the Story: There are two families living in the house. The human family lives upstairs, and the mouse family lives downstairs. The adults in the human family are probably not aware of the mouse family living below. Maria and Mouse Mouse have become friends and spend happy times together. Since they are not sure how the adults from both families will react, the youngsters hesitate to make their relationship known. One evening at bedtime the mothers of both families are missing, which resulted in Maria and Mouse Mouse doing a frantic search of the house.

About the Author: Beverly Ann Donofrio was born September 23, 1950 in Orient, New York. Her father is of Sicilian descent and her mother is Italian-American. Beverly was raised in Wallingford, Connecticut, where she graduated from Lyman High School. She next studied literature at Wesleyan University, and obtained her M.F.A. from Columbia University. She taught writing, and moved to Mexico for a while where she founded a business called San Miguel Workshops. She became an author most noted for an autobiographical account of her life titled *Riding in Cars With Boys*, which was later made into a movie. Her first book for children was *Mary and the Mouse, the Mouse and Mary* in 2007. Beverly followed with *Thank You, Lucky Stars* in 2008.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 164496 – Reading Level 2.8 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 2.2 – Points 1.0. Lexile AD 550L.

Catch That Cookie!

Author: Hallie Durand

Pictures by David Small



Fiction: 32 pages.

Setting: At school during regular hours.

Guiding Principles: Optimism; Imagination; Respect.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---ALA Booklist. Other---Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Marshall (Student); Mrs. Gray (His teacher); Several

classmates; A batch of Gingerbread Men Cookies.

About the Story: Marshall refuses to believe that gingerbread men can run, even after a series of clues leads his class on a riddle-filled gingerbread cookie hunt. Mrs. Gray, Marshall and the entire class had been hearing about the runaway gingerbread men for many days. Marshall told all his classmates, and Mrs. Gray, the story just could not be true. Mrs. Gray, decided the class should bake a batch of the cookies, with Marshall being the head cook, to prove the wild story was a hoax. Classmates put special dressings on their cookies, Mrs. Gray carefully placed them in the oven, and she declared the oven door was locked. After the oven timer sounded that the cookies were finished baking, the students gathered around the stove front. When Mrs. Gray opened the oven door the cookies were not there, and some students began to mumble that, "They must have run away."

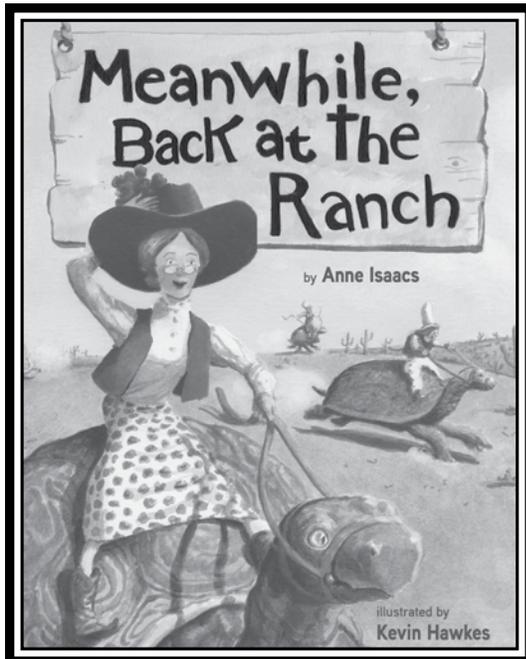
About the Author: (From Hallie Durand's biography, by Amazon) "I grew up in the farm country of upstate New York, at the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. There was lots of blackberry picking, pigs and chickens, cats and kittens, bikes, bees, homemade bread, and butter pickles, sweet corn, and pure maple syrup. Lots of wood stacking and lawn-mowing, too. My sisters and I (and later my brother) spent a lot of time making tiny campfires in the driveway and singing loudly in the hay barn. I still think of myself as a country girl in New York City, where I headed straight to after college." **Special note:** "Until now I've published all my works under this pen name (Hallie Durand). But my first stand-alone middle-grade novel will be published under my own name, Holly M. McGhee, by Candlewick Press, in the Spring of 2017."

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 172817 – Reading Level 2.8 – Points 0.5.

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

Author: Anne Isaacs

Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes



Folktale: 56 pages. The year is 1870.

Setting: From Greater Bore, England to By-Golly Gully Ranch, deep in the heart of Texas, USA.

Guiding Principles: Optimism; Adaptability.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, Grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---School Library Journal; Publisher's Weekly. Other---ALA Booklist; Bulletin for the Center for Children's Books; Horn Book; Wilson's Children's Catalog; Kirkus Reviews.

Main Characters: Tulip Jones (Widow); Linsey, Woolsey, Calico (Three servants); Twelve pet tortoises; Charlie Doughpuncher (Baker); Tumbleweed Thompson (Clumsy); Big Toe Anderson (Short memory); Sheriff Arroyo and his brother Spit (Leaders of "Hole in Pants Gang").

About the Story: When Victorian-era English widow Tulip Jones inherits thirty-five million dollars and the By-Golly Gully Ranch in Texas, USA, she quickly packed her bags and headed for the nearest ship. Tulip doesn't know there are about one thousand cowboys who hope to marry her. She learns the local sheriff and his punk brother are in the marriage line that snakes as-far-as the eye can see and they both are leaders of the unlawful "Hole in the Pants Gang." Tulip called a special meeting of her staff to plan their next step. Meanwhile, one of the servants (Calico) from England had an idea that might work. She sent a message by Pony Express to all newspapers in the USA: "Brides wanted! 1,000 cowboys available. Free to good homes! Lariat and hat included. All guaranteed, purebred Texans! Limited offer, act fast! Reply to By-Golly Ranch, Texas."

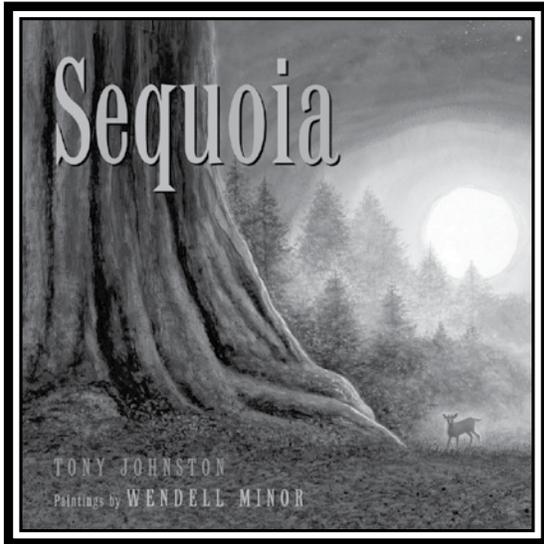
About the Author: (From Anne Isaacs' Bio information) "I was born in 1949 in Buffalo, New York and lived there until I left for college in 1967. I discovered children's books when I was about ten-years-old, thanks to the arrival of my baby brother. When he was old enough for bedtime stories, I rode my bike to the nearest library to check out several books. The first book I owned was *Little Women*. I probably read it 200 times and wanted to be the heroine (Jo March) in that book. She grows up to be a teacher, mother and writer. It's no surprise that I grew up to fill the same three roles. My story seems to get better every year, and I am sharing it with my husband, Rick, three grown children and two grandchildren."

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 164041 – Reading level 5.3 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 6.6 – Points 2.0. Lexile AD 970L.

Sequoia

Author: Tony Johnston
Paintings by Wendell Minor



Free verse observation: 40 pages. Story is told in third person.

Setting: On the western side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in eastern California.

Guiding Principles: Adaptability; Respect.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: The Giant Sequoia tree, standing tall; There are many birds and animals among his branches, around his roots, or flying in his air space. Numerous trees below know his shadow.

About the Story: Of all the happenings and activities taking place regularly in the Sequoia forest, the seasonal changes are significant. Beginning with the early springtime thaw, when the mountains' ice and snow melts, the tree notices all the streams become active with moving water. Sequoia trees must have water, or other moisture, to survive. Summer gradually arrives and the tree feels and smells the heat all around him. The warmth and a few clouds bring some rain and lightning, and the birds and animals seek shelter from the tree. Sometimes the tree smells fire when the lightning has struck. On occasion the forest floor is on fire and he feels the heat of the flames. As summer slips away, the fall time of the year moves in and winter weather is coming closer. Many of the birds fly to another climate. Some animals are seeking dens for the winter. Another winter season is moving in.

About The Author: Tony Johnston was born January 30, 1942 in Los Angeles, California, but grew up in San Marino, CA where she received her pre-college education. In 1963 Tony graduated from Stanford University with a B.A. in history then, in 1964, earned an M.A. in education. Tony remained in California, teaching fourth grade. By working in children's publishing in New York in the last half of the 1960s she gained knowledge about children's books. Tony began writing and publishing before she and her husband moved to Mexico for a 14-year visit. While there the Mexican government commissioned her to write several stories in Spanish and English. Two of their three daughters were born in Mexico. Tony returned to California, continued to write, and now has had over 100 books in print. She has always been devoted to nature. On her ranch in California, in the evenings, she sits on her porch and gathers sunsets to her.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 170351 – Reading Level 3.1 – Points 0.5.

Beauty and the Beast

Author: H. Chuku Lee

Illustrations by Pat Cummings

Fairy Tale: 32 Pages. A retelling through Beauty's eyes.

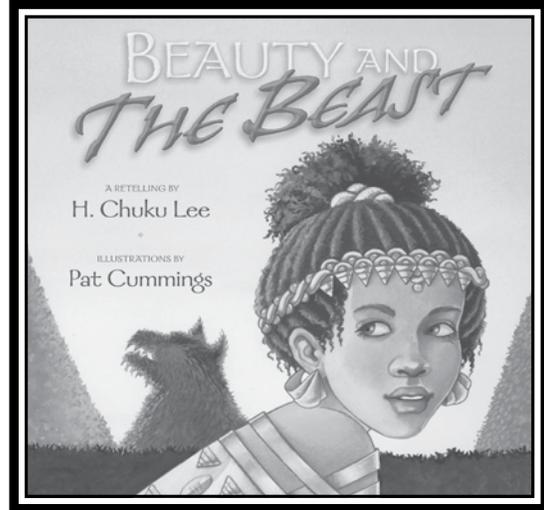
Setting: At home; West Africa; In an enchanted palace.

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Respect; Loyalty.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---Kirkus Reviews. Other---ALA Booklist; Horn Book; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Father; Beauty (Youngest daughter); Three older sisters; Huge ugly beast; Handsome prince; Invisible servants; Evil fairy.



About the Story: Father had important business in the city. Before he left, Beauty's three older sisters handed him a list of fine things each wanted. When he turned to Beauty for her list she simply said, "A rose." On Father's return trip a bad storm forced him off the road and he sought shelter in an enchanted palace. Invisible servants met him at the door and took care of all his needs. Early the next morning as Father prepared to leave he noticed several beautiful roses in the palace garden. It reminded him of Beauty's special request for just one rose. He picked a rose and was quickly confronted by a huge ugly beast who said he loved his roses above all else, and that Father would have to pay with his life for picking the single flower. Father told the beast he was very sorry, but could he please return to his home to tell his daughters goodbye. The beast allowed him to go, but set a return date. When that day arrived, Beauty insisted to Father that she be allowed to return with him to the palace because it was her who had asked for the single rose. Father and youngest daughter began the long trip back.

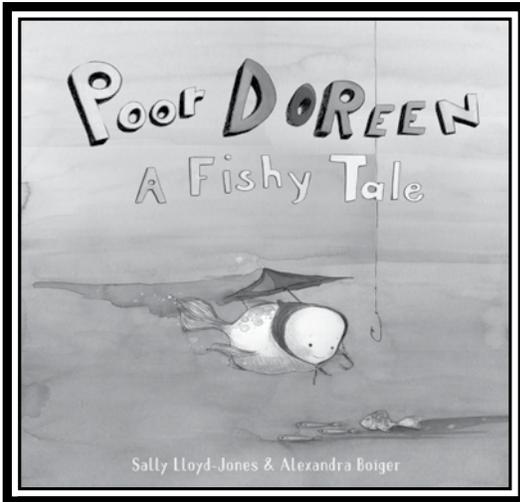
About the Author and Illustrator: H. Chuku Lee and Pat Cummings are husband and wife in real life. He is making his picture book debut, and stayed basically true to the story about Beauty that is behind the well-known classic. Ms. Cummings had visited the West Africa area and her illustrations are based on the art and culture of that region of the world as observed during her trip. She has created over 30 books for children including titles that have won the Coretta Scott King Award, the Horn Book – Boston Globe Award and the Orbis Pictus Award for non-fiction. Additionally, she teaches a class covering Children's Books Illustrations.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 175737 – Reading Level 4.2 – Points 0.5. Lexile AD 860L.

Poor Doreen: A Fishy Tale

Author: Sally Lloyd-Jones

Illustrated by Alexandra Boiger



Fiction: 40 pages.

Setting: Deep drowsy waters of a long winding creek.

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Courage; Imagination.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---Kirkus Reviews. Other ---ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Miss Doreen Randolph-Potts (Southern Belle Ample Roundy Fish); Second

Cousin Twice Removed; Fisherman; Great Blue Heron (Another type of fisherman); Young girl with dip net.

About The Story: A fish named Doreen gets into all sorts of trouble on the way to see her second cousin, twice removed, and her 157 new babies. While Miss Randolph-Potts is happily swimming along she notices what appears to be a delicious looking dragon fly, which would be a wonderful snack during the trip. However, it may be the last fish bait she ever takes into her mouth as the fisherman quickly reeled her in. Meanwhile, the Great Blue Heron—a bird of prey—has observed the entire capture by the fisherman and decides he could probably steal Miss Randolph-Potts from a large holding bucket. Without further hesitation he dove into the bucket, picked up the lady fish and was last seen flying up the creek with his hard earned meal. There is a strong possibility that Miss Randolph-Potts will be late for the meeting with her distant cousin.

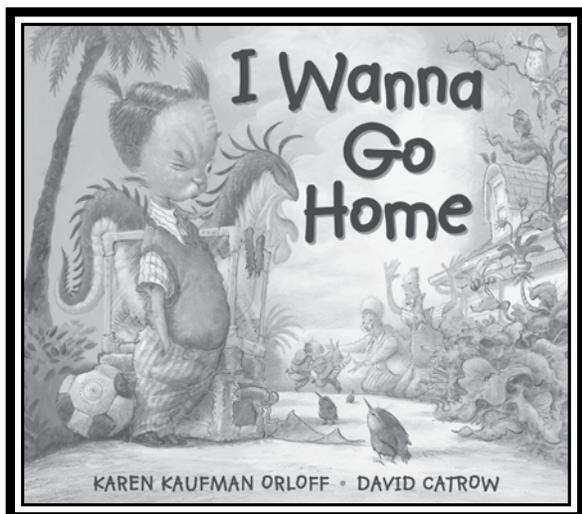
About the Author: Sally Lloyd-Jones was born in Kampala, Uganda. She was raised in East and West Africa, and a boarding school in the New Forest. Sally studied Art History with French at University of Sussex and Paris Sorbonne University. She worked in Children's Book Publishing at Oxford University for several years before moving to the United States in 1989, and was just going to stay for a year, but she's still here. Sally has been writing full time since the year 2000. In 2007 she wrote the *Jesus Storybook Bible*, It has sold two million copies in 19 languages. In her bio information, "I have the best job in the world—writing stories, and I get to work for the best bosses in the world—children. I am very grateful." Sally lives in Manhattan, New York.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 165673 – Reading Level 3.5 – Points 0.5.

I Wanna Go Home

Author: Karen Kaufman Orloff

Illustrated by David Catrow



Fiction: 32 pages. Third book of her “I Wanna” series with Alex.

Setting: To Grandma Shirley and Grandpa Ralph’s retirement home we go!

Guiding Principles: Imagination; Respect; Honesty.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Horn Book; School Library Journal; Wilson’s Children’s Catalog.

Main Characters: Mom; Dad; Alex (Son); Ethan (Son); Annie (Daughter); Grandma Shirley; Grandpa Ralph; Iggy (Alex’s pet iguana).

About the Story: Grandma and Grandpa have invited the three grandkids to their retirement home for a two-week visit while Mom and Dad take a boring trip to Bora Bora for just plain fun. Grandma told Alex he could bring Iggy if he brought the tank he stays in. Alex right away began sending emails to Mom and Dad about the many reasons he should stay at his friend Stinky’s house instead of his grandparent’s home. Follow the differences between not wanting to stay in the retirement community, and after he finally made an adjustment. “I can’t stay because:” It’s more fun at Stinky’s; signed your “Boy Scout Alex”; Unhappy in Happy Hills; Your nervous child, Alex; Swamp boy Alex (About to go alligator hunting); Still-bored Alex. After he became more active with Grandma and Grandpa: **Your son who can really dance; Moneybags Alex; Artistic Alex; Hope your having good fun too; Alex, the greatest soccer coach ever; Suspicious Alex; Your All-star hitter.**

About the Author: (As told by Karen Kaufman Orloff) “Ever since I was a little girl, I have loved books. I spent many Saturdays at our local library in Orangeburg, New York, where I grew up. I knew I wanted to do something with books as a career, so I got a degree in English/Publishing Studies from Hofstra University in 1981 and became an editor, working mainly for magazines. I married my husband, Brad, in 1985. In 1987, I left my full-time job to become a stay-at-home mom for my first child, Max. When I would read books to Max, and later his sister, Emily, I realized what I truly wanted to do – I wanted to write children’s books. One day, when we decided to get Max and Emily iguanas as pets (against my better judgement) I got the idea for *I Wanna Iguana*. My second picture book, *If Mom Had Three Arms* came out in the spring of 2006. Since then, I’ve had many more books published, and I’m still writing every day.”

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 170653 – Reading Level 3.3 – Points 0.5.
Lexile AD 610L.

Fiona's Lace

Written and Illustrated by Patricia Polacco

Fiction: 48 pages.

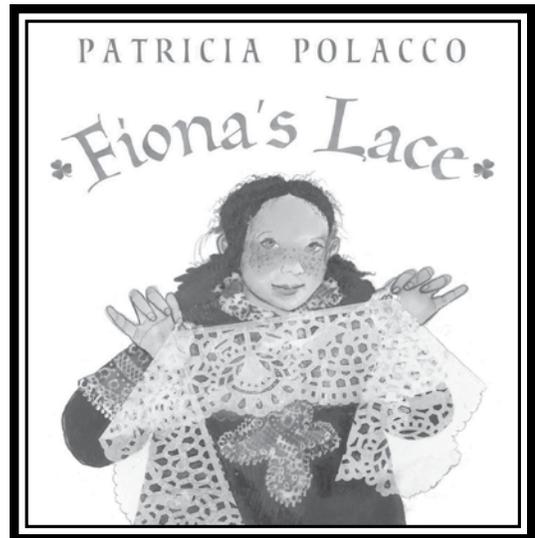
Setting: From Glen Kerry, Ireland to Chicago, USA.

Guiding Principles: Optimism; Respect; Courage, initiative.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---Kirkus Reviews. Other---ALA Booklist; Horn Book; School Library Journal; Publisher's Weekly.

Main Characters: Fiona Hughes; Ailish (Fiona's younger sister); Mother (Annie); Father (Mick).



About the Story: Fiona and her family moved from Ireland to Chicago, USA to begin a new life. Yet, when the family is struck with misfortune, will Fiona's lace help them? When the textile mill in nearby Limerick, Ireland closed down Mick, Fiona's father, no longer had a job. Fiona's mother, Annie, was recognized as one of the finest lace makers in the entire country. However, she had been stricken with severe arthritis and could no longer work with the lace material. Annie had focused on teaching Fiona how to be a lace maker. Daily, when her father came home from the mill Fiona rushed to show him her progress. The Hughes family heard from a neighbor that families in Chicago, USA were sponsoring Irish families that needed work. After a discussion the Hughes family decided they should leave Ireland and go to America where jobs and their future awaited them.

About the Author/Illustrator: Patricia Barber Polacco was born in Lansing Michigan on July 11, 1944. She is of Russian and Ukrainian-Jewish descent on her mother's side and Irish descent on her father's side. Her parents divorced when Patricia was only three-years-old, and her mother and children moved to grandmother's farm place near Union City, Michigan. Though that grandmother died when Patricia was five-years-old she has appeared as a character in several of her books. They next moved to Coral Gables, Florida and then on to Oakland, California. While attending the Oakland schools Patricia struggled because she was unable to read until age 14 due to dyslexia. She found some relief by expressing herself through art. Patricia attended Ohio State University and earned a M.F.A. and a PhD in Art History. She was 41-years-old before writing her first children's book, but is now credited with over 60 books. She currently resides in Union City, Michigan.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 168298 – Reading Level 4.3 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.5 – Points 3.0. Lexile AD 740L.

Blizzard

Written and Illustrated by John Rocco

Based upon the author's childhood experience: 40 pages.

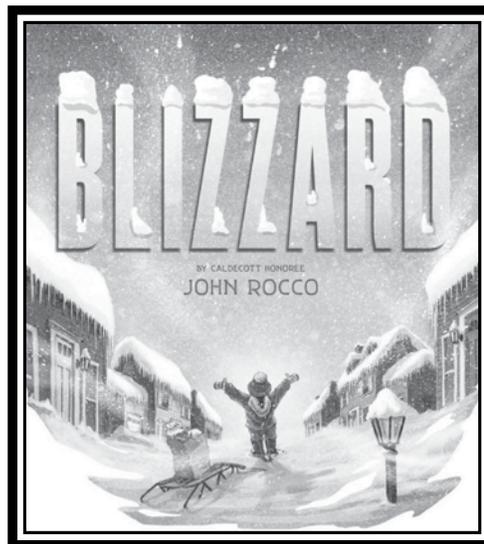
Setting: The snow blizzard of 1978 that occurred in New England, USA. It dropped nearly four feet of snow on parts of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

Guiding Principles: Optimism; Courage; Perseverance.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---ALA Booklist; Kirkus Reviews. Other ---Horn Book; School Library Journal; Children's Book Review; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Young boy, about 10-years-old; His younger sister; Dad; Mom; Dog; Neighbors.



About the Story: The young boy was at school on Monday morning when the first snowflakes began to fall. He tells us, first person, of what happened throughout the entire emergency. The school was shut down and everyone went home after first recess. By the time he and younger sister walked home the snow was already over their boots when mom met them at the front door. The flakes continued to fall into Tuesday and the family could not open their outside doors from the inside. To get outside they had to crawl through windows, but dad could not clear the deep snow away. By Friday the family's food supply was running low and emergency crews could not move around on the streets. The young boy knew he was the only one who could walk on top of the snow to make a trip to the grocery store. The rest of the family agreed, and he put on warm clothing, found his snow sled and made a pair of snow shoes out of two old tennis rackets. He stopped to take a few neighbors' food/medicine requests along the way. As the store came into view he began to feel more certain he could find his way back home.

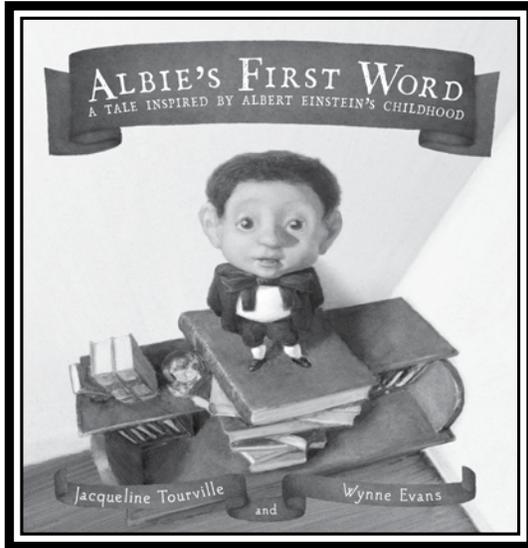
About the Author: Christopher John Rocco was born July 9, 1967, and was raised in Barrington, Rhode Island. He is an author and illustrator of book covers and children's books. John studied illustration at Rhode Island School of Design, and the School of Visual Arts in New York City. From his biography: "I love books. The fact that I get to make books for a living thrills me every day. I write and illustrate picture books and novels for children as well as illustrate books for older readers." His book *Blackout* was chosen as a Caldecott Honor Book in 2012. He is married to Aileen, and they have a daughter, Alaya. Aileen also writes and illustrates children's books. They currently live in Los Angeles.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 170829 – Reading Level 3.0 – Points 0.5. Lexile AD 750L.

Albie's First Word: A Tale Inspired By Albert Einstein's Childhood

Author: Jacqueline Tourville

Illustrated by Wynne Evans



Historical Fiction: 40 pages. A future legend that was brilliant at an early age.

Setting: Albie's family home; Doctor's office; The symphony; Astronomy lecture; Toy boat race.

Guiding Principles: Imagination; Respect; Optimism.

Awards: Arkansas Diamond Award Reading List, grades K-3, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---Kirkus Reviews. Other---ALA Booklist; Horn Book; School Library Journal; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Albie---3 (Albert Einstein);

Mother; Father; Maya (Little sister); Dr. Hoffmann (Family doctor); Professor Max (Astronomy lecturer).

About the Story: It was 1882 and Albie's family had recently moved from their German home in Ulm, on the Danube River, to their new home in Munich. Albie was only three-years-old, but he was progressing at a normal rate for a young boy of his age. There was one exception. He did not speak. He would not speak, not one single word. His family tried to start conversations with Albie at home, took him to the family doctor for advice, to the symphony, entered his toy boat in a local race, and finally to attend an astronomy lecture. None of these ploys were successful. An old question surfaced once again, "Would he ever speak?"

About the Author: Jacqueline Tourville is a freelance writer and children's author. She holds advanced degrees in cultured history and education. Before writing full time, Jacqueline worked for several years as a middle school social studies teacher in the Boston area. From 2009-2014 she was a feature writer for Disney Interactive Media websites. She has written several books for adults, focusing on health related subjects. Her writings for children include the 2014 picture book *Albie's First Word: a Tale inspired By Albert Einstein's Childhood*. Originally from New York, she now lives with her family on the coast of southern Maine. She enjoys hiking, and hunting for hermit crabs on the beach.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 170852 – Reading Level 3.9 – Points 0.5. Lexile AD 720L.

PAST ARKANSAS DIAMOND PRIMARY AWARD WINNERS (K-3)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Author</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1998-99 | De Groat, Diane | Roses Are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink |
| 1999-00 | Kellogg, Steven | The Three Little Pigs |
| 2000-01 | Rand, Gloria | A Home For Spooky |
| 2001-02 | Lester, Helen | Hooway For Wodney Wat |
| 2002-03 | Jordan, Deloris | Salt In His Shoes: Michael Jordan In Pursuit Of A Dream |
| 2003-04 | Smith, Maggie | Desser The Best Ever Cat |
| 2004-05 | Salley, Coleen | Epossumondas |
| 2005-06 | Wilcox, Leah | Falling For Rapunzel |
| 2006-07 | Bateman, Teresa | April Foolishness |
| 2007-08 | Crimi, Carolyn | Henry & The Buccaneer Bunnies |
| 2008-09 | Beaumont, Karen | Move Over, Rover! |
| 2009-10 | Cronin, Doreen | Diary Of A Fly |
| 2010-11 | Kirby, Larson & Mary Nethery | Two Bobbies: A True Story Of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, And Survival |
| 2011-12 | Van Dusen, Chris | The Circus Ship |
| 2012-13 | Birtha, Becky | Lucky Beans |
| 2013-14 | Crosby, Jeff | Wiener Wolf |
| 2014-15 | Shannon, David | Jangles: A Big Fish Story |
| 2015-16 | Daywalt, Drew | The Day The Crayons Quit |

2016-2017 OVERVIEW SCHEDULE OF CO-OP PRESENTATIONS

(Three hours of Professional Development credit will be given.)

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------------|
| 6/22/16 | Dawson Ed. Service Co-op (Arkadelphia) | 8:30-11:30 AM |
| 6/27/16 | Northwest AR Ed. Service Co-op (Farmington) | 8:30-11:30 AM |
| 6/28/16 | Southeast AR Ed. Service Co-op (Monticello) | 8:30-11:30 AM |
| 6/29/16 | Great Rivers Ed. Service Co-op (West Helena) | 8:30-11:30 AM |
| 7/07/16 | Guy Fenter ESC (Branch) | 9:00-12:00 Noon |
| 7/11/16 | De Queen/Mena Ed. Service Co-op (Gillham) | 9:00-12:00 Noon |
| 7/18/16 | North Central AR Ed. Service Co-op (Melbourne) | 8:30-11:30 AM |
| 7/21/16 | Southwest AR Ed. Service Co-op (Hope) | 9:00-12:00 Noon |
| 7/22/16 | South Central AR Ed. Service Co-op (Camden) | 9:00-12:00 Noon |
| 7/25/16 | Wilbur Mills Ed. Co-op (Beebe) | 8:30-11:30 AM |
| 7/26/16 | Crowley's Ridge Ed. Service Co-op (Harrisburg) | 8:30-11:30 AM |
| 7/27/16 | Ozark Unlimited Resources Ed. Co-op (Valley Springs) | 8:30-11:30 AM |
| 8/01/16 | Arkansas River Ed. Service Co-op (Pine Bluff) | 9:00-12:00 Noon |
| 8/02/16 | Arch Ford Ed. Service Co-op (Plumerville) | 8:30-11:30 AM |
| 8/04/16 | Northeast AR Ed. Service Co-op (Walnut Ridge) | 8:30-11:30 AM |

The Crossover

Author: Kwame Alexander

Fiction: 237 pages. Novel in verse.

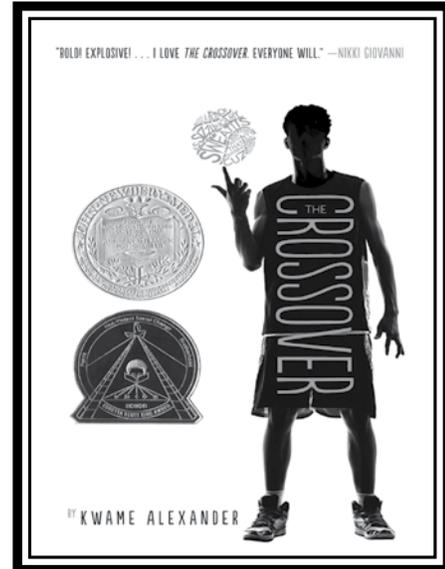
Setting: Reggie Lewis Junior High. The gymnasium. The Bell twins, basketball wizards, one a forward, the other a guard. The gym is a second home for the family.

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Compassion; Loyalty; Imagination.

Awards: John Newbery Medal Winner, 2015; Coretta Scott King Honor Award Winner, 2015; Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal; ALA Booklist; Horn Book.

Main Characters: Josh Bell--almost 13-years-old (a.k.a. Filthy McNasty); Jordan--his twin brother (a.k.a. JB); Chuck Bell—their dad (a.k.a. “Da Man” has retired from pro basketball and is in poor health); Dr. Crystal Stanley-Bell—their mom (a.k.a. the Assistant Principal of Reggie Lewis Junior High, the school they attend).



About the Story: This novel is a dedicated sports story about the game of basketball, and deeply involves the entire family. Josh uses free verse, poems, hip-hop poetry, and sometimes words similar to a rap song to explain his loving family’s lifestyle. He and Jordan are identical twins, except Josh is one inch taller and takes pride in his “Dread Locks” while Jordan shaves his head at least once each month. They are near equally skilled on the basketball court. Jordan is a shooting guard with a great jump shot while Josh plays forward and enjoys slashing his way to the bucket for a possible dunk. Dad is retired, because of his poor health, from playing professional basketball for an Italian team. Mom always attends the games to help keep dad from confronting the referees on the court. Josh gets into deep trouble for intentionally throwing a basketball pass very hard at close range directly into Jordan’s face.

About the Author: From *Amazon*: “Kwame Alexander is a poet, children’s book author, playwright, producer, and the author of fourteen books. Since 2006, Kwame’s Book-in-a-Day writing & publishing program for middle and high school students has created more than 1500 student authors in 35 schools across the U.S., and in Canada and the Caribbean. Kwame regularly conducts creative writing workshops and performances in middle and high schools.”

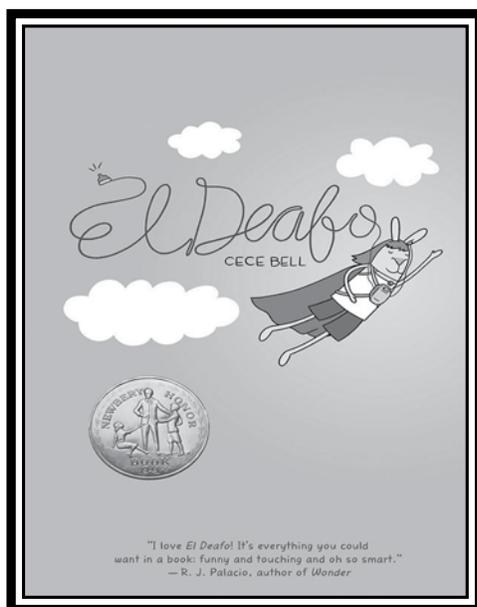
Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 164734 – Reading Level 4.3 – Points 2.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.6 – Points 7.0. Lexile 750L.

El Deafo

Text and Illustrations by Cece Bell

Color by David Lasky



Autobiographical: 233 pages. Graphic Novel Format. It is a partial accounting of Cece’s early childhood, beginning when she was four-years-old.

Setting: A suburban atmosphere in the 1970s around Salem, Virginia. All the characters are rabbits.

Guiding Principles: Imagination; Contemplation; Courage.

Awards: Newbery Honor Book 2015; Eisner Award; New York Times Bestseller; Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---School Library Journal; Kirkus Reviews; Publisher’s Weekly. Other---ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Wilson’s Children’s Catalog; Wilson’s Junior High Catalog.

Main Characters: Cece Bell (Age 4-plus); George (Her father); Barbara (Her mom); Ashley (Big brother); Sarah

(Big sister); Emma (Friend); Mike Miller (Friend); Several other classmates.

About the Story: Cece, at age 4, became extremely ill with a bout of Spinal Meningitis which left her body in a weakened condition. The doctors next realized she had lost most of her hearing abilities during the meningitis attack. The medical team fitted her with a large new hearing aid that had to be strapped to her body with cords leading to both ears. It felt a little bulky and she was hesitant to talk about it with any of her classmates, but a microphone that was furnished to the teacher from the aid kit proved to be an important piece of equipment. As time passed the hearing aid gave her access to the teachers’ instructions for students, and helped Cece’s movement up the educational ladder. Additionally, Cece discovered that she could still hear the teacher no matter what room or place she visited next on campus. When Cece shared that information she became a popular person to her fellow classmates.

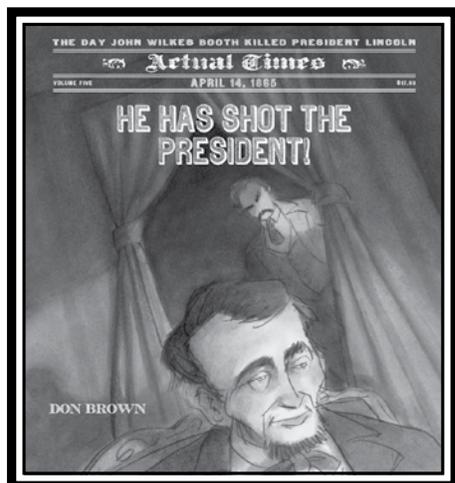
About the Author: Cece Bell grew up in Salem, Virginia. She met her husband Tom Angleberger at the College of William and Mary, where they both were art majors. Cece went on to earn a graduate degree in Illustration and Design at Kent State University. Quoting Cece, “I am a children’s book author and illustrator, and, quite possibly, a hermit. I eat nuts, avoid nits and gnats, and make lovely nets out of knots. My books include *Rabbit and Robot: The Sleepover*; *Sock Monkey Series*—five titles; *Chuck and Woodchuck*; *El Deafo*; *I Yam A Donkey*.” Cece, her husband Tom, and their two children live in an old Church building in Virginia, plus, her office is in a new barn right next door.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 168404 – Reading Level 2.7 – Points 2.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.4 – Points 7.0.

**He Has Shot the President: The Day John Wilkes
Booth Killed President Lincoln: April 14, 1865**

Author and Illustrator: Don Brown



Non-Fiction: 64 pages.

Setting: The Civil War was rapidly winding down.

President and Mrs. Lincoln were spending a quiet evening at Ford's Theater. Mr. Booth, an actor, was also working on a special plan for his time at the Entertainment Center. No guards were near the president.

Guiding Principles: Optimism; Honesty; Courage; Loyalty.

Awards: Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Publishers Weekly; School Library Journal; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: President Abraham Lincoln; Mrs. Mary Lincoln (The President's wife); John Wilkes

Booth (Actor and assassin); William Seward (Secretary of State); Edwin Stanton (Secretary of War); Andrew Johnson (Vice President); Mary Surratt, Lewis Powell, George Atzerodt, and David Herold (Key gang members of the assassination); Dr. Samuel Mudd (He set Booth's broken leg); Union Sergeant Boston Corbett (Face to face with Booth inside a burning barn).

About the Story: With the Civil War winding down on all fronts, President Lincoln had a rather calm day planned for April 14, 1865. This included attending a play at the popular Ford's Theater with Mrs. Lincoln in the evening. John Wilkes Booth, an actor by trade, openly hated the President because of what he had accomplished in the war. Mr. Booth also made plans to be at the Ford's Theater on the evening of April 14. His goal was to kidnap the President. Later in the afternoon he told members of his kidnaping gang that his plan had changed to murdering President Lincoln. He also proposed killing Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward. His plan for the President was easy to carry out. The President's box at Ford's Theater had no civilian or military guards. Booth strolled in and used a small, single shot, derringer to fire a bullet into the back of President Lincoln's head. Booth then leaped to the stage below, broke his leg in the process, but managed to reach his horse outside and galloped away into the night, creating a manhunt that was to last for several days.

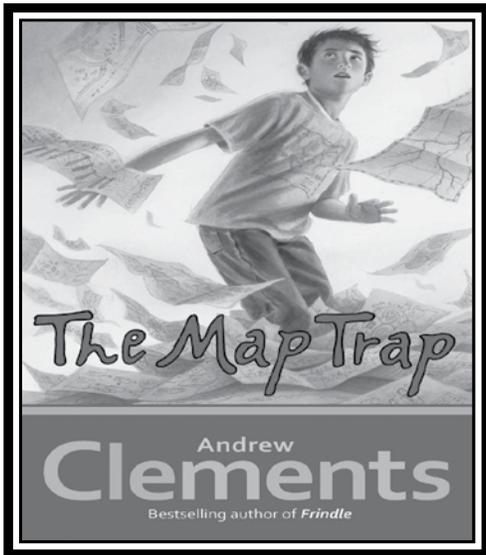
About the Author/illustrator: (From Amazon) "Don Brown is the award winning author and illustrator of many picture book biographies. He has been widely praised for his resonant storytelling and his delicate watercolor paintings that evoke the excitement, humor, pain, and joy of lives lived with passion. *School Library Journal* has called him a current pacesetter who has put the finishing touches on the standards for storyographies. He lives in New York with his family."

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 166182 – Reading Level 5.8 – Points 1.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 7.3 – Points 4.0. Lexile 940L.

The Map Trap

Author: Andrew Clements
Illustrations by Dan Andreasen



Fiction: 130 pages.

Setting: Six days after his birth Alton's parents framed and hung an Illinois roadmap on the wall near his crib. Then someone donated a huge world globe. Next, several copies of the National Geographic Magazine, past and present, appeared. Many more maps were donated and they covered every little bit of available wall space. The legend was quickly growing!

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Honesty; Courage; Responsibility.

Awards: Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Alton Robert Ziegler (Mapmaker); Alton's Mom; Alton's Dad; Beth (Alton's 2nd grade sister); Miss Holly

Wheeling—23 (6th grade home room teacher); Mr. Troy (Social Studies teacher); Mrs. Buckley (Principal); Mrs. Lomax (Librarian); Quint Harrison (Alton's classmate).

About the Story: Alton Robert Ziegler had an early start in life for becoming a professional cartographer. Dad was driving Mom to the hospital delivery room when both realized they had not decided on a name for their son to be. Mom grabbed a coffee-stained Illinois state road map from the pocket of the car door and began reading, in alphabetical order, the names of cities. Before finishing the A's Dad shouted, "Wait!" Mom had just called "Alton," a city just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Missouri. Six hours later the new birth certificate reflected, "Alton Robert Ziegler." As Alton worked his way into sixth grade his mapping talents improved. He branched out into other skills beyond geography. Some of his work included personal observations concerning his teachers, classmates, and the school's administrators. His large folder of work disappeared. He feared it had been stolen and would soon be passed around at school.

About the Author: Andrew Clements was born May 29, 1949 in Camden, New Jersey. In the middle of his sixth grade in school his family moved to Springfield, IL. After graduating from high school in Springfield, he attended Northwestern University, IL, where he was a literature major. After college he taught school for seven years in the Chicago area. He then worked in a publishing firm before writing his first novel, *Frindle*, in 1996. The success of that book turned him into a full time writer. In his biography Mr. Clements said he had enjoyed reading during his early school days. He stated, "I'm certain there's a link between reading good books and becoming a writer. I don't know a single writer who wasn't a reader first." His numerous books have resulted in over 10 million copies being sold to loyal readers. He currently lives in New York with his wife, Rebecca. They have four grown sons.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 167613 – Reading Level 5.3 – Points 3.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 6.2 – Points 7.0. Lexile 900L.

Under the Egg

Author: Laura Marx Fitzgerald

Fiction: 247 pages.

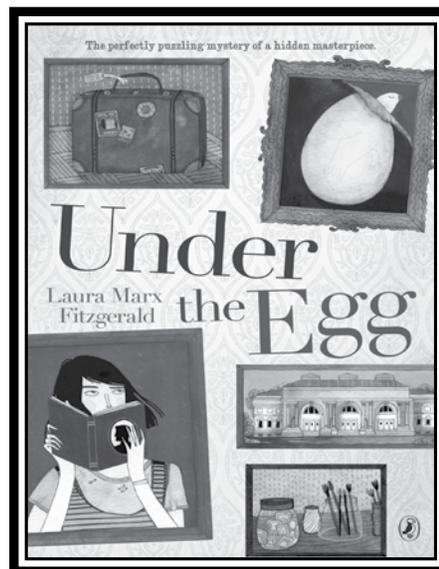
Setting: Grandfather Jack's art studio, upstairs in the old family mansion holds many important secrets. He is now deceased, but not out of the family thoughts. It's possible that millions of dollars worth of treasure is waiting to be found in the studio.

Guiding Principles: Imagination; Optimism; Perseverance.

Awards: New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association Best Middle Grade Book of the Year; Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---ALA Booklist; Library Media Connection. Other---Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal; Publisher's Weekly; The Horn Book; Discovery Girls; Wall Street Journal.

Main Characters: Theodora (Theo) Tenpenny—13; Jack (Her grandfather); Angelika (Her mom); Bodhi Ford (Her friend); Madame Dumont (Her next door neighbor).



About the Story: Her Grandfather Jack's dying words leads thirteen-year-old Theo to search for an ancient masterpiece painting that probably dates back to the Renaissance era of history. As he lay mortally wounded, and barely breathing after a street accident, Jack whispered to Theo, "It's under the egg. Look under the egg." She began daily removing a painting with an egg from its location to the floor and checked it over carefully to see if the canvas, frame, or the egg in the picture produced any clues concerning a mysterious missing masterpiece. One evening a too friendly mouse jumped upon her bare leg, resulting in Theo screaming and trying to chase the rodent away. She bumped a low table that contained a bottle of open rubbing alcohol and some of the solution splashed upon the painting where Jack had drawn the egg. When Theo wiped the alcohol off the egg, the paint Jack had applied peeled off and there was clearly a bird in flight in another picture underneath.

About the Author: This is her debut for writing a middle grades novel. Laura talks about herself: "We moved around a lot growing up. I lived in Tennessee, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Florida. I had a southern accent until I attended college at Harvard and Cambridge Universities. As a kid, I read anywhere and everywhere. I just never thought I'd write a novel. Then one day I had an idea about a girl finding a stolen painting in her attic. So, I sat down and started writing and pretty soon I had a novel called *Under the Egg*. Some more sitting and writing led to *The Gallery* (Pub date June 2016), and I keep setting down every day to write more." After 17 years of living in Brooklyn, her family recently moved to the suburbs of New Jersey.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 166756 – Reading Level 5.5 – Points 7.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 5.2 – Points 11.0. Lexile 790L.

Winter Sky

Author: Patricia Reilly Giff

Fiction: 152 pages.

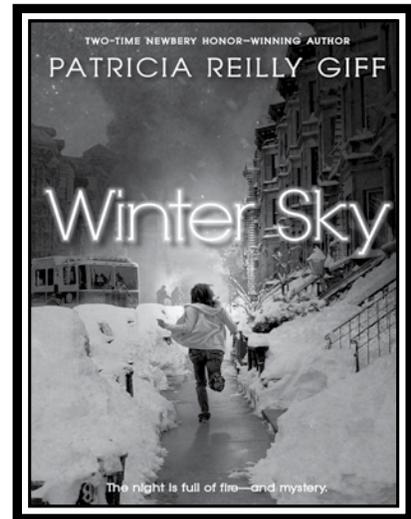
Setting: The 911 call came loudly into the neighborhood firehouse requesting emergency assistance. Pop and other firefighters quickly jumped aboard as the emergency lights flashed on and sirens began wailing on ladder truck No. 17. Besides helping to fight the fire, pop's crew expected to perform another rescue on an upper floor.

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Courage; Responsibility; Character.

Awards: Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016–2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: ALA Booklist; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; Horn Book ; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Siria (Almost 12); Pop (Her father, a firefighter); Douglas (Her best friend); Mimi (Her sitter); Laila (Her friend); Major (Her dog); Mike (The guy with the tattoo); Izzy (Lady firefighter).



About the Story: Whenever Siria hears the piercing sounds of a firetruck's sirens going past her apartment complex she makes a dash for the stairs. Her father (Pop) is a firefighter that works out of the local fire station. Riding their bikes, she and her best friend Douglas are not fire chasing, but Siria seems to remember her mom saying "Look out for your Pop" just before she passed away several years ago. Pop loves his job and has a standard answer while Siria worries about his safety, "It's a piece of cake Siria. Rescue is the heart of firefighting." Mom also left a star book titled *Watching the Constellations*. A note in the book states that Siria was named after Sirius the Dog Star, the brightest star in the *Winter Sky*. Meanwhile, someone was setting small fires at various locations in the neighborhood.

About the Author: Patricia Reilly Giff knew while attending elementary school that she wanted to be a writer. She was born April 26, 1935 in Brooklyn, New York. She earned advanced degrees in education while attending Marymount College, St. John's University, and Hofstra University. Before writing her first book at age 40, Ms. Giff taught in public schools for several years, and also became a reading consultant. Her *Polk Street School* series was broadly accepted with high acclaim. Other highlights included *Lily's Crossing*, a 1998 Newbery Honor Book; *Pictures of Hollis Woods*, a 2003 Newbery Honor Book, and *Nory Ryan's Song*, a 2003 ALA Best Book For Young Adults. She has been credited with writing over 60 books. Ms. Giff lives in Trumbull, Connecticut with her husband, Jim.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 163572 – Reading Level 3.8 – Points 3.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.1 – Points 7.0. Lexile 520L.

Absolutely Almost

Author: Lisa Graff

Illustrations: Amy Wu

Fiction: 288 pages.

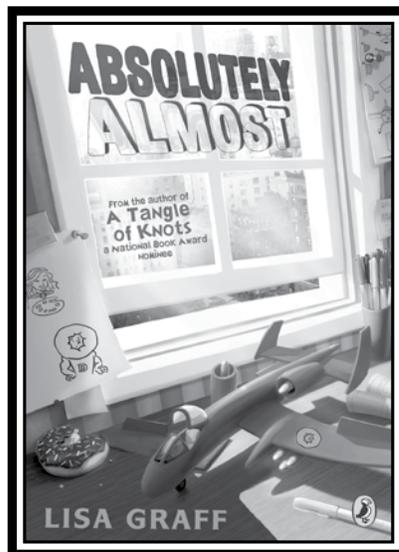
Setting: Mountford Prep School, New York City (NYC); NYC Public School (PS)-183. Albie has learning difficulties.

Guiding Principles: Imagination; Courage; Responsibility.

Awards: An NCTE Charlotte Huck Honor Book For Outstanding Fiction For Children; Los Angeles Times Summer Reading Pick; Junior Library Guild Selection; Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---School Library Journal; ALA Booklist; Kirkus Review; Publisher's Weekly. Other---Horn Books; Wilson's Children's Catalog; Wilson's Junior High Catalog.

Main Characters: Albie Schaffhauser—10 (Fifth-grade); Mom (Hannah); Dad (Richard); Grandpa Park; Calista (Albie's nanny); Erlan Kasteev (Albie's best friend); Betsy (Albie's classmate); Darren Ackleman ("Mean" classmate); Mr. Clifton (Math Club Leader).



About the Story: Albie is experiencing extreme pressure from students at school and his parents at home while working hard to improve his subject knowledge, study habits, and bring his grade levels up. He has been tagged as an “Almost,” but not quite there, by several of his teachers, and his parents. Meanwhile, a group of kids at his new school, PS-183, are picking on him every day. Led by mean spirited Darren Ackleman they have shouted at him using terms such as Retard, Moron, Numbskull, Bozo, Idiot, Stupid Little Rat, Marblehead, Freak, Dum-dum, Hopeless, Lamebrain, Crybaby, F-minus, and just plain Dummy. Mr. Clifton, the Math Club Leader, encouraged Albie to just ignore the thoughtless students using the degrading names. Meanwhile, Mom and Dad decide to hire a nanny, named Calista, to help Albie with his homework, daily life activities, and his academic progress while attending school.

About the Author: Lisa Graff grew up in Big Bear, California, a ski resort town on top of a mountain. Though she did some fun writing while in elementary and high school, her favorite subjects were Math and Science. Her childhood dream was to become a Medical Doctor. After graduating from UCLA she earned her M.F.A. in Creative Writing at the New School in New York. Besides writing several books for young children, Lisa has also written numerous novels for teens under her pseudonym, Isla Neal. She served as an adjunct professor and teaches a course in Children's Literature at McDaniel College in Pennsylvania. During the 2016 calendar year she is releasing two new books. For the middle grades *A Clatter Of Jars*, and at the elementary level, *It Is Not Time For Sleeping*.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 168459 – Reading Level 4.7 – Points 7.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.6 – Points 11.0. Lexile 750L.

Courage for Beginners

Author: Karen Harrington

Fiction: 289 pages.

Setting: Deep in the heart of Texas, in a medium sized house, at 4520 Fargo Drive, where mama refused to leave in either daylight or dark.

Guiding Principles: Adaptability; Respect; Friendship.

Awards: Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---ALA Booklist. Other---Horn Book; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal; Wilson's Children's Catalog; Wilson's Junior High Catalog.

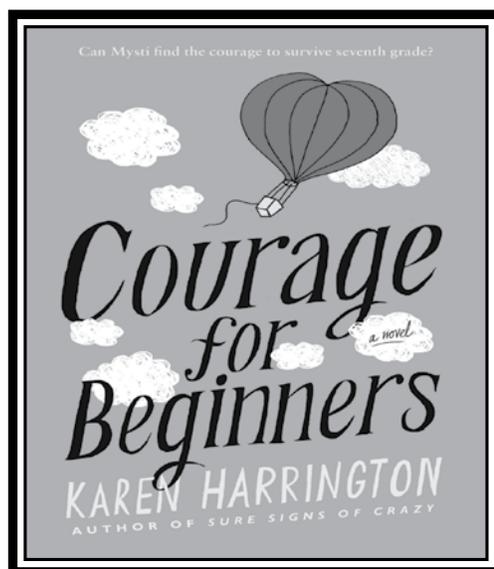
Main Characters: Mysti Murphy---12; Mama (Melly); Dad (David); Laura---7 (Sister); Anibal Gomez (Mysti's classmate, male); Rama Khan (Mysti's classmate).

About the Story: There are four members of Mysti's immediate family. Each day brings a new challenge just to keep the foursome functioning as a unit. Mysti often day dreams about what if her family's characters were in a pretend book where she could better control the situations that arise each day. The four family members that could be in that novel: (1) A person who paints and cooks and never leaves the house and yard area. It is Mysti's Mama. She has a condition titled "Agoraphobia" which means a strong fear about being in a place or situation from which escape might be difficult. (2) A person with a job who gently tries to get everyone to leave the house together. It is Mysti's Dad who wears many hats. Each member of the family hopes he stays healthy. (3) A bratty little seven-year-old sister named Laura. (4) Mysti, who has a majority of the daily activities thrust upon her shoulders. All readers of this novel are enlightened by her first person account of the trials and tribulations of this secluded family.

About the Author: Karen Harrington, as told about herself: "I've come a long way since the days of my play kitchen and matching Sears polyester outfits. You may already know that I'm a writer, mother, dog-lover, coffee drinker, book hoarder and proud Texan. Like one of my characters, I also grew up in Garland, Texas. I've been writing in some form for most of my life. Before I published my first novel, I worked a lot of different jobs: waitress, a bank teller, an accounts receivable minion and, eventually, a speech writer. Now I have a dream job: mom/author. I live in the great state of Texas with my husband and two daughters." Karen's *Sure Signs of Crazy* (2013) won numerous acclaims. Next was *Courage for Beginners* (2014) which has been selected for several state reading lists. In May 2016 she released *Mayday* and the novel has received many positive comments from early copy readers.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 169333 – Reading Level 4.4 – Points 7.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 5.3 – Points 14.0.



The Secret Hum of a Daisy

Author: Tracy Holczer

Fiction: 312 pages. This is Tracy Holczer’s debut novel.

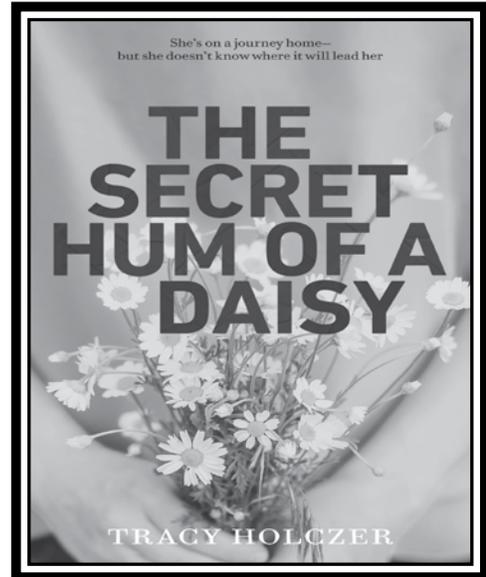
Setting: California, several locations: Including the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range—hometown, Auburn Valley.

Guiding Principles: Compassion; Friendship.

Awards: Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---Publisher’s Weekly; School Library Journal. Other---Horn Book; Kirkus Reviews.

Main Characters: Grace May Jessup—12 (Me); Grandmother Miranda Jessup; Anna Jessup (Grace’s deceased mother); Beauty (Horse); Sheriff Pete Bergum; Lacey, Mrs. Greene, Jo, Max (Family friends); Robert Frost (Poet, deceased); Daisy (Baby pony); Several more school friends.



About the Story: After her Mother’s sudden death, Grace is being forced to live with her grandmother, Miranda, whom she has never met. Since Anna, Grace’s mother, had left home 12-years-ago and Grace was then born they have travelled from city to city in California searching for work and a place to live. Before Anna’s accidental death Grace had begged her to find a home for them to settle in. Grace is hoping she can get permission to stay at a friend’s house rather than stay with her grandmother. When that didn’t work out Grace refused to sleep in an extra bedroom at grandmother’s place, but chose an old shed off to the side of the house. She then discovered her mother had left several puzzling clues about some possible hidden treasures. Besides starting to school, Grace was busy searching for the clues. She warmed up some when Grandmother Miranda bought her a newborn pony from a neighbor.

About the Author: (As stated by Tracy Holczer) “I am a California native and spent a great deal of my childhood outside. There, I helped my dad net smelt along the beaches of Half Moon Bay, collected sea glass in Aptos, and fished the lakes in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. When I wasn’t outside, I was in my Nonni’s pink kitchen eating lots of meatballs at family dinners, or I was at school writing short, blood curdling stories and staring out the window. By the time I was fourteen, my parents had decided that city life was for the birds, and we moved to Grass Valley, CA. Later, having my own kids, combined with this deep love of the mountains, was wonderful inspiration to write stories for children. I now live in Southern California with my husband, three daughters and two rather fluffy dogs named Buster and Molly who snuggle with me each day in my writing chair.”

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 166635 – Reading Level 5.2 – Points 10.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 5.2 – Points 17.0. Lexile 820L.

Rain Reign

Author: Ann M. Martin



Fiction: 226 Pages.

Setting: Hatford Elementary School. Home life with father only; Uncle Weldon helps out.

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Imagination; Courage; Responsibility.

Awards: Schneider Family Book Award for Middle School (2015); Josette Frank Award for older readers (2015); Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Nominee (2016); Charlotte Huck Honor Book (2015); Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Starred---ALA Booklist; School Library Journal; Kirkus Review; Horn Book; Publisher's Weekly.

Main Characters: Rose Howard (Almost 12); Wesley Howard—33 (Her father); Weldon Howard (Her uncle); Rain (A stray dog her father brought home).

About the Story: Rose has Asperger's Syndrome. As a result, she is obsessed with prime numbers, and words that sound the same (homonyms). She also expects everyone to follow all rules properly, including the classroom teachers. Sometimes a new homonym surfaces during her classes in fifth grade at Hatford Elementary School, and she doesn't hesitate to blurt out her feelings of excitement. There is an adult aide at school to help her when she needs assistance. Her mother left their home when Rose was only two-years-old. Rose's father is very short on patience, especially when she is having daily battles with her dilemmas. Uncle Weldon often steps forward by driving her to school and to other locations. Her father did bring home a stray dog that was running loose and gave it to Rose. She named the dog "Rain." The two were inseparable until the animal ran away during a heavy storm.

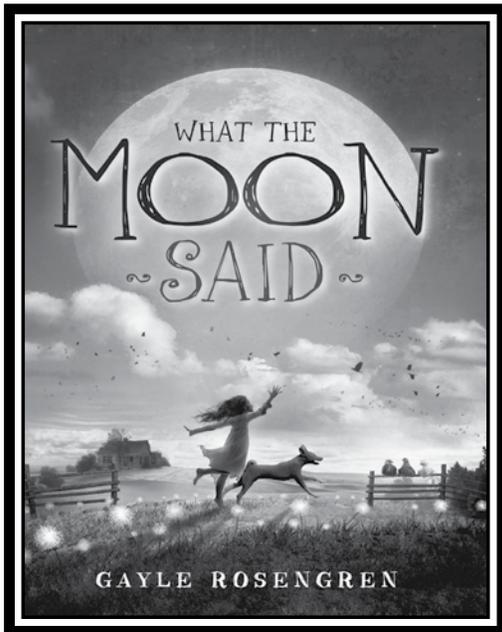
About the Author: Ann Matthews Martin was born August 12, 1955 and grew up in Princeton, New Jersey. In graduating from Smith College, a private Liberal Arts College in Northampton, MA, she received degrees in Elementary Education and Psychology. First, she was a fourth and fifth grades elementary teacher, and then she became an editor of children's books. She is now a full-time writer and is credited with being the author of hundreds of books. The Baby-Sitter Club Series is just one of her many feats as a successful writer. Ann won the John Newbery Medal for Children's Literature in 2003 for her stand-alone novel *A Corner of the Universe*. Her 2014 book *Rain Reign* is her initial experience of using the first person voice of a child with Autism.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 169516 – Reading Level 4.3 – Points 5.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.4 – Points 9.0. Lexile 720L.

What the Moon Said

Author: Gayle Rosengren



Fiction: 217 pages.

Setting: It was March 1930, during The Great Depression.

Guiding Principles: Optimism; Adaptability.

Awards: Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Horn Book; School Library Journal; ALA Booklist; Kirkus Review; Publisher's Weekly.

Main Characters: Esther Vogel—10 (Es); Anna (Her Ma); Chris (Her Pa); Kate—20 (Her oldest sister); Julia—around 18 (Her sister); Violet—12 (Her sister); Walter—Pre-school (Her Brother); Mickey (Her dog); Margaret (Her doll); Bethany (Her school friend); Howard (Kate's husband). Henry (Kate and Howard's baby son).

About the Story: Ma came forth with another of her profound superstitions during March 1930. After seeing a ring around the Moon on the previous night she proclaimed that, "Something bad is going to happen." Rarely a day went by without her proclaiming that some incident that had just happened put their family in danger. Pa (a German immigrant) and the older children wondered if these fears had followed her when she left Russia. Ma believed to toss salt over the left shoulder brought good luck, never button your shirt crooked, and avoid all black cats. Sure enough, after the Moon incident, Pa lost his Chicago job at the neighborhood laundry. Search for other work failed, then he and Ma held a two-person meeting and decided to purchase a small farm in Wisconsin. This novel takes the reader back to the depression era of the 1930's, and what life was like in rural America, especially for ten-year-old Esther.

About the Author: Gayle Rosengren grew up in Chicago where books, dogs and horses were among her best friends. This inspired her dream in writing for children someday. She graduated from Knox College, a Liberal Arts School in Galesburg, IL, with a B.A. in creative writing. After college she worked as an advertising copy writer. Also, she was employed at a local public library while raising her three children. In 2014 she released *What the Moon Said*, first of her two middle school level novels. That was followed in 2015 by *Cold War on Maplewood Street*, a story of the Cuban Missile Crisis during the Cold War era. She currently continues to write and lives in Madison, WI with her husband, Don.

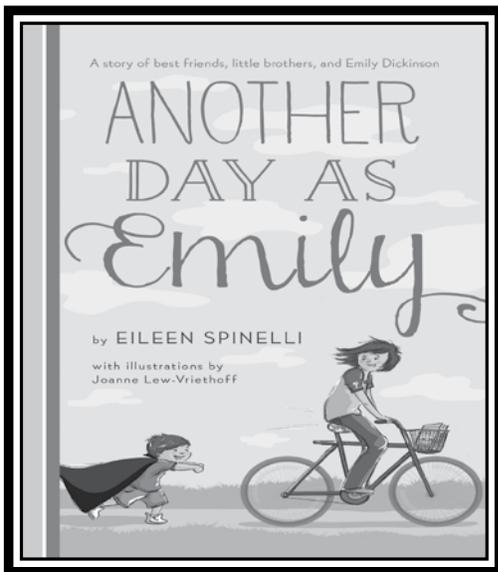
Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 164048 – Reading Level 4.2 – Points 7.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.4 – Points 11.0. Lexile 600L.

Another Day as Emily

Author: Eileen Spinelli

Illustrator: Joanne Vriethoff



Fiction: 224 pages. A novel in verse.

Setting: In Pennsylvania.

Guiding Principles: Imagination; Friendship; Initiative.

Awards: Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal; New York Times; ALA Book List; Publisher's Weekly; Children's Literature.

Main Characters: Suzy Quinn ---11/12; Parker (Suzy's 4 ½-year-old brother); Mom; Dad; Alison Wilmire (Suzy's friend); Mrs. Harden (Next door neighbor); Gilbert Lenhardt---13 (Suzy's friend); Emily Dickinson--Famous Poet (Deceased).

About the Story: Suzy Quinn describes, in first person throughout the novel, how bad luck is coming at her from several directions. She gets negative vibes from within her immediate family, classmates, and some other important matters in her daily life. For example, Parker, her young brother sneaked next door to senior citizen Mrs. Harden's house for a cookie treat and before she reached the cookie jar she had a "spell" and fell to the floor. Parker calmly went to the phone, just as Suzy arrived searching for him, called 911 and asked for emergency help. Meanwhile, Suzy knelt to Mrs. Harden's side and reassured her that help was coming. As a result, Parker received publicity from numerous sources and Suzy was not recognized. Suzy and her best friend Alison auditioned for separate roles in a play at the Ridgley Theater. Alison got selected for her effort, but Suzy was told to try again next time. Next, at the public library's Tween Time summer program Suzy chose to learn more about famous poet Emily Dickinson. Using several book sources, she dressed in white just as Ms. Dickinson was famous for and selected some of her poems to read aloud. Further she decided to become a near complete recluse by retreating to her bedroom at home. Suzy, also choose the poet's favorite foods and other documented habits. Mom, Dad and Parker were puzzled at Suzy's actions.

About the Author: Eileen Spinelli was born August 16, 1942 in South Philadelphia, PA. She became a writer in 1960. Ms. Spinelli has nearly 50 novels and picture books she is credited with producing. Before she began writing, her jobs included working as a secretary, a waitress, and telephone receptionist. Her hobbies include traveling, herb gardening, old movies, and anything to do with tea. Such as, tea parties; afternoon tea; collecting teapots. On May 21, 1977 Eileen married author Jerry Spinelli. They have six children, and 25 grandchildren. Eileen and Jerry currently live in Media, PA.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 166354 – Reading Level 3.2 – Points 3.0.
Lexile 420L.

Eliza Bing Is (Not) A Big, Fat Quitter

Author: Carmella Van Vleet

Fiction: 165 pages.

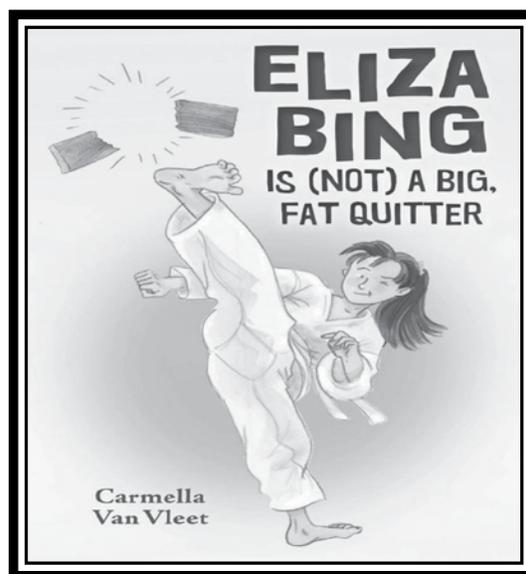
Setting: Summer break in medium sized city, USA. ADHD student Eliza (11) is trying to prove to her parents that she's not a quitter.

Guiding Principles: Optimism; Imagination; Courage.

Awards: Spring 2014 Junior Library Guild Selection; Winner 2015, 66th Annual, *Christopher Award*, for Young Readers ages 10 and up; Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Kirkus Reviews; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Eliza Bing—11; Mom; Dad; Sam—15 (Brother); Tony (Classmate); Madison (Classmate); Bear (Dog); Master Kim (*Taekwondo* instructor).



About the Story: Eliza has been diagnosed as having Attention-Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD). She is in fifth-grade at the elementary school, and will be moving up to middle school next year. This entire story is narrated by Eliza, which gives readers not only her views on each situation, but also the reactions of the other characters as she sometimes struggles. After she and her classmate Tony do a highly successful social studies project, which they name *The Tasty Pastry*, Eliza decides attending a summer workshop for cake-decorating is a must. Mom and Dad quickly veto the summer class idea for two main reasons. First, Dad is between jobs and searching for work. Secondly, Mom reminds Eliza she has a history of being a quitter before completing most of her projects. When her older brother Sam drops his *Taekwondo* classes, which are paid for, Eliza begs both parents to allow her to attend all the Martial Arts sessions to prove she is not a quitter.

About the Author: Carmella Van Vleet taught Kindergarten for a few years after finishing her college education. For the past seventeen years she has been writing professionally. After writing mostly non-fiction books, in 2014 Carmella wrote *Eliza Bing Is (Not) A Big Fat Quitter*, her first fictional novel at the middle grades level. In keeping with the Martial Arts theme of her new book, in real life Ms. Van Vleet has earned a Black Belt in *Taekwondo*. She lives in Lewis Center, Ohio.

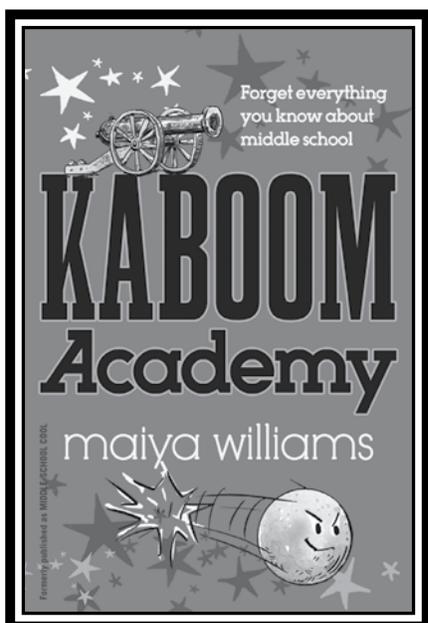
Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 164071 – Reading Level 4.1 – Points 5.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.4 – Points 9.0. Lexile 600L.

Kaboom Academy

Author: Maiya Williams

Illustrator: Karl Edwards



Fiction: 240 pages.

Setting: Horsemouth, New Hampshire.

Guiding Principles: Adaptability; Compassion; Courage.

Awards: Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Children’s Literature; Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal; Goodreads; ALA Booklist.

Main Characters: Dr. Marcel Kaboom (Principal); Journalism One-A Class (Nine members)---Edie Evermint (Gossip Queen/reporter); Victoria Zacarias (Mean girl/reporter); Leo Reiss (Quiet one/photographer); Jory Bellard (Class clown—African American/Editor in Chief); Margo Fassbinder (Teacher’s pet/student life); Ruben Chao (Bully/sports editor); Aliya and Taliya Naj (Identical twin sisters/reporters); Sam Blackmore (Person with many different faces/puzzles-games-comics); Mr. Mister

(Journalism teacher).

About the Story: There is a new alternative school, named *Kaboom Academy*, in Horsemouth, New Hampshire as the school year begins. All sorts of rumors were being passed around campus and in the community speculating about how the 55 students, grades 6-7-8, were selected to attend the school. This novel focuses on the nine-person journalism class and the impact their stories will have on the academy when they published the first of four quarterly periodicals. They named their newspaper *The Daily Dynamite*. Mr. Mister, the teacher, indicated that job assignments needed to be handed out. Jory was voted in as “Editor in Chief” by his peers and other jobs were appointed.

About the Author: Maiya Williams was born December 18, 1962 in Corvallis, Oregon. At the age of four she wrote and illustrated her first effort, by drawing the characters as stick people. By the time she reached 6th grade at Franklin Elementary School in Berkley, CA she was hooked on reading, and checking out several (10) titles on each visit to the public library. At Berkley High School her interest turned more to History as a subject of choice. Her next step in educational training took her to Harvard University where she graduated with an A.B. Cum Laude in History and Literature, after also serving as editor of the Harvard Lampoon from 1980-1984. For several years she wrote and helped produce numerous TV shows before writing her first novel, *The Golden Hour* in 2004. That book combined with *Hour of the Cobra* and *Hour of the Outlaw* formed a time travel trilogy. She currently lives near the ocean in Pacific Palisades, CA with her husband, who is also a writer, and their three children.

Accelerated Reader Information: Reading Level 5.7 – Points 9.0.

Arcady's Goal

Written and Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin

Fiction: 233 pages.

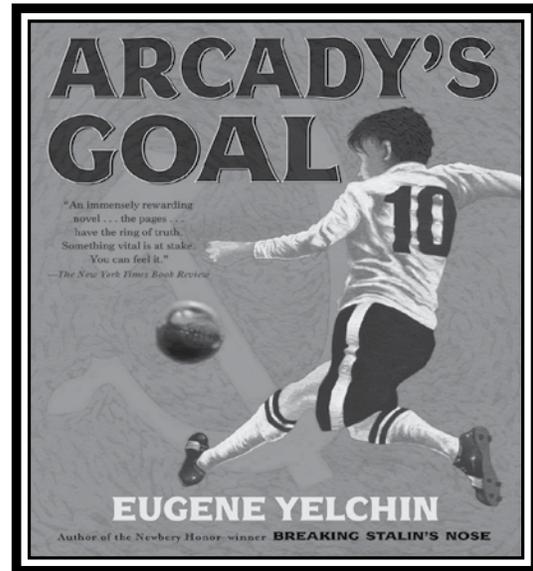
Setting: In pre-World War II, Soviet Russia.

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Optimism; Courage.

Awards: A New York Times Notable Children's Book; Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year; Junior Library Guild Selection Book; Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Notable Book; International Reading Association (IRA) Notable Book; Arkansas Charlie May Simon Reading List, grades 4-6, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Reviewing Agencies: Horn Book; ALA Booklist; Publisher's Weekly; Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Arcady Alexandrovich---12; Ivan Ivanych (Inspector/Soccer coach/Step-dad); Butterball (Director of children's home).



About the Story: When twelve-year-old Arcady is sent to a children's home after his parents are declared enemies of the state in pre-WWII Soviet Russia, playing soccer becomes a way to secure extra rations, respect, and protection--but it may also be his way out if he can believe in and love another person, and himself. Butterball, the home's director, recognized the soccer skills Arcady possessed and frequently put the young man on display when special government guests were visiting the camp. When Ivan Ivanych arrived at the home with the proper documents to adopt Arcady, the young man became suspicious and was hesitant to leave. Then he found out the Soviet soccer champions from Moscow, The Red Army Soccer Club, was holding tryouts for their youth team.

About the Author/Illustrator: Eugene Yelchin was born on October 18, 1956 in Saint Petersburg, Russia. In 1983, when he was twenty-seven-years-old he immigrated to the United States. He continued his education by attending the University of Southern California (USC). Since settling in the United States he has written and/or illustrated several children's books. In 2012 he wrote and illustrated *Breaking Stalin's Nose*, a middle grades novel, and it won the Newbery Honor Award. He lives in California with his wife and children.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 170322—Reading Level 4.0 – Points3.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.5 – Points 8.0. Lexile 630L.

CHARLIE MAY SIMON CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD WINNERS (4-6)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Author</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1970-71 | Lexau, Joan | Striped Ice Cream |
| 1971-72 | Walker, David | Big Ben |
| 1972-73 | Cleary, Beverly | Runaway Ralph |
| 1973-74 | Keith, Harold | The Runt Of Rogers School |
| 1974-75 | Blume, Judy | Tales Of A Fourth Grade Nothing |
| 1975-76 | Evarts, Hal | Big Foot |
| 1976-77 | Fleischman, Sid | The Ghost On Saturday Night |
| 1977-78 | Bulia, Clyde Robert | Shoeshine Girl |
| 1978-79 | Hicks, Clifford | Alvin's Swap Shop |
| 1979-80 | Byars, Betsy | The Pinballs |
| 1980-81 | Heide, Florence Parry | Banana Twist |
| 1981-82 | Brittain, William | All The Money In The World |
| 1982-83 | Gilson, Jamie | Do Bananas Chew Gum? |
| 1983-84 | Cleary, Beverly | Ramona Quimby, Age 8 |
| 1984-85 | Manes, Stephen | Be A Perfect Person In Just Three Days |
| 1985-86 | Roos, Stephen | My Horrible Secret |
| 1986-87 | Byars, Betsy | The Computer Nut |
| 1987-88 | MacLachlan, Patricia | Sarah, Plain And Tall |
| 1988-89 | Fleischman, Sid | The Whipping Boy |
| 1989-90 | Sachar, Louis | There's A Boy In The Girls' Bathroom |
| 1990-91 | Lowry, Lois | All About Sam |
| 1991-92 | Lowry, Lois | Number The Stars |
| 1992-93 | Anderson, Margaret J. | The Ghost Inside The Monitor |
| 1993-94 | Naylor, Phyllis | Shiloh |
| 1994-95 | Lowry, Lois | Attaboy, Sam! |
| 1995-96 | Woodruff, Elvira | The Secret Funeral Of Slim Jim The Snake |
| 1996-97 | Robinson, Barbara | The Best School Year Ever |
| 1997-98 | Fleischman, Sid | The 13 th Floor: A Ghost Story |
| 1998-99 | Clements, Andrew | Frindle |
| 1999-00 | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | Saving Shiloh |
| 2000-01 | Fletcher, Ralph | Flying Solo |
| 2001-02 | Cleary, Beverly | Ramona's World |
| 2002-03 | DiCamillo, Kate | Because Of Winn-Dixie |
| 2003-04 | Bruchac, Joseph | Skeleton Man |
| 2004-05 | Spinelli, Jerry | Loser |
| 2005-06 | DiCamillo, Kate | Tale Of Despereaux |
| 2006-07 | Clements, Andrew | The Report Card |
| 2007-08 | Martin, Ann M. | A Dog's Life: The Autobiography Of A Stray |
| 2008-09 | DiCamillo, Kate | The Miraculous Journey Of Edward Tulane |
| 2009-10 | Clements, Andrew | No Talking |
| 2010-11 | Korman, Gordon | Swindle |
| 2011-12 | Korman, Gordon | Zoobreak |
| 2012-13 | Grisham, John | Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer |
| 2013-14 | LaFleur, Suzanne | Eight Keys |
| 2014-15 | Palacio, R. J. | Wonder |
| 2015-16 | Creech, Sharon | The Boy On The Porch |

Arkansas Diamond Primary Book Award (K-3)
Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award (4-6)

2016-2017

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), the Arkansas Reading Association (ARA) and the Arkansas State Library (ASL) are the primary sponsors of the annual selection process, in conjunction with the two separate reading committees. There are overlapping functions by the three primary sponsors. Book titles and administrative support for the selection process, is performed by ASL personnel. The two reading committees meet on the last Saturday of each month beginning in September and ending in February. The general policy for the past few years features the winning authors and illustrators being invited to the annual ARA statewide meeting for presentation of awards, and book signings. The awards presentations covering the 2015-16 school year will take place on November 17-18, 2016, at the ARA Literacy Conference in Little Rock at the Statehouse Convention Center and Marriott Hotel. Books for the 2016-2017 school year must have a 2014 copyright. Electronic voting for the winners of the 2015-2016 school year began April 22, 2016 and ended May 6, 2016.

These fourteen Arkansas Diamond Primary Book Award titles, for the 2016-2017 school year, represent the nineteenth consecutive year this program has been active. The award and honor books will be selected by students (K-3) voting across Arkansas, in late April or early May 2017, with an exact ending date to be announced by the ADE. Students will read, or have read to them, at least three books from the reading list to be eligible to vote in the spring. Each student will vote for only one title.

These fifteen Charlie May Simon Book Award reading selections, for the 2016-2017 school year, represent the forty-seventh consecutive year this program has been in existence. The award and honor books will be selected by students (4-6) voting across Arkansas, in late April or early May 2017, with an exact ending date to be announced by the ADE. Students will read, or have read to them, at least three books from the reading list to be eligible to vote in the spring. Each student will vote for only one title.

For further information on these reading lists, you may contact the following representatives:

Cassandra Barnett, ADE Program Adviser for School Libraries
Email cassandra.barnett@arkansas.gov

Susan Peterson, ARA Executive Secretary
Email susan@arareading.org

Cathy Howser, ASL, Coordinator of Children's and Institutional Programs
Email cathy@library.arkansas.gov



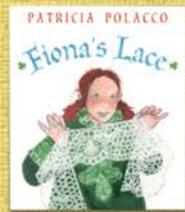
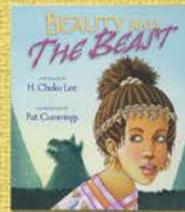
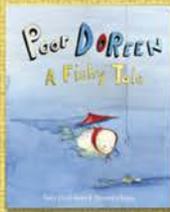
ARKANSAS DIAMOND PRIMARY AWARD BOOKS



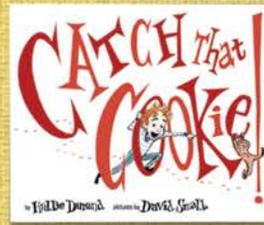
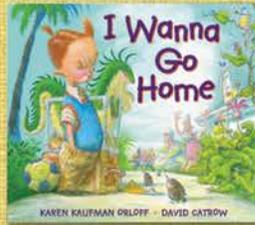
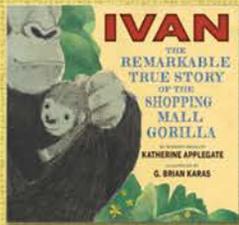
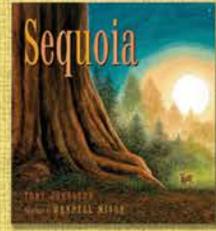
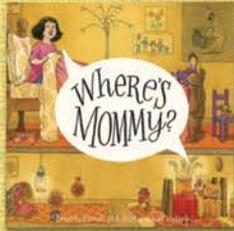
Winner
2015-2016



Honor Book
2015-2016



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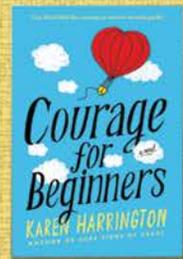
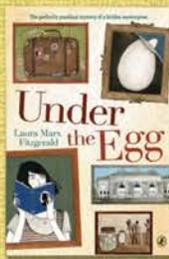
CHARLIE MAY SIMON CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD



Winner
2015-2016



Honor Book
2015-2016



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