

OVERVIEWS

2017-2018 School Year



**Grades
4-6**



Winner



Honor



Third

Winners for 2016-2017



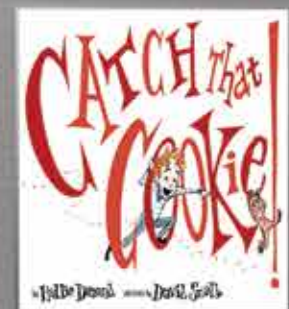
**Grades
K-3**



Winner



Honor



Third

Almost 55,000
Arkansas Students
Grades K-6
Voted For Their
Favorite Book
In The 2016-2017
School Year!

Please Join The
Group In
2017-2018

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Arkansas Diamond Award Books 2017-2018

The Bear Ate Your Sandwich: Just how far can we trust this innocent looking dog with giving a factual eyewitness account about whom did eat the sandwich? (Page 2)

Freedom's School: *With passage of the thirteenth amendment to the United States Constitution many African Americans went to sleep as slaves and woke up free.* (Page 3)

Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box: When he reached the booth an official was standing there and told him he would have to pass a reading test to determine if he was eligible to vote. (Page 4)

I Will Never Get a Star on Mrs. Benson's Blackboard: *Actually Rose is a distracted yet creative student, but sometimes her mind wanders and she answers the wrong questions.* (Page 5)

Mahalia Jackson: Walking With Kings and Queens: She promised to God, "If you let Grandpa get better, I'll never set foot in a nightclub again." Grandpa got better. And that was that. (Page 6)

Mama Seeton's Whistle: *Skippy was two years old when Mama went to the back door and whistled for him to come in for dinner. Without even thinking about it she just gave a two-note whistle.* (Page 7)

One Plastic Bag: Isatou further knew if she just dropped her damaged palm leaf basket upon the ground it would blend back into the soil, while the plastic bags just seemed to lie there indefinitely. (Page 8)

Oskar and the Eight Blessings: *In 1938 the Nazi leaders of Germany and Austria were speaking of mob attacks on a particular ethnic group--all Jews, synagogues, and all businesses they owned.* (Page 9)

Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story: She told her father, "I want to be a first baseman like you were." "Don't encourage her. It's not a game for girls," replied her mother. (Page 10)

Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook: *How thoughtful of Ragweed to prepare his tongue-in-cheek primer handbook covering the previously unwritten rules for farm dogs to strictly enforce.* (Page 11)

Rufus Goes to Sea: Rufus a small pink pig loved school, but he didn't know it was summer break until he found a sign on the front door that read, "Enjoy Your Summer Vacation." (Page 12)

Toad Weather: *It was a rainy early evening time of day when Ally's mama came through the door of their apartment and said, "I saw something on the way home, and I want to show it to you."* (Page 13)

Trombone Shorty: When older brother James saw him with a trombone he noticed that the instrument was taller than Troy. James said, "From now on your name is Trombone Shorty." (Page 14)

Charlie May Simon Reading List 2017-2018

Crenshaw: Jackson had just finished first grade, about three years ago, when he first met his imaginary cat friend named Crenshaw. The cat seems to have a good knowledge of Jackson's entire life. (Page 16)

Currents: *After discovering her slave records in the Big House, Bones ripped out the page showing her real name and birth and then put the paper in a bottle and set it free downstream.* (Page 17)

The Detective's Assistant: With the death of the last of her immediate family Nell was escorted to Chicago to live with her Aunt Kate, an unmarried detective with the Pinkerton Agency. (Page 18)

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans: *It is difficult to believe that 12 years have passed since at least 1,833 people lost their lives as Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast.* (Page 19)

The Education of Ivy Blake: Because of her mother's late night visit Ivy (11) is leaving the love of the Evers family farm to move back in with her mother who does not have a home or job. (Page 20)

Firefly Hollow: *The four main characters Firefly, Cricket, Vole, and Peter have unique life styles to each other but seem to be facing society in a similar way. All four live in, or near, Firefly Hollow.* (Page 21)

Fish in a Tree: With a "Dyslexia disorder" sixth-grader Ally is in her seventh school in seven years, and they all rank about the same for reading and writing possibilities. (Page 22)

Fuzzy Mud: *Welcome to Heath Cliff, PA home of Woodridge Academy and nearby Sunray Farm where Top Secret work is being done behind fences and guards with dogs.* (Page 23)

A Handful of Stars: Lily (12) befriends Salma (12) a Hispanic girl whose migrant family is in Maine for blueberry picking season. An important local beauty pageant may separate friendships. (Page 24)

Octopus Scientists: *Author Sy Montgomery said, "The sea is home to creatures whose weirdness rivals that of the strangest sci-fi aliens anyone ever imagined."* (Page 25)

The Seventh Most Important Thing: One kid, one crime, one chance to make things right. The judge agreed and the sentence was implemented, and no more thrown bricks. (Page 26)

Stella by Starlight: *It was Jojo, Stella's eight-year-old brother, who was making a midnight visit to nearby Kilkenny Pond on a chilly October evening that discovered the dreaded KKK.* (Page 27)

Terrible Typhoid Mary: Tells the story of "Typhoid" Mary Mallon, an Irish immigrant cook in the early 20th century of New York State who, as a carrier of typhoid fever, unleashed an epidemic. (Page 28)

Until I Find Julian: *After Julian left the family home in Mexico to work illegally in the United States his family, especially his younger brother Mateo, greatly missed him.* (Page 29)

Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer: Strange things are going on at their new farm. Sophie is writing a letter to her deceased uncle, "Don't come back from the dead to answer." (Page 30)

The War That Saved My Life: *When Ada was born she had a clubfoot. For the first ten years of her life her mam (mother) physically and mentally abused her in their one-room flat.* (Page 31)

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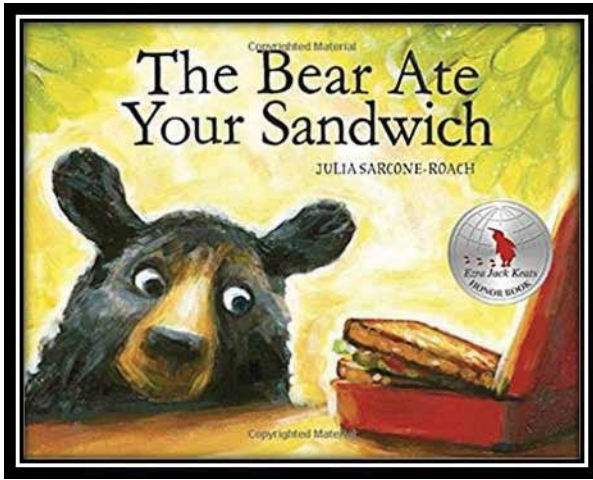
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The Bear Ate Your Sandwich

Written and Illustrated by Julia Sarcone-Roach



Humorous Fiction: 40 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Settings: Country Bear den; berry pickup truck to the city; tour of the city, found a sandwich; took a slow-boat back to the country; arrived back at bear's den.

Guiding Principles: Perseverance; Contemplation; Initiative.

Awards: Winner of an Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor Award; Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year; Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award; Master List Selection for several states.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: Bulletin of the

Center for Children's Books; School Library Journal; Horn Book. Other Reviews: Book Page; Wall Street Journal; ALA Booklist; Penguin Random House; Kirkus Review.

Main Characters: Small Scottish Terrier looking dog; Young girl, who had her sandwich stolen and eaten; Country Bear, the accused thief.

About the Story: Beginning with page one of the book an unknown speaker explains in detail to an unknown person exactly what happened to her missing sandwich which was left on a park bench in the city. "By now I think you know what happened to your sandwich. But you may not know how it happened. So let me tell you. That country bear came out of his den hungry. He then stole and ate several strawberries from the bed of a nearby pickup truck before falling into a sound sleep among the remaining berries. The truck driving farmer came back to his vehicle and headed for the city market---thinking he still had a full load of berries and not knowing about the wild bear asleep in the back. After arriving in the city that bear woke up and ran around scaring a lot of people, and other animals. When the bear got to the city park he found your sandwich lying on a bench, and picked it up and ate it."

About the Author/Illustrator: Julia Sarcone-Roach grew up in Arlington, Virginia. She studied film and animation at the Rhode Island School of Design. Her award winning animated film *Call of the Wild* has been shown in film festivals throughout the world. Julia has received extended praise for her book *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*, especially from the main reviewers that look closely at each writing effort. For example, Penguin Random House said, "The wonderfully told story, spectacular illustrations, and surprise ending make this Julia Sarcone-Roach's best book to date." Kirkus Reviews added, "Young readers and listeners will laugh out loud as they closely examine the pictures and find the jokes in this highly interactive urban adventure." Book Page stated, "This story is mischief-making at its finest. And just like a good sandwich it's hard to resist." Julia lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 176636 – Reading Level 2.5 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: RL 1.6 – Points 10. Lexile AD490L

Freedom's School

Written by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Illustrated by James E. Ransome

Historical Fiction: 32 pages.

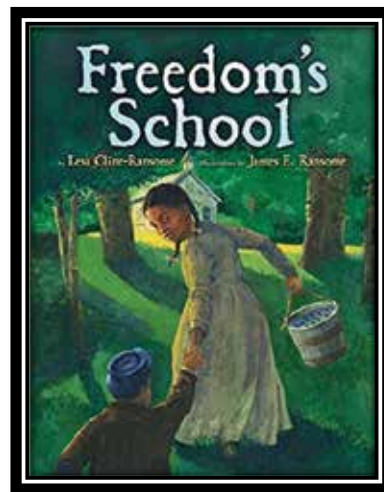
Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Setting: Uncertain. Author Lesa Cline-Ransome does not give a specific locale for the story, thus, making it representative of much of the rural South after the Civil War.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Optimism; Compassion; Initiative.

Reviews: School Library Journal; Kirkus Reviews; ALA Booklist; National Council for Social Studies Notable Children's Trade.

Main Characters: Lizzie (me); Paul (young brother); Mama; Daddy; Mizz Howard (teacher).



About the Story: With passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution many African Americans went to sleep as slaves and woke up free. It didn't take the adults long to realize the new law also allowed their children to attend schools. A special site was chosen and volunteers arrived to build the new school building with desks and benches. The seats were quickly filled as Lizzie and Paul claimed their seats along with friends and neighbors. The daily walk to school was longer for some, and there were incidents of bad weather and other interruptions. Besides the school receiving some threats through Mizz Howard, the teacher, there were travelers on foot and some on horses that enjoyed harassing the young students. One morning, just as Lizzie and Paul arrived at school they saw smoke pouring from the windows and doors as the building was quickly being consumed by the flames. It was meeting time again for the adults, as they rallied as a group to begin rebuilding their school with new materials and furniture. Mizz Howard was still the teacher and waiting for the doors to open.

About the Author and Illustrator: Lesa Cline-Ransome (author) and James E. Ransome (illustrator) are married to each other. Once again they have combined their highly rated talents to produce *Freedom's School*, another book of historical fiction. Lesa's leading author credits just keeps on climbing, as James adds to his over fifty mark just as the Children's Book Council named him one of seventy-five authors and illustrators everyone should know. Lesa and James live in Rhinebeck, New York, with their four children and a Saint Bernard dog named Nola.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 171881 – Reading Level 3.8 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.5 – Points 3.0.

Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box

Written by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein

Illustrated by James E. Ransome

Historical Fiction: 32 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

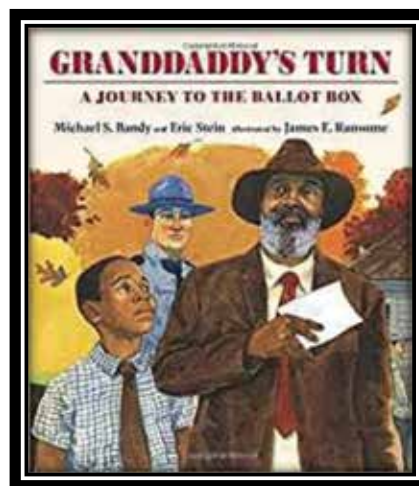
Settings: Working on the farm. Fishing at the boat dock.
A sad journey to the ballot box.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Optimism; Honesty; Initiative.

Award: NAACP Image Award Honored Book.

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

Main Characters: Michael (Me); Granddaddy; Grandmother.



About the Story: Michael was living with his granddaddy and grandmother on their farm and helping with the outside work. Daily chores included feeding the animals, milking the cows, and working in the fields. Before each day was finished all of Michael's clothing was wet from his sweat produced throughout the extra hot days. Meanwhile, Michael explained how his granddaddy coped with the heat, "He was a big, strong man who always said he didn't take nothing off nobody. He could do anything—plow fields, chop wood, and dig fence posts, all without breaking a sweat." One morning at breakfast grandmother brought out his freshly cleaned suit of clothing and told granddaddy, "It's our time, and you got to look your best." She was referring to an election being held in town, and he had never voted before. Michael and granddaddy walked the few miles to town, got in line and the excited senior got his ballot. However, when he reached the booth an official was standing there and told him he would have to pass a reading test to determine if he was eligible to vote. Granddaddy failed the quiz and was turned away. Tears filled his eyes as he and Michael slowly started the walk back home.

About Authors Michael S. Bandy, Eric Stein, and Illustrator James E. Ransome: This powerful and touching true-life story shares one boy's perspective of growing up in the segregated South, while beautiful illustrations depict the rural setting in tender detail. This moving tale shines an emotional spotlight on a dark facet of United States history. For Bandy and Stein the vocabulary and sentence structure will be accessible to all readers of early chapter books and the style evokes stories told in the oral tradition. From School Library Journal, "James Ransome's water colors have a folksy quality that accents the bond between granddaddy and grandson, and details the farm scenery, period clothing and hairstyles. Perhaps the most notable image comes toward the end, when a college-age Michael, immersed in school work, glances backward at the old photo of his granddaddy that adorns his study space. A note at the end provides historical context about voting and the civil rights movement."

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 176068 – Reading Level 3.6 – Points 0.5.

I Will Never Get a Star on Mrs. Benson's Blackboard

Author and Illustrator Jennifer K. Mann



Fiction: 40 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Setting: Classroom at school.

Guiding Principles: Optimism; Respect; Courage.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; Publisher's Weekly. Other Reviews: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Kirkus Reviews; Children's Literature; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Rose (me); Rose's classmates; Mrs. Benson (classroom teacher); Mr. Sullivan (visiting artist).

About the Story: Struggling in a class where her teacher puts stars on the board for good spelling, neatness and correct answers, creative little Rose worries that she will never earn merits until finally she makes an oversized card that reflects her artistic talents. Actually Rose is a distracted, yet creative

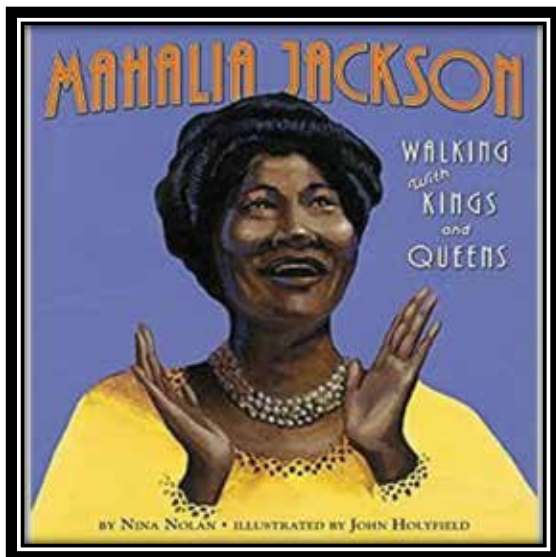
student, but sometimes her mind wanders, and she answers the wrong questions. Her reading voice is quiet, not strong and loud. Keeping her desk neat and clean is difficult. Just when it seems Rose has once again failed to reach the qualification level, Mrs. Benson calls her to the chalk board at the front of the room. She then congratulated Rose on the card achievement for Mr. Sullivan, an artist guest, and instructs her to print a star by her name. Rose advanced to the board and drew a star by her own name, then drew another star by Mrs. Benson's name. There were smiles throughout the classroom.

About the Author/Illustrator: Jennifer K. Mann was an architect before turning to children's books full time. *I Will Never Get A Star On Mrs. Benson's Blackboard* is Ms. Mann's second book as both author and illustrator. According to Publisher's Weekly, "Observers say she (Jennifer K. Mann) is well on her way to becoming a champion portrayer of those who color outside the lines or march to a different drum." Many readers will see a bit of themselves in Rose's well-intentioned efforts in the classroom. Ms. Mann lives on an island near Seattle, Washington with her husband, children, cats, dogs, and chickens.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 175565 – Reading Level 3.1 – Points 0.5.

Mahalia Jackson: Walking With Kings and Queens

Written by Nina Nolan
Illustrated by John Holyfield



Nonfiction: Picture Book Biography. 32 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Settings: Wherever gospel music is allowed.

Guiding Principles: Honesty; Compassion; Loyalty; Courage.

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

Main Characters: Mahalia Jackson; Aunt Duke; Aunt Bell; Aunt Hannah; Grandpa.

About the Story: Simply stated by many voices, "Mahalia Jackson loved to sing gospel music." She didn't look upon singing in a church as performing; it was just another opportunity for her to express herself. When

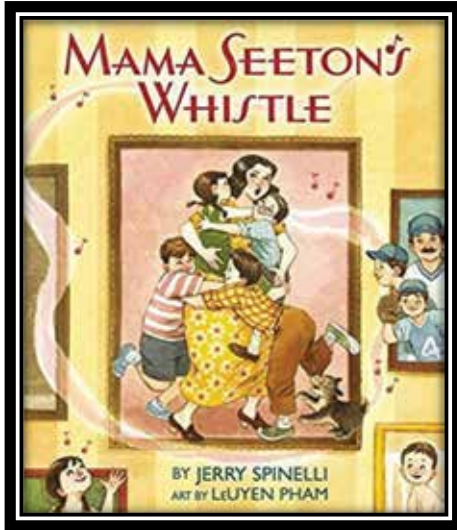
she finally saved enough money for her first singing lesson the teacher told her to stop hollering. Mahalia politely told the voice expert she was going to keep hollering. The only restriction she placed on herself was when her Grandpa had a severe heart attack. She promised to God, "If you let Grandpa get better, I'll never set foot in a nightclub again." Grandpa got better. And that was that. After her mother died, Mahalia was passed around among three different aunts. That didn't keep her from finding a church she enjoyed attending, and singing her favorite gospel songs. Wherever she briefly settled, once the local citizens learned Mahalia was there, the church's attendance grew quickly. Back home in New Orleans, her talents were well known. While many locals enjoyed the blues, or the jazz, the overflow crowds were flocking to the church where she was singing. Mahalia was a guest on celebrity TV shows; she performed in Carnegie Hall, and sang for presidents and prime ministers. She sang at the *March on Washington* meeting just prior to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. giving his famous "I have a Dream" speech. She definitely earned the title "Queen of Gospel."

About Author Nina Nolan and Illustrator John Holyfield: Author Nina Nolan, in her thorough and easy to follow narrative debut, along with illustrator John Holyfield's beautiful visuals captures the amazing story of how Mahalia became the "Queen of Gospel" in this fascinating picture book biography. From Amazon.com, "Nina has been writing for as long as she can remember (she sent her first story to publishers when she was ten-years-old). She wanted more people, especially young ones, to know about Mahalia so they could feel empowered by her strength, too. Nina lives in Portland, Oregon, with her darling puppy dog, Marshall." John Holyfield is a renowned fine artist, his paintings and prints can be found in galleries nationwide. He began painting at the age of nine, and his work is rich in cultural themes that capture the essence of the African American experience. John lives and paints in Rosemont, West Virginia.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No.184701 – Reading Level 3.2 – Points 0.5.

Mama Seeton's Whistle

Written by Jerry Spinelli
Illustrated by LeUyen Pham



Fiction: 40 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Settings: Home; Neighborhood; Community; City; State; Country; International travels.

Guiding Principles: Compassion; Loyalty; Optimism; Adaptability.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: ALA Booklist; Publisher's Weekly. Other Reviews: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Mama Seeton; Papa Seeton; Skippy (their eldest son); Sheldon (their second child); Stewart (their third child); Sophie (their fourth child, and only daughter).

About the Story: Skippy was two years old when Mama went to the back door and whistled for him to

come in for dinner. Without even thinking about it she just gave a two-note whistle. It was not loud or fancy. Skippy was actually hiding in the house, but Mama from that moment forward started a tradition that would last for an extended period of time. After Sheldon, Stewart, and Sophie were born Mama continued using the two-note sound as a call to the house. The Mama whistle seemed to have magic results as all four children rushed to the kitchen door within moments. Then one day later on Mama began to feel sad as she reminded Papa the children were leaving home and her whistle was no longer effective. Skippy had moved out of town and to the north where he had become a forest ranger. Sheldon went east where he began work as a ferry boat captain. Stewart moved to Africa to study Mountain Gorillas. Sophie was running in several marathon races at sites all over the map. Mama looked at Papa and cried, "Our nest is empty." After a few more days of Mama feeling sad, Papa took her arm and led her over to the kitchen door. "Okay," he said. "Whistle." She gave him a look. "Are you goofy?" "Not at all," he said. "If you just pretend it's the old days, maybe you'll feel a little better."

About Author Jerry Spinelli and Illustrator LeUyen Pham: Newbery award-winning author Jerry Spinelli's sweet lyrical text and *New York Times* bestselling illustrator LeUyen Pham's charming illustrations show the timeless love between a mother and her children. Jerry was born February 1, 1941, and is known as an American writer of children's novels. He is the author of more than thirty popular books for young readers, and is best known for *Maniac Magee*, and *Wringer*. Jerry married Eileen Mesi in 1977, she is also a children's writer. They have six children and 21 grandchildren. LeUyen is the illustrator of over fifty children's books. This includes board books, picture books, chapter books, and graphic novels. She lives, works, and teaches in San Francisco, California.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 174352 – Reading Level 3.2 – Points 0.5.

One Plastic Bag: **Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia**

Written by Miranda Paul
Illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon

Nonfiction: (Inspired by real happenings) 32 pages.

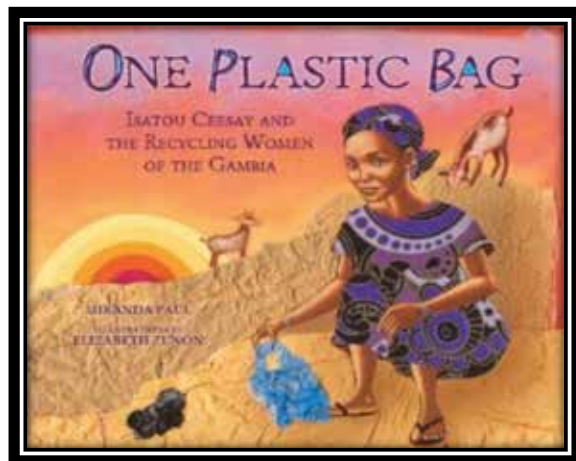
Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Setting: Njau, Gambia (village in West Africa).

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Courage; Responsibility; Optimism.

Awards: Junior Library Guild Selection; Author (Miranda Paul) was recognized by The United Nations (UN), and The Peace Corps.

Reviews: Starred Review: School Library Journal. Other Reviews: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Kirkus Reviews; National Council for Social Studies Notable Children's Trade; Publisher's Weekly.



Main Characters: The five ladies who contributed most to bring this book, and the project it covers, to the world's attention: Isatou Ceesay (Grassroots activist); Peggy Sedlak (Peace Corps volunteer); Elizabeth Zunon (Illustrator of the book); Miranda Paul (Author of the book); Carol Hinz (Editor of the book). Also, here are the four Gambian girls who worked with Isatou on crocheting purses from the plastic trash when the original recycling project first began in the late 1990s: Fatim, Incha, Maram, and Mbombbeh.

About the Story: When Isatou was in her early teens she discovered the plastic bags that people were throwing away were much more sturdy than her palm-leaf baskets which kept falling apart. She further knew if she just dropped her damaged baskets upon the ground they would blend back into the soil, while the plastic bags just seemed to lie there indefinitely. Over the years she noticed that the “dumped” plastic bags were just building up into piles along the paths and roads. Isatou and her grandmother observed several goats that had roamed free were now tied up to stakes with ropes. The local butcher said some goats had eaten the plastic bags and died when the material got twisted up in the animals' intestines. Grandmother looked directly at Isatou and said, “You must be strong and do something.” Isatou's feet led her to the old ugly road where the stench of garbage was strong, along with several mosquitoes, and the smell of burning plastic. Isatou began pulling plastic bags free of the other garbage, and was already thinking about some close friends she knew that would help her to work on a plan that would recycle the plastic product, and just maybe earn some money too!

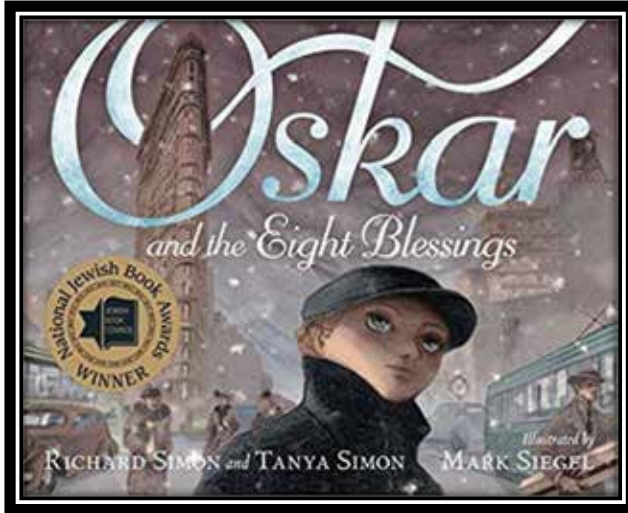
About the Author, Miranda Paul and Illustrator, Elizabeth Zunon: Miranda is a teacher and children's writer. She first traveled to Gambia in 2003 and heard about Isatou's amazing project. Miranda is excited to have finally brought this story to the world. She currently spends her days writing new books, traveling, and speaking at schools. Elizabeth's childhood in Ivory Coast, West Africa featured an everyday life filled with tropical colors and patterns. Now living in Albany, New York she is happy to help bring inspiring stories from Africa like Isatou's to the world. Using plastic bags in her artwork gave Elizabeth the opportunity to play, experiment, and think about other reusable materials.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 170587 – Reading Level 2.9 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 1.6 – Points 1.0. Lexile AD480L.

Oskar and the Eight Blessings

Written by Richard and Tanya Simon
Illustrated by Mark Siegel



Historical Fiction: A picture book of 40 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Settings: Nazi Germany and New York City, USA, 1938.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Optimism; Adaptability.

Awards: Winner of the 2015 National Jewish Book Award for Children's Literature.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: ALA Booklist; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal. Other Reviews: Horn Book; Kirkus Reviews; New York Times Book Review; Children's Literature.

Main Characters: Oskar (young Jewish refugee); Mother (still in Germany); Father (still in Germany); Aunt Esther (lives in New York City).

About the Story: During the final six months of 1938 Oskar's mother and father were able to get him passage on a ship sailing to New York City. The Nazi governments of Germany and Austria were speaking of mob attacks on a particular ethnic group—against all Jews, all synagogues, and all businesses owned by Jewish people in both countries. On November 9, 1938 the talked about program was approved in both countries. In two days, over a thousand synagogues were burned down, thousands of Jewish owned businesses were destroyed, and more than 30,000 Jews were thrown into concentration camps. It was the first wide scale step in what was called the Final Solution: the Nazi plan to murder all the Jews of Europe. Meanwhile, when Oskar and his parents were saying their goodbyes his father's last words to him were, "Oskar, even in bad times, people can be good. You have to look for the blessings." When Oskar's ship docked in New York the only possessions he had was a person's address and a photo of a woman he didn't know. It was his father's sister, Aunt Esther.

About Authors Richard and Tanya Simon, and Illustrator Mark Siegel: Richard Simon and Tanya Simon are a husband and wife writing team. Richard is chair of the language department at an independent school and is co-author of a successful Broadway play. Tanya is co-author of the children's novel *Zoro and Me*, winner of a Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for New Talent. *Oskar and the Eight Blessings* is their first picture book. They live in Westchester, New York. Illustrator Mark Siegel has written and illustrated several award winning picture books and graphic novels. Next is the "5 Worlds" graphic novel series which is launching in 2017 with Alexis Siegel, Boya Sun, Xanthe Bouma, and Matt Rockefeller. 5 Worlds Book 1 is *The Sand Warrior*.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 176661 – Reading Level 2.9 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 2.3 – Points 3.0.

Queen of the Diamond: the Lizzie Murphy Story

Author and Illustrator, Emily Arnold McCully



Sports Biography Picture Book: 32 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Setting: The early 1900s in Warren, Rhode Island, USA, a six-year-old future female all-star professional baseball player was practicing to play on men's teams.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Initiative; Perseverance; Optimism.

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

Main Characters: Lizzie Murphy (baseball star); Henry (older brother); Father; Mother; Many male professional baseball players.

About the Story: The year was 1900, and six-year-old Lizzie Murphy was improving her baseball skills

every day in playing catch and working out with her brother Henry. Lizzie's father, a former baseball player, had watched her mature as an athlete and pronounced, "You're a natural, Lizzie." She told her father, "I want to be a first baseman like you were." "Don't encourage her", said her mother. "It's not a game for girls." When she was eight-years-old Lizzie tried to join Henry's team, but was turned away. She did make some progress by being accepted as the team's bat girl. When Lizzie turned twelve, she went to work in a textile mill, practiced playing the violin, worked on her ice hockey skills, won several foot and swimming races, but still stuck with her baseball goals. As a 15-year-old she was playing on two different men's baseball teams. At age eighteen her mother sat her down for a serious talk about life, "You are a grown-up lady now, Lizzie. A woman can't support herself on a ball field. It's hard enough for a man." Lizzie then approached the manager of a semipro team, and signed a contract to play professional baseball. "How will you ever get married?" her mother said. Lizzie replied, "Don't care. I want to play baseball." Many fans called her the Queen of Baseball.

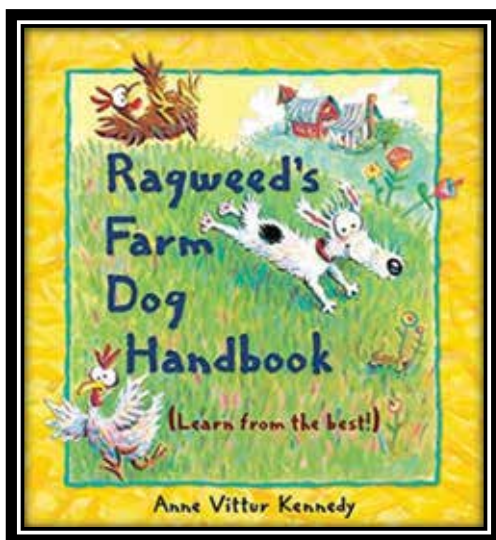
About Author/Illustrator Emily Arnold McCully: According to *Amazon.com* sources: "Emily was born in Galesburg, Illinois. She was a dare-devil tree climber who loved to write stories and illustrate them. Her family moved to a New York City suburb where she attended school. After college at Brown University, she earned a Master's degree at Columbia University in art history. Her work as a freelance illustrator for magazines led to her work being seen in subway cars by a children's book editor. It launched a long career, first as an illustrator, then as author/illustrator of picture books." Emily won the Caldecott Medal in 1993 for her *Mirette on the High Wire*. She has two grown sons, one grandson, and lives in New York City and Columbia County, New York, where she grows flowers and vegetables.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 171973 – Reading Level 3.4 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 2.5 – Points 2.0. Lexile 460 L.

Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook

Written and Illustrated by Anne Vittur Kennedy



Fiction: 32 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Setting: Down on the farm.

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Loyalty; Adaptability; Respect.

Awards: *Bulletin* Blue Ribbon 2015, Picture Books; Irma Black Award 2016 Finalist.

Reviews: Starred Review: *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*. Other Reviews: ALA Booklist; Kirkus Reviews; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal; Book Page.

Main Characters: Ragweed (dog--me); Mr. Farmer; The Rooster; The Hens; The Pigs; The Fox; The Sheep; The Cows.

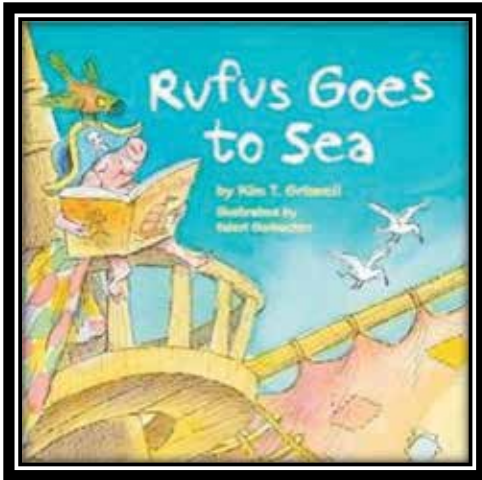
About the Story: Being a lone farm dog is a tough job, requiring a maximum effort and full attention seven days of each week. How thoughtful of Ragweed to prepare his tongue-in-cheek primer handbook covering the previously unwritten rules for all farm dogs to strictly enforce. It is true that the rooster's first crow awakens the early-to-rise farmer each morning, and it also alerts all the hens in the henhouse that it's time to get up and start laying the eggs for today! Dog barks before daylight are completely unwelcome. *Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook* explores other facets of being a professional farm dog, none more important than how to earn free biscuits from Mr. Farmer throughout the day. For example, if the day has been successful, stretching out at Mr. Farmer's feet near sundown is usually worth an extra biscuit. The next new farm dog handbook entry could be, "How to befriend a wild fox without letting Mr. Farmer know, and also keep the fox out of the hen house!"

About the Author/Illustrator Anne Vittur Kennedy: She started out as a music teacher in public schools, but shifted to illustration in 1982. Anne has illustrated numerous children's books, including the Miss Fox series by Eileen Spinelli and the Pony Scouts series by Catherine Hapka. She is now happily writing and illustrating her own titles. A life-long love of animals and humor are evident in her work. Anne says her dog, Banjo, who often supervises in the studio, has inspired her to write *Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook*. Her time spent on farms riding horses has played a part in her stories too. She is the recipient of many awards, and lives near Columbus, Ohio.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 175366 – Reading Level 2.2 – Points 0.5.
Lexile AD300L.

Rufus Goes to Sea

Written by Kim T. Griswell
Illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev



Fiction: 32 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Setting: At home, school, and on the *Scurvy Dog* (Pirate boat).

Guiding Principles: Courage; Honesty; Optimism; Respect.

Reviews: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; School Library Journal; New York Times Online; Night Owl Reviews Top Pick.

Main Characters: Rufus Leroy Williams III (small pink pig); Wibblyshins (captain of the *Scurvy Dog*); Scratchwhiskers (first mate of the *Scurvy Dog*); Several boat mates.

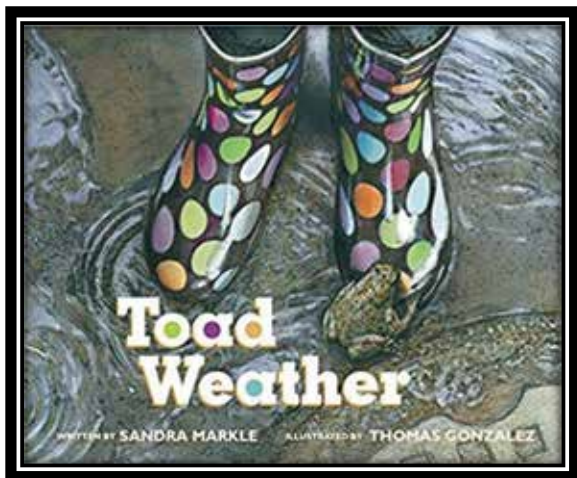
About the Story: Rufus loved school, but he didn't know it was summer break until he found a sign on the locked front door that read, "Enjoy Your Summer Vacation." He simply sat down on the school steps and began reading his favorite book about adventure and spending nights under blankets of stars. This helped Rufus to quickly decide he wanted to be a real pirate over the school break. He gathered up a few belongings and headed to the boat docks to search for his summer job. Soon Rufus saw the sign he was looking for hanging on a boat named the *Scurvy Dog*. The sign clearly read, "PYRATE WNTED." Though Rufus tried to impress the captain with his several abilities to clean the boat and be a handy worker to have around, the captain kept telling him there was no position on his boat for a small pink pig. Just before Rufus was about to depart the boat he reached into his backpack and pulled out his favorite library book and said to the captain, "I can read this." The boat's head man's eyes opened wider as he almost shouted, "Why didn't ye say so? A readin' pirate is just what we need."

About the Author and Illustrator: The dynamic duo of author Kim T. Griswell and illustrator Valeri Gorbachev have struck again. While copies of the 2013 popular book *Rufus Goes to School* are still being read and reread this team came forth with a 2015 *Rufus Goes to Sea* effort. One reviewing observer said, "Kids will love seeing Rufus conquer new worlds in this delightful follow-up to the school trip." School Library Journal spoke up with, "Griswell's writing is simple and repetitive enough to appeal to the preschool crowd, while Gorbachev's ink and watercolor illustrations are warm and friendly." Both still included pirate speak and pirate terms for lower elementary readers.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 175303 – Reading Level 2.7 – Points 0.5.
Lexile AD400L.

Toad Weather

Written by Sandra Markle
Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez



Historical Fiction: 32 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Setting: Toad migration detour just a few blocks away from home.

Guiding Principles: Compassion; Perseverance; Courage.

Reviews: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Kirkus Reviews; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal; New York Times.

Main Characters: Ally (Me); Mama; Grandma; Several toads.

About the Story: It was a rainy early evening time of day when Ally's mama came bursting through the door of their apartment and said,

"Come on, Ally, you too grandma, I saw something on the way home, something I want to show you." After hesitating, grandma and Ally put on some rainy day clothes and followed mama as she headed down the sidewalk. Along the way they all observed dripping awnings, wet cardboard, splashing cars, storm drain geysers, oil slick patterns in the rainwater, and some usual sounds of the early night. Mama then told them to listen for something unusual. It was Ally that first heard the sound like tiny whistles as they turned a corner in the road and saw several people moving around and going back and forth across the road. All three of them saw that the people milling around were helping toads cross the road so they could reach some ponds to continue their annual reproductive process. Without any further hesitation, Ally, Mama and Grandma joined the group of workers and enjoyed being part of the team. By the time the last toad had crossed the road, the rain had stopped.

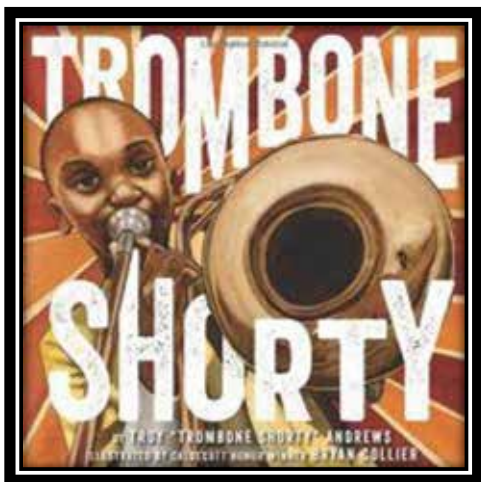
About Author Sandra Markle and Illustrator Thomas Gonzalez: Sandra Markle is the author of more than two hundred children's books, including *Butterfly Tree*, *Snow School*, and *Waiting for Ice*. Her books have won numerous awards. She, and her husband photographer Skip Jeffery, live in Florida. Illustrator Thomas Gonzalez was born in Havana, Cuba, and moved to the United States as a child. An artist and painter, he directed campaigns for clients such as Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, NASCAR, The NFL, and McDonald's. He has illustrated a large number of children's books. Thomas lives in Georgia.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 174267 – Reading Level 3.0 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 1.3 – Points 1.0.

Trombone Shorty

Written by Troy “*Trombone Shorty*” Andrews
Illustrated by Bryan Collier



Autobiography: by Troy Andrews. 40 pages.

Interest Level: Grades K-3.

Setting: Centered in New Orleans, LA, and scattered throughout the “Jazz World.”

Guiding Principles: Courage; Optimism; Compassion; Respect.

Awards: 2016 Caldecott Honor Book; Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, 2016.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: Publisher’s Weekly; Kirkus Reviews. Other Reviews: ALA Booklist; Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books; National Council for Social Studies Notable Children’s Trade; School Library Journal; Amina Chaudhri Booklist.

Main Characters: Troy Andrews (me); James Andrews (big brother); Bo Diddley (Jazz super star);

Mom and Dad; Neighborhood musicians; Several big jazz bands.

About the Story: Troy Andrews, aka *Trombone Shorty*, has had the music urge since he was a preschooler in his home town of New Orleans. As far back as Troy can remember about his neighborhood named Treme there has always been the sound of some type of music drifting among the houses and streets, day and night. He said, “The story I want to tell will be about music.” Troy and some other children built their pretend musical instruments out of any materials, old or new, they could get their hands on. When marching bands of any kind came through the area, the youngsters would fall right in and pretend to play. Then, one day a near miracle happened. Someone had thrown an old trombone into a trash pile on his street. He grabbed it, found that it still made some sound and began to practice. When the next parade came through he jumped in among the band members and began playing his horn. His older brother James saw him with the trombone and noticed that the instrument was taller than Troy. James smiled proudly and said, “From now on your name is *Trombone Shorty*.”

About Author Troy Andrews and Illustrator Bryan Collier: Officially author Troy Andrews won a 2016 Caldecott Honor Book Award for *Trombone Shorty* while illustrator Bryan Collier was presented with the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award in 2016 for the same title. Collier’s beautiful watercolor, pen-and-ink, and collage artwork picks up the rhythm and pace of Troy’s storytelling, creating an accompaniment full of motion and color. Troy was leading his own band by age six, and his star continues to rise today. Barnes and Noble made this observation, “*Trombone Shorty* is a celebration of the rich cultural history of New Orleans and the power of music.”

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 172596 – Reading Level 4.2 – Points 0.5.

Reading Counts: Reading Level 5.5 – Points 2.0. Lexile 840L.

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
2016-17	Applegate, Kathryn	Ivan: The Remarkable True Story Of The Shopping Mall Gorilla

2017-2018 OVERVIEW SCHEDULE OF CO-OP PRESENTATIONS

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

6/19/17	Northwest AR Ed. Service Co-op (Farmington)	8:30-11:30 AM
6/22/17	Dawson Ed. Service Co-op (Arkadelphia)	9:00-12:00 Noon
6/26/17	Great Rivers Ed. Service Co-op (West Helena)	8:30-11:30 AM
7/05/17	Southwest AR Ed. Service Co-op (Hope)	9:00-12:00 Noon
7/10/17	North Central AR Ed. Service Co-op (Melbourne)	8:30-11:30 AM
7/11/17	Arch Ford Ed. Service Co-op (Plumerville)	8:30-11:30 AM
7/12/17	Crowley's Ridge Ed. Service Co-op (Harrisburg)	8:30-11:30 AM
7/13/17	Northeast AR Ed. Service Co-op (Walnut Ridge)	8:30-11:30 AM
7/17/17	Wilbur D. Mills Ed. Co-op (Beebe)	8:30-11:30 AM
7/19/17	South Central AR Ed/ Service Co-op (Camden)	9:00-12:00 Noon
7/20/17	Southeast AR Ed. Service Co-op (Monticello)	8:30-11:30 AM
7/24/17	Ozark Unlimited Resources Ed. Co-op (Valley Springs)	9:00-12:00 Noon
7/25/17	Guy Fenter Ed. Co-op (Branch)	9:00-12:00 Noon
7/27/17	Arkansas River Ed. Co-op (Pine Bluff)	9:00-12:00 Noon
7/31/17	DeQueen-Mena Ed. Co-op (Gillham)	9:00-12:00 Noon

Crenshaw

Written by Katherine Applegate

Fiction: 245 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

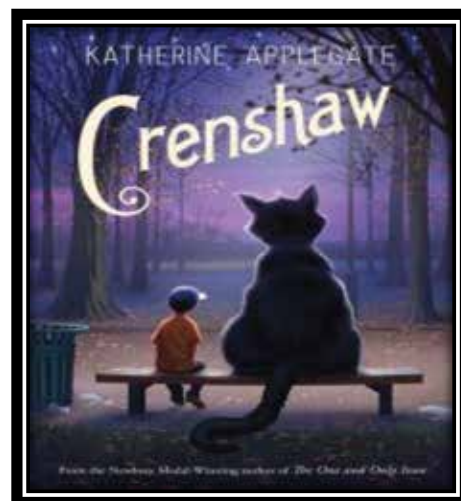
Setting: In northern California, near San Francisco, with the ocean nearby.

Guiding Principles: Adaptability; Optimism; Courage; Honesty.

Awards: Capitol Choices; Goodreads Choice; 2016 NCTE Charlotte Huck Award; Amazon.com Best Books; E.B. White Read Aloud Award.

Reviews: Starred Review: School Library Journal. Other Reviews: ALA Booklist; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; National Council for Social Studies; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Jackson 10 (Me); Dad (Tom); Mom (Sara); Robin 5 (Sister); *Crenshaw* (special cat); Marisol (Jackson's classmate and friend); Aretha (Labrador female mutt dog).



About the Story: As Ms. Applegate's novel begins, the focus appears to be on a giant black and white cat named *Crenshaw*, featuring his demeanor and the broad knowledge he has of Jackson's personal and family life. We later learn Jackson had just finished first grade, about three years ago, when he first met this imaginary cat friend. Their initial meeting occurred at a roadside park beside a major road where their car was parked after Jackson's family had been forced out of their home for failing to pay the rent. Jackson's mom had taught music at a middle school, now she takes any job available that pays a salary. His dad has multiple sclerosis, and as a result he has very little energy to work. By taking extra jobs the parents gained a few dollars, and the family moved back into a small house. Unfortunately, now as Jackson waits to start fifth grade in the fall the family is once again very short on income and they are holding house and yard sales offering each member's personal belongings. Meanwhile, *Crenshaw* has resurfaced as a much more mature animal, but still hanging out near Jackson. All family members state they don't want to move back into their vehicle as a place to sleep.

About the Author: Katherine Applegate was born in Michigan in 1956. She graduated from college at the University of Texas at Austin. Combined, she has written over 150 books for children. Ms. Applegate and her husband Michael Grant co-wrote the very popular *Animorph* series, selling over 35 million books. She then produced the novel *Home of the Brave*. Next came the award winning *One and Only Ivan*, and it captured the 2013 *Newbery Medal*. Ms. Applegate had previously earned the Golden Kite Award for Best Fiction in 2008. In her first novel after winning the *Newbery Medal* Ms. Applegate wrote *Crenshaw* which is a story about family and friendship. She proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary. From *The New York Times*, "Ms. Applegate's prose is simple and poetic enough in *Crenshaw* to appeal to literary adults, children who struggle with reading, and just about everyone in between." She lives with her husband Michael and their two children in Tiburon, CA near San Francisco.

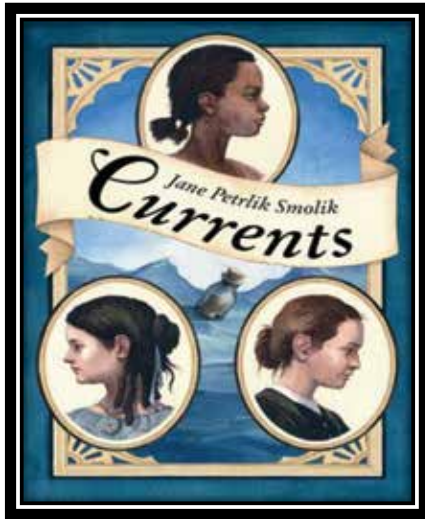
Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 176562 – Reading Level 3.8 – Points 3.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.2 – Points 7.0. Lexile 540L.

Currents

Written by Jane Petrlik Smolik

Illustrated by Chad Gowey



Historical Fiction: 326 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Settings: 1854, Bones, Virginia, USA, pages 1-79; 1855, Lady Bess, Isle of Wight, England, pages 80-191; 1856, Mary Margaret, Boston, Massachusetts, pages 192-307.

Guiding Principles: Initiative; Courage; Perseverance; Optimism.

Awards: Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year, 2016; NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies, 2016.

Reviews: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Kirkus Reviews.

Main Characters: Bones (Agnes May Brewster) eleven-year-old slave on a Virginia plantation; Lady Bess Kent (twelve-year-old daughter of the Duke of Kent) Wight, England; Mary Margaret Casey (twelve-year-old Irish immigrant daughter of a shipyard worker) in Boston, MA.

About the Story: In 1854 Bones, while working in the big house, discovered her master's plantation slave records. She ripped out the page showing her real name and birth information. Back at the cabin, she placed the page into a bottle, sealed it, and prepared to release it in the St. James River for a trip to the ocean. This was the opportunity for her to at least free her name if she released the sealed bottle into the local James River, which dumped into the Chesapeake Bay, and then flowed into the ocean. It was a strong moonlight night when she knelt at the river's edge and released the bottle into the swiftest of currents. In 1855 the bottle landed on the Isle of Wight, England where Lady Bess Kent discovered it, removed the heart, and added her deceased mother's necklace to prevent her wicked stepmother from stealing it. Lady Bess then resealed the bottle and placed it into the outgoing tide. In 1856 Mary Margaret Casey, while walking along the Boston, Massachusetts harbor with her father discovered the bottle floating in the water. They retrieved the soiled bottle that still contained the original paper Bones had included to set her name free. Mary Margaret's sister had a very serious medical problem that required expensive treatment. Funds from selling the necklace found in the bottle allowed hopes for a cure.

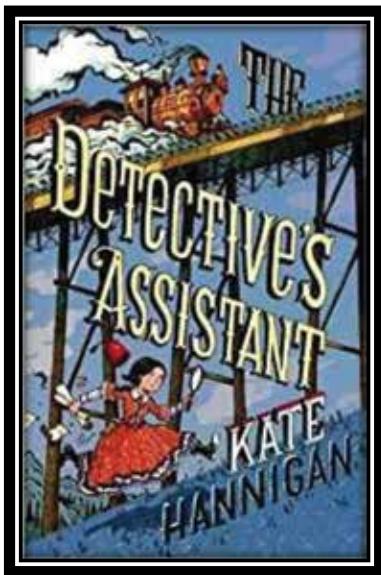
About Author Jane Petrlik Smolik and Illustrator Chad Gowey: Jane Petrlik Smolik grew up in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. After earning a degree in Psychology from the University of Miami, she moved to Boston. She now divides her time between her home on the Massachusetts North Shore and her family cottage in Scarborough, Maine. When not researching and writing books she keeps busy painting, gardening, reading, and spending time with her husband, their family, and Gracie, their Weimaraner dog. Chad graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design and is a freelance illustrator. His work has been featured in numerous publications and books. Chad said, "I had the pleasure of illustrating Jane Petrlik Smolik's debut novel, *Currents*, that tells the stories of three young girls from different worlds." A transplanted New Englander, Chad currently lives and works in Seattle, WA.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 180037 – Reading Level 5.5 – Points 9.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 5.6 – Points 15.0.

The Detective's Assistant

Written by Kate Hannigan



Historical Fiction: 346 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: Chicago, IL 1859. Working in several states with the Pinkerton National Detective Agency.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Adaptability; Perseverance.

Awards: Golden Kite Award for middle grade/young reader.

Reviews: Starred Review: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books. Other Reviews: ALA Booklist; Horn Book; Kirkus Reviews; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Nell Warne 11 (Cornie); Mrs. Kate Warne (aunt); Cornelius (Nell's father) and Matthew (Kate's husband) Warne (deceased brothers); Jemma Tuthill (Nell's letter writing friend); Mrs. Wigginbottom (apartment manager); Mr. Allan Pinkerton (Chief Detective); George Bangs (Pinkerton office manager); Detective Timothy Webster.

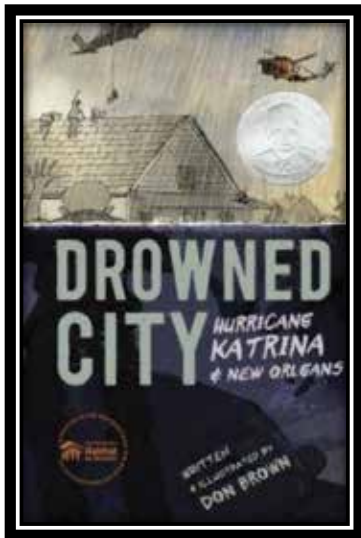
About the Story: In 1859, with the death of the last member of eleven-year-old Nell's immediate family, she was escorted from rural New York State to Chicago where her Aunt Kate lived. Aunt Kate was the first female detective hired in the United States by the Pinkerton National Detective Agency and she was very hesitant about allowing Nell to move in with her. Besides working away from home on several national cases with the Pinkerton group, Aunt Kate strongly believed Nell's father, Cornelius, had intentionally fatally shot her husband, Matthew (brother vs. brother). Nell begged Aunt Kate to let her stay, and worked out a deal doing odd jobs for Mrs. Wigginbottom around the apartment complex to help pay for the monthly rent. While the Pinkerton Agency was attempting to solve an exceptionally difficult case Aunt Kate asked Nell to assume a character role during the investigation phase. Nell's contribution was significant in bringing the matter to a positive close. This led to Nell being invited back to help with the agency's work, and becoming a member of the well-known Pinkerton team.

About the Author: Kate Hannigan lives in Chicago with her family—her husband, three kids, and highly loved Australian Shepherd dog. The family enjoys Chicago's tall buildings, friendly neighborhoods and amazing food. When the family needs exercise they walk along the lakeshore near the University of Chicago campus. In her biography Kate shares, "I haven't always lived in Chicago. I grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where I was able to ride my bike all over the area and play outside from morning to night. I've always liked words and stories, so I worked on school newspapers all the way to high school. Then I went off to college to study journalism." Newspaper jobs took her to South Carolina, then to Salinas, California, on to Texas at the *Dallas Morning News*, and back to California at *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Kate continued, "I still love research and writing, only instead of doing it for a newspaper, I do it for young readers. I'm always working on other projects like picture books, biographies, and other novels for children."

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 174111 – Reading Level 6.2 – Points 10.0.

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans

Written and Illustrated by Don Brown



Non-fiction: 96 pages, **GRAPHIC NOVEL** depicting some of the history of Hurricane Katrina and the flooding of New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: Atlantic Ocean; State of Florida, USA; Gulf of Mexico; New Orleans, during August 2005.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Honesty; Adaptability; Responsibility.

Awards: Robert Sibert Honor Book; Kirkus' Best of 2015 list; School Library Journal's Best of 2015 list; Publisher's Weekly Best of 2015 list; Horn Book Fanfare Book; Booklist Editor's Choice.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: ALA Booklist; School Library Journal; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books. Other Reviews: ALA/YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers; Wilson's Children's Catalog; Wilson's Junior High Catalog.

Main Characters: Citizens and their guests of the City of New Orleans; Many levels of government, local and national; Private organizations; Volunteers from numerous sources, and the news media.

About This Disaster: Author Don Brown, with his usual Kinetic Art and compelling narrative, captures some of the tragedies that occurred in New Orleans, LA as a result of Hurricane Katrina during the August days of the year 2005. As Arkansas students return to their campuses throughout the state in August 2017, for the 2017-2018 school year, it will be difficult to believe that 12 years have passed since at least one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives as Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast. Additionally, property damage has been estimated to top 100 billion dollars. Much of Mr. Brown's focus is on the failure of leaders to carry out evacuation of residents as the hurricane approached through the Gulf of Mexico. Though about 200,000 people failed to evacuate New Orleans, as directed by the mayor, there were many citizens who found transportation by either flight, bus, or personal vehicles that were welcomed by Louisiana cities and surrounding states. Arkansas welcomed approximately 70,000 people who were relocating from the storm. Back in New Orleans, dead bodies began to float to the surface because of drownings. Many other victims were found trapped in their homes and died there because they could not escape the quickly rising water level. There was noticeable finger-pointing taking place as the water receded and cleanup began. Many of the former residents of New Orleans still have not returned to their former homes.

About Author and Illustrator Don Brown: He is the author/illustrator of over twenty nonfiction history books for students. His books normally receive highly favorable reviews from key organizations. He has written about famous women and men that have earned recognition in our libraries and classroom texts. Whether he is writing about Great War Battles, American Heritage periods of history, or America under attack his display of Art and candid views is popular with all who read his works. Some examples of his previous works include: *America is Under Attack* (September 11, 2001); *The Great American Dust Bowl* (April 14, 1935); *The Sinking of the Titanic* (April 15, 1912). School Library Journal has called him, "A current pacesetter who has put the finishing touches on the standards for storyographies."

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 175216 – Reading Level 5.6 – Points 1.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 7.4 – Points 5.0. Lexile GN920L.

The Education of Ivy Blake

Written by Ellen Airgood

Fiction: 227 pages. Companion book to *Prairie Evers*.

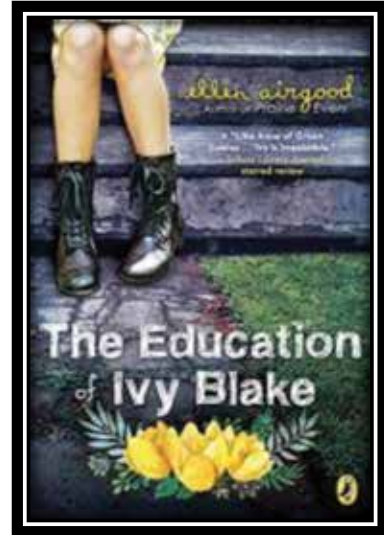
Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: Upstate New York, USA.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Adaptability; Optimism.

Reviews: Starred Review—School Library Journal. Other Reviews: Kirkus Reviews; ALA Booklist; Voice of Youth Advocates.

Main Characters: Ivy Blake 11; Tracy (Ivy's mother); The Evers family: Prairie 11; Mom; Dad; Grammy. Also: Ms. Mackenzie (Teacher); Tate (Ivy's classmate); Several other classmates, family friends and officials of the community; Pup (Cat); George (Tracy's ex-husband).



About the Story: Because of her mother's late night visit eleven-year-old Ivy is leaving the security and love of the Evers family farm in upstate New York to move back in with her erratic acting single parent (Tracy) who presently does not have a home, or a job. Ivy has lived with the Evers for nearly one year, and one-by-one members of that family begged her to stay with them while completing her schooling. Meanwhile, Tracy is letting everyone know she is the mother and Ivy is required by law to live with her. Ivy has matured enough to face up to the fact her alcoholic, dysfunctional parent will never be able to provide her with a stable home. To achieve her dreams she is going to have to take charge of her own future. Other people who really care for Ivy, and believe in her, can't give her all the answers. Ivy has to find out for herself who she is and who she wants to be.

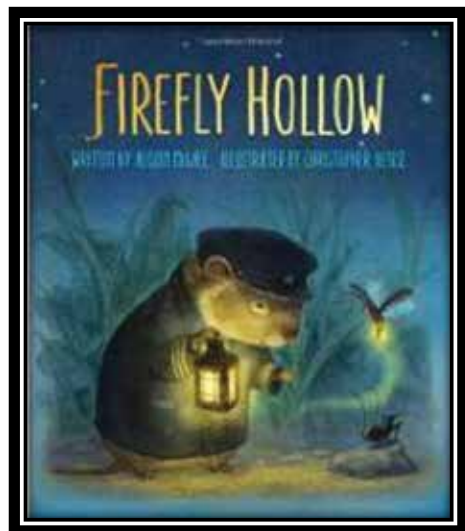
About the Author: Ellen Airgood grew up on a small farm, the youngest of four children. Her father was a blacksmith, and a schoolteacher. For the past twenty years Ellen and her husband Rick have been owners of a diner in a small Michigan community named Grand Marais. She works there as a waitress. According to Amazon.com, before attending the University of Michigan her favorite things to do included reading books, riding horses, swinging in her tire swing, and writing stories. She received a B.S. from the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Ellen is the author of three novels published by Penguin Books: *South of Superior*; *Prairie Evers*; and *The Education of Ivy Blake*. She now lives on the shore of Lake Superior in the upper peninsula of Michigan.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 174401 – Reading Level 4.8 – Points 7.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.5 – Points 12.0. Lexile 730L.

Firefly Hollow

Written by Alison McGhee
Illustrated by Christopher Denise



Fiction: 291 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: The four main characters, **Firefly**, **Cricket**, **Vole**, and **Peter** have unique life styles to each other, but seem to be facing society in a very similar way. All four live in, or near, *Firefly Hollow*.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Respect; Optimism.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: ALA Booklist; Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal. Other Reviews: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Firefly (young female); Cricket (young male); Vole (male animal); Peter (giant, young man); Elder (Firefly, older male); David (giant, Peter's father); Beth (giant, Peter's mother); Jack (new giant boy); Gloria (handicapped cricket); Charlie (Peter's young giant friend).

About the Story: Because their dreams of daring adventures went against the cautious teachings of their nations, **Firefly** and **Cricket** set out on their own and found a temporary home with kindly **Vole**. All three together then helped a grieving "miniature young giant" named **Peter**. The adventurous **Firefly** free fled with all her lights flashing at random while plotting her future outer space adventure with the earth's moon being her first scheduled stop. In the meantime, she enjoys listening to someone's nightly singing of that famous sports song, "Take me out to the Ballgame." It was **Cricket** who loved singing the song over and over, and hoped someday soon to be an actual baseball catcher. He was also bored with his fellow students and teachers. **Vole** was the only survivor of his nation following a deadly flood of water many years ago when a giant broke a beaver dam upriver. He agreed to allow **Firefly** and **Cricket** live with him on his boat while waiting for downriver conditions to improve for his trip to the sea. **Peter** could speak with, and listen to the other three characters. This included watching **Firefly** perform each night while she was flying, listening to **Cricket** singing his baseball tune, understanding **Vole's** life and his riverboat connections, and being in a daily verbal battle with his parents about not attending school beginning with the fall semester.

About Author Alison McGhee and Illustrator Christopher Denise: Alison was born July 8, 1960 in New York. She attended Holland Patent High School in New York and Middlebury College in Vermont. Alison is an American author who has published several picture books for children, numerous poems and adult novels. Also, she is a *New York Times* Best Selling author, while winning many other awards. *Firefly Hollow* was her first attempt at writing a story with the illustrator's pictures coming first. She said some difficulties surfaced while trying to capture the emotions that the illustrator had placed in his wonderful images. Alison lives with her family in Minneapolis, MN. Christopher is an award-winning children's book illustrator and visual development artist. He has illustrated more than twenty-five books for children. This includes Brian Jacques' acclaimed Redwall series, one example being the Redwall cookbook. He also illustrated *Baking Day at Grandma's* that was written by his wife, Anika Denise. Christopher lives in Rhode Island with his family.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 177160 – Reading Level 4.7 – Points 6.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.3 – Points 11.0 – Lexile 690L.

Fish in a Tree

Written by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Fiction: 274 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

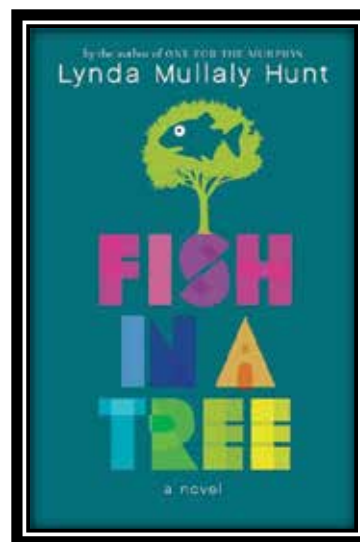
Setting: Middle School, USA.

Guiding Principles: Adaptability; Contemplation; Courage; Respect.

Awards: This book has been selected for over 20 state reading lists.

Reviews: Starred Review: ALA Booklist. Other Reviews: Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Ally Nickerson (6th grader); Mom (waitress); Dad (military man); Travis (brother); Mrs. Hall (teacher, starting mid-year maternity leave); Mr. Daniels (new sub-teacher); Mrs. Silver (principal); Numerous classmates (some friendly—some not-so-friendly).



About the Story: Sixth-grader Ally is in her seventh school in seven years, and they all rank about the same for reading and writing possibilities. Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still does not know how to read. Can she be blamed if all the letter characters on the document, board, or other source just seem to run together and are very confusing? During the school year it seems Ally goes to the principal's office for nearly equal the time she spends in the classroom. Somewhat puzzling, she is a whiz student in Art and Math, but early on in her reading and writing phases of education she was tagged with a "*Dyslexia*" disorder. When Mr. Daniels arrived as the new sub-teacher for Mrs. Hall's room he carefully studied each student's academic record, and along with applying some new discipline rules the atmosphere for learning began to produce surprising results.

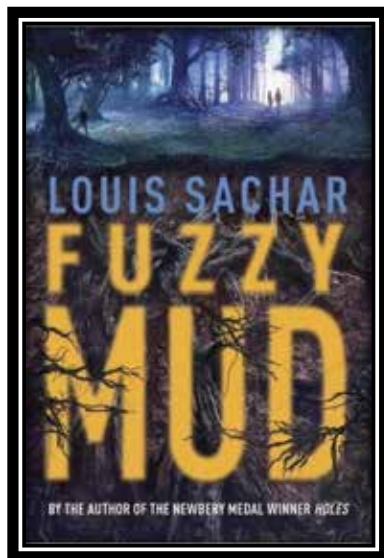
About the Author: Lynda Mullaly Hunt was born in the late 1960's in Connecticut, USA. She admits to being one of the many "*Flower Children*" of that era. The youngest of five children, she loved outdoor activities such as climbing trees, playing baseball, riding her bike, and especially skateboarding. Lynda graduated from Conard High School in West Hartford, CT, then earned two degrees in education at UConn, before girls' varsity basketball became the most notable activity on that campus. After college, Lynda taught third and sixth grades for nearly 10 years prior to starting a family life which now includes her husband and their daughter and son. Next she focused on writing and reading workshops for grades four and up. Her first writing effort, *One For The Murphys* was an instant success. Additionally, she now offers some adult classes, and is fully booked in advance for the current school year.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 172804 – Reading Level 3.7 – Points 7.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.2 – Points 13.0. Lexile 550L.

Fuzzy Mud

Written by Louis Sachar



Fiction: 181 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: Woodridge Academy, Heath Cliff, Pennsylvania, and nearby Sunray Farm.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Initiative; Optimism

Awards: *A New York Times* bestseller; Winner of Georgia Children's Award; Winner of the Buckeye (Ohio) Children's Teen Book Award.

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

Main Characters: Tamaya Dhilwaddi (fifth grade girl); Marshall Walsh (seventh grade boy); Chad Hilligas (seventh grade boy); Tamaya's mother (divorced); Tamaya's Father (divorced); Jonathan Fitzman (Inventor of Biolene).

About the Story: Welcome to Heath Cliff, Pennsylvania, hometown for Woodridge Academy, a private school, with two hundred and eighty-nine kids ages five to fourteen. The academy is surrounded by miles of beautiful woods

(off limits) and rocky hills. It is a friendly establishment where student's ages or grade levels is rarely used as guidelines for getting acquainted. The three main characters of this novel features Tamaya, a girl soon to be entering fifth grade, Marshall a seventh grade boy who has walked to school with Tamaya for the past three years, and Chad also a seventh grade boy who has been kicked out of three previous schools over the past two years. He is usually ready to pick a fight. Today he has challenged Marshall to a fist fight after school at the edge of that huge patch of trees. Meanwhile, in a secluded valley nearby is a special place called Sunray Farm. Despite the name there are no animals, no green pastures, and no crops to be seen. The place has armed guards, electric fences with barbed wire on top, plus, other alarms and security cameras. About one year ago the United States Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment held a series of secret meetings regarding Sunray Farm and Biolene (a possible alternative to gasoline). Mr. Jonathan Fitzman invented the single-celled high energy microorganism (Ergie) that other scientific experts said could be a threat to the survival of all man-kind on the face of the earth. As Marshall and Chad met for their fight among the trees some of the hidden organisms in mud holes became life threatening to the students that came in contact with the new species. This included Tamaya who immediately broke out with a red rash upon contact.

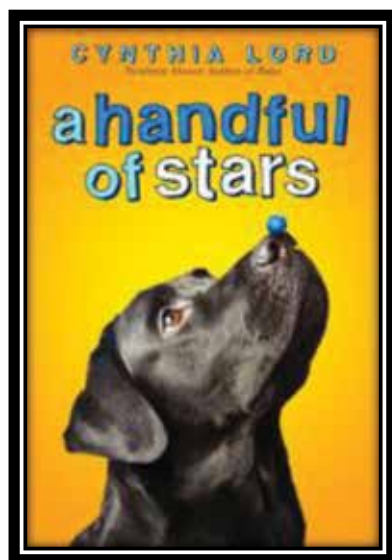
About the Author: Louis Sachar (pronounced Sacker) was born March 20, 1954 in East Meadow, New York. His family moved to Tustin, CA when Louis was nine-years-old. He was a good student and enjoyed reading books, but realized in high school that he actually loved to read. He finished high school and enrolled in Antioch College in Ohio. After his father died suddenly Louis returned to his mother's side in California and enrolled at the University of California-Berkley where he majored in economics. While working as a teacher's aide he began writing children's stories. In 1976 he received a B.A. degree from Berkley. Louis next attended Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, and in 1980 he graduated with a law degree. He met and married Carla Askew in 1985, and their daughter Sherre was born in 1987. By 1989 his children's books were selling well so he stopped practicing law and became a fulltime author. His audience grew and his efforts reached a zenith in 1999 when he won the Newbery Medal Award with *Holes*. He continues to write and his family now lives in Austin, Texas.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 175506 – Reading Level 5.0 – Points 5.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.3 – Points 10.0. Lexile 700L.

A Handful of Stars

Written by Cynthia Lord



Fiction: 192 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: Seasonal migrant workers and locals harvesting blueberries in Maine, USA.

Guiding Principles: Respect; Optimism; Courage; Honesty.

Awards: Junior Library Guild Selection; Children's Choices, Best of the Year List; Main Student Book Award.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: Publisher's Weekly; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books. Other Reviews: Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal; Bookpage; ALA Booklist; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Lily 12 (Tigerlily Marie); Memere (grandmother); Pepere (grandfather); Danielle (Lily's deceased mother); Salma Santiago 12 (Lily's Hispanic friend); Salma's family members; Hannah (Lily's school friend); Lucky (Lily's blind dog); Dr. Katz (female vet).

About the Story: Twelve-year-old Lily befriends Salma (12), a Hispanic girl whose migrant family is in Maine for blueberry picking season, but as a local pageant approaches the girls are confronted with the hard truths of prejudice and migrant life. Lily has been living with her grandparents for the past ten years. After Danielle (Lily's mama) finished high school she travelled to Boston, Florida and New York while searching for the next phase of her life. She then came back home to Maine with her two-year-old daughter, Lily, and a black Labrador retriever puppy in tow. Not long after returning home Danielle was killed when her car hit a moose that was attempting to cross the roadway. Grandmother Memere and Grandfather Pepere assumed parent roles for Lily after the accident. Ten years later the puppy evolved into an older dog that had become blind and needed special attention. The Labrador's independent habits and daily activities resulted in Lily and Salma becoming close friends, and helped to bring some other members of the community to a better understanding of each other's daily lives.

About the Author: Cynthia Lord grew up in New Hampshire. In her biography she stated, "My life as a writer began at age four with a song collaboration with my sister (I couldn't write, so she did the actual writing). I was a daydreaming, shy child, and I will always be grateful for the time and room my parents gave me to be myself." She said her first pencil-and-paper writing was on a birthday card for her Grandpa. Cynthia simply wrote his first name "Ed." That shocked her mother, but Grandpa was quite pleased. At elementary school she wrote the typical book reports. However, she didn't start writing fiction until high school. In college she had some short stories published. She added: "After college, I got married and became a teacher. I taught first-grade, sixth-grade, and even in a one-room schoolhouse. When I had my own two children, I went back to the world of *Winnie the Pooh*. As my children grew, I returned to writing fiction." Cynthia's debut novel was *Rules* in 2006. It was selected as a Newbery Honor Book in 2007, and winner of the Schneider Family Book Award. Her second novel was *Touch Blue*. Cynthia's first picture book was *Hot Rod Hamster*. She, her husband, and their two children currently live in Brunswick, Maine.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 174049 – Reading Level 4.4 – Points 5.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.3 – Points 9.0.

The Octopus Scientists: Exploring the Mind of a Mollusk

Text by Sy Montgomery
Photographs by Keith Ellenbogen

Nonfiction: 71 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: On the island of Moorea, in French Polynesia, located in the South Pacific near Tahiti.

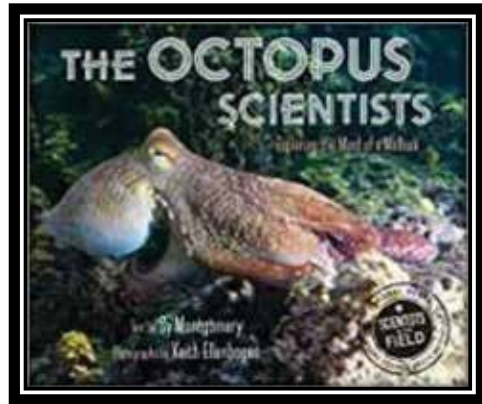
Guiding Principles: Perseverance; Optimism; Initiative.

Awards: NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12, 2016; Booklist Best Picture Books of 2015; Booklist Top 10 Books for Youth 2015, Science & Health. Chicago Public Library Best Books of 2015, Informational Books for Older Readers.

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

Horn Book Magazine; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; National Science Teachers Association Outstanding Science Trade; Science Books and Films; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: (The Moorea Island Pacific day octopus search team) Jennifer Mather, 69, team leader, Canadian, Octopus Scientist and Professor of Psychology, University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada; David Scheel, 51, American, Professor and Director of the Marine Biology Program, Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, Alaska; Tatiana Leite, 37, Brazilian, Professor of Marine Ecology of Rio Grande do Norte, Natal, Brazil; Keely Langford, 29, Canadian, Interpretive Specialist, Vancouver Aquarium; Keith Ellenbogen, Underwater Photographer, from New York, USA, expert scuba diver and snorkeler. He took the pictures in this book. Sy Montgomery, 59, from Hancock, New Hampshire, USA, has joined the team specifically to write this book.



About the Story: Author Sy Montgomery is a member of this special search team and best sums up the location, the profile of the octopus species being sought, and describes the brilliant survival techniques used by this marine mollusk. She stated, "The sea is home to creatures whose weirdness rivals that of the strangest sci-fi aliens anyone ever imagined. We're searching for one of them now. An animal with a baggy, boneless body, eight sucker-laden arms attached to its head, a beak like a parrot, and venom like a snake. It can shift its shape, change its color, squirt ink, and pour itself through the tiniest opening—or shoot away through the sea by squirting water out of a flexible funnel, or jet, on the side of its head. We're looking for octopuses—the Pacific day octopus, to be exact, one of the perhaps 250 octopus species on the planet Earth." After all we know about them, they are still difficult to locate.

About the Author: Sy Montgomery was born on February 7, 1958 in Frankfort, Germany. In 1975 she graduated from Westfield High School in Westfield, New Jersey, and earned her college degree from Syracuse University, New York in 1979. She has written over 20 books for adults and children, for print and broadcast, in America and overseas in an effort to reach as wide an audience as possible at what she considers a critical turning point in human history. "It's an important time to be writing about the connections we share with our fellow creatures," Ms. Montgomery said. She and her husband, writer Howard Mansfield live in Hancock, New Hampshire.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 173900 – Reading Level 6.8 – Points 3.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 8.6 – Points 6.0. Lexile 1020L.

The Seventh Most Important Thing

Written by Shelley Pearsall

Historical Fiction: 278 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: Washington D.C., 1963.

Guiding Principles: Adaptability; Honesty; Respect; Courage.

Awards: 2016 ALA Notable Children's Book Award; State Book Award nominee in over fifteen states; Ohioana Book Award Winner 2017-18; New York Public Library Top 100; Junior Library Guild Selection.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: Kirkus Reviews; ALA Booklist; School Library Journal. Other Reviews: Christian Science Monitor; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Arthur Thomas Owens 13; Barbara 7 (Arthur's sister); Linda (mom); James Hampton (the junk man); Philip Warner (court judge); Wanda Billie (probation officer); Groovy Jim's (tattoos); Squeak (Reggie Pierce, Arthur's classmate); Roger Dent (mom's friend).



About the Story: One kid, one crime, one chance to make things right. Author Shelley Pearsall's story of how a moment of anger by thirteen-year-old Arthur and the love of art by the elderly and ill junk man, James Hampton, resulted in a surprising Juvenile Court sentence being given by Judge Philip Warner. Ironically, Mr. Hampton suggested to the judge that Arthur should have to work the junk route and help the senior citizen with his art work, since the incident of a thrown brick left him with a broken arm. The judge agreed and the sentence was implemented. Gathering the junk mainly from neighbors' yards, in an old shopping cart during inclement weather, was very difficult. He also had to follow a daily priority junk list prepared by Mr. Hampton. Upon delivery of each day's find of junk, Arthur had to join Mr. Hampton in his garage and they worked on the project, "The Throne of the Third Heaven," inspired by real life artist James Hampton.

About the Author: Shelley Pearsall was born in 1966, the same year Star Trek started and Quaker Instant Oatmeal was invented. Her family lived in Parma, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. As a child, she used to write in her bedroom closet. At the age of thirteen she sent her first story to a New York publishing house. Although it was never published the theme of that first effort led to her first novel, *Trouble Don't Last*, written twenty years later, and it won the Scott O'Dell award in 2003. Shelley has a B.A. from The College of Wooster and M. Ed from John Carroll University. Prior to becoming a full time author, she was a teacher in the public schools. Shelley is currently the author of six books for middle grade and teen readers. Shelley lives in the beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio with her British husband, Mike, and their shelter cat named Charlie.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 176203 – Reading Level 5.1 – Points 8.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.6 – Points 14.0. Lexile 760L.

Stella by Starlight

Written by Sharon M. Draper

Historical Fiction: 320 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: 1932, Bumblebee, North Carolina, near the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Guiding Principles: Respect; Honesty; Adaptability; Optimism.

Reviews: Starred Review: School Library Journal. Other Reviews: ALA Booklist; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; Horn Book; ILA Teacher's Choice Award; Voice of Youth Advocates; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Estelle (Stella) Mills 11; Jojo 8 (her brother); Georgia (her mother); Jonah (her Papa); Tony Hawkins 11 (her classmate); Carolyn Malone (her classmate); Mrs. Grayson (her teacher); Pastor Patton (voter to be); Mr. Spencer (voter to be).



About the Story: When a burning cross set by the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) causes panic and fear in 1932 at Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must find strength to demand change in her segregated town. It was Jojo, Stella's eight-year-old brother, who was making a midnight visit to nearby Kilkenny Pond on a chilly October evening, that discovered the dreaded KKK holding a ritual meeting on the far shore. The young man retreated to the Mills household, awakened Stella, and the two quietly crawled to the pond's near shore. After briefly watching the group practice, they ran back to their home and awakened their parents. Following a short family meeting the parents decided to alert their friends and neighbors of the dreaded discovery. The Negro families in the community were already experiencing unstable day to day living situations. For example, there were two medical doctors. The white doctor would only serve the white patients, no matter what the severity of the problem was for the black person's emergency. There were two schools, attended according to race. Blacks were not allowed to register for voting.

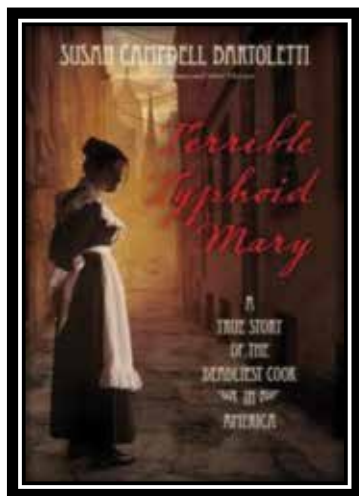
About the Author: Sharon Mills Draper was born August 21, 1948, in Cleveland, OH. She graduated with a B.A. degree in English from Pepperdine University, in Malibu, CA in 1971. Next, she attended Miami University of Ohio, where she earned an M.A. in 1974. In 1977 Sharon was honored as National Teacher of the year. She is a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award for books about the African American Experiences. In her own words, "I have been very blessed. Who am I? I'm a creator, a visionary, a poet. I approach the world with the eyes of an artist, the ears of a musician, and the soul of a writer. I see rainbows where others see only rain, and possibilities when others see only problems."

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 171389 – Reading Level 4.8 – Points 8.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 4.5 – Points 12.0. Lexile 740L.

Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America

Written by Susan Campbell Bartoletti



Nonfiction: 229 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: August 1906, several locations throughout New York State, USA.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Optimism; Honesty; Respect.

Awards: A Junior Library Guild Selection.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: School Library Journal; ALA Booklist; Horn Book. Other Reviews: Publisher's Weekly; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; National Council for Social Studies Notable Children's Trade; National Science Teachers Association Outstanding Science Trade; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Mary Mallon (cook); Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elliot Warren (renters); Mr. and Mrs. George Thompson (house owners); George Albert Soper (Sanitary Engineer).

About the Story: This nonfiction novel tells the story of “Typhoid” Mary Mallon, an Irish immigrant cook in the early twentieth century of New York State who, as a carrier of typhoid fever, unleashed an epidemic. She was a quiet, diligent cook who kept to herself. Her specialty was homemade ice cream topped with fresh peaches, which she served on hot summer days. She worked for some of the wealthiest families in New York State, and they always rated her with high marks. In August 1906 after six members of one family she was serving almost died she mysteriously disappeared, and the hunt for Mary began. What happens to a person whose name and reputation are forever damaged? Enter Dr. George A. Soper, a Sanitary Engineer, who was considered to be an expert epidemiologist. He called himself an “an epidemic fighter.” Further, Dr. Soper was known for his expert study of typhoid epidemics. On a previous case he evicted two typhoid patients and ordered the house burned down. To advance with Mary’s situation, Dr. Soper had to locate her and gather some specimens to confirm she was a healthy carrier.

About the Author: Susan Campbell Bartoletti was born November 18, 1958 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, then the family moved to a small town in northeastern PA. From her biography—“I have always loved to read, but I had no idea I was going to be a writer when I grew up. I liked art classes best.” She attended The University of Scranton and filled her class schedule with literature classes. Ms. Bartoletti graduated from college in 1982. She served her post college career as an eighth grade English teacher for the next eighteen years before deciding to pursue writing seriously. During that tenure she often had her students writing poems, stories, and essays. She continued, “They researched, wrote, and illustrated their own nonfiction picture books and held poetry readings. This inspired me to practice what I preached. I joined a writer’s group and got serious about my own writing. By 1997, I had published short stories, picture books, and my first nonfiction book.”

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 175217 – Reading Level 7.2 - Points 5.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 8.3 – Points 9.0. Lexile 980L.

Until I Find Julian

Written by Patricia Reilly Giff

Fiction: 151 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: Mexico and the United States of America.

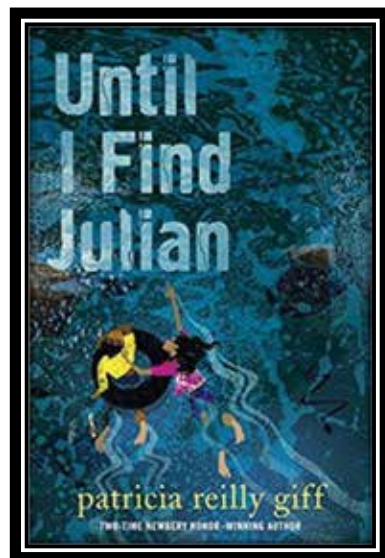
Guiding Principles: Courage; Optimism; Initiative.

Awards: 2015 Parent's Choice Award (Gold Medal Winner).

Reviews: Kirkus Reviews; ALA Booklist; Publisher's Weekly; School Library Journal.

Main Characters: Mateo 12; Mami (mama); Abuelita (older sister); Julian 20 (older brother); Lucas (little brother); Angel 12 (mysterious girl); Damian (friend); Tomas (Julian's friend).

About the Story: After Julian left the family home in Mexico to work illegally in the United States his family, especially his younger brother Mateo, greatly missed him. When the family had not heard from Julian for several weeks they became very concerned for his safety and survival. It was Mateo who quietly packed a bag and began a dangerous trip to Arkansas, USA in search of Julian. Nearing the river that separates Mexico from the United States Mateo was in a group led by an erratic coyote—a smuggler. Mexican government officials arrived causing the group to disperse and run for their lives. Mateo then met 12-year-old Angel, a very savvy young lady who had made the illegal entry into the United States before. She agreed to help Mateo during the second leg of his dangerous trip to Downsville, Arkansas where Julian was supposed to be living and working. There were many more adventures to be discovered and dealt with.



About the Author: Patricia Reilly Giff was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 26, 1935. Though she had wanted to be a writer since early childhood, after graduating from high school she earned a B.A. at Marymount College and an M.A. at St. John's University, then taught about 20 years in public schools. Ms. Giff also worked as a reading consultant—resulting in reaching the age of 40 before writing her first book. She is now the author of more than 60 children's books. Along the way, two of her books, *Pictures of Hollis Woods* and *Lily's Crossing* each won the prestigious Newbery Honor Award. Ms. Giff shared her important feelings about books during an interview with Random House Kids, "I want to see children curled up with books, finding an awareness of themselves as they discover other people's thoughts. I want them to make the connection that books are people's stories, that writing is talking on paper, and I want them to write their own stories. I'd like my books to provide that connection for them."

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 179007 – Reading Level 3.9 – Points 4.0.
Lexile 550L.

Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer

Written by Kelly Jones
Illustrations by Katie Kath

Fiction: 216 pages.

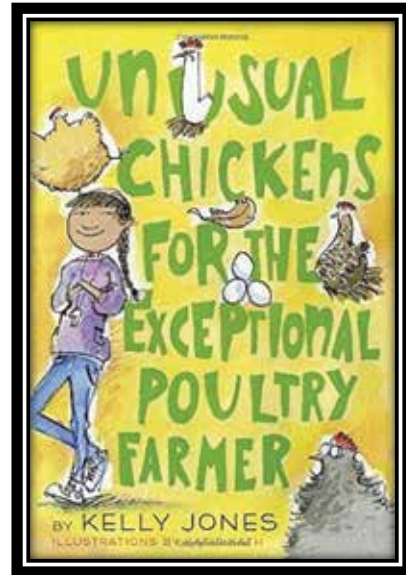
Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: On a small California farm, far removed from their former Los Angeles home, the Sophie Brown family is working hard in adjusting to a new life involving a flock of strange chickens.

Guiding Principles: Optimism; Courage; Respect.

Reviews: Starred Reviews: Kirkus Reviews; School Library Journal. Other Reviews: ALA Booklist; Publisher's Weekly; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books.

Main Characters: Sophie Brown 12; Mom; Dad; Mr. James Brown—deceased (Great-Uncle Jim); Mariposa Garcia Gonzalez—deceased (Grandmother); Ms. O'Malley (librarian); Ms. Griegson (chicken collecting neighbor); Gregory (mailman).



About the Story: Twelve-year-old Sophie's Mom and Dad made a huge decision to leave the bright lights of Los Angeles, CA and move far away to a small farm. This rather sudden relocation was brought about when Mr. James Brown, aka Great-Uncle Jim, died and willed his property and endless older assets to Sophie's family. After arriving at the modest location near Gravenstein, CA Sophie looked the small farm over and declared in a letter to her deceased Granny, "I know you're dead, and I don't believe in zombies, so you don't need to write back or anything. I thought we were moving to a real farm, but it's more like a big, boring garden. Dad, is still looking for a job, while Mom works out of her home office. I miss you a lot, Abuelita (Granny). I miss everyone." (signed) Te quiero, Soficita. Next, Sophie writes a letter to Redwood Farm Supply in a nearby city requesting a copy of their latest catalog featuring farm animals for sale, specifically chickens. After searching the farm more thoroughly Sophie finds some positive signs that there may be some very special chickens already living on the little farm, and they have some strange talents to display.

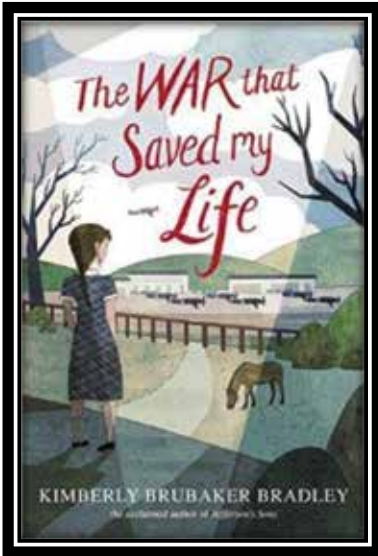
About Author Kelly Jones and Illustrator Katie Kath: Kelly Jones was born February 27, 1976 and currently lives near Seattle, Washington. She received a B.A. in English and Anthropology, and earned an M.A. in Library and Information Services—both at the University of Washington. She has been employed as a librarian, a bookseller, and has led workshops for writers of all ages. At home she raises ordinary chickens that show no signs of magic. This is her first novel. Her second book will be *Murder, Magic, and What We Wore*, due out September 19, 2017. Katie graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia with a Master's degree in illustration. She was one of only two people in the United States to win a Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrations Student Illustrator Scholarship Award in 2013. Katie loves to work primarily in watercolor and ink. She lives in the rolling hills of North Carolina with her husband and their cat, Pangur-Ban

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 174131 – Reading Level 5.2 – Points 5.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 5.7 – Points 9.0. Lexile 880L.

The War That Saved My Life

Written by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



Historical Fiction: 316 pages.

Interest Level: Grades 4-6.

Setting: England, during World War II, beginning summer 1939.

Guiding Principles: Courage; Adaptability; Perseverance.

Awards: Newbery Honor Book 2016; Schneider Family Book Award 2016; #1 *New York Times* bestseller.

Reviews: ALA Booklist; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; Horn Books; National Council for Social Studies Notable Children's Trade; School Library Journal; Wilson's Children's Catalog.

Main Characters: Ada Smith 10 (Me); Jamie (James) 6 (brother); Mam (mother); James (father, deceased); Stephen White (Ada's friend); Miss Susan Smith (guardian for Ada and Jamie); Becky (Miss Susan Smith's deceased friend).

About the Story: When Ada was born in London on May 13, 1929 she had a clubfoot. Her right foot was smaller than her left foot, twisted, the bottom pointed skyward, with all the toes in the air, and that part of her foot that

should have been the top touched the ground. Because of the projected cost, Mam (her mother) refused to allow doctors to perform surgery soon after birth that would have corrected the problem enough for Ada to be able to walk and live a near normal life. Her father was killed in an industrial accident when Ada was only four-years-old. For the first ten years of Ada's life her Mam physically and mentally abused her in their one-room flat. She had to completely take care of Jamie's daily needs and his school related activities. Ada was not allowed to walk, could only crawl and could not leave the apartment. She was allowed to stand at their lone third floor window and sometimes wave to people on the sidewalk below. After Adolph Hitler's German aircraft and missiles began bombing civilian targets in London, government officials decided to relocate several children to country homes on a temporary basis. Only Jamie was selected from their family to be relocated and when that day arrived Mam was out of the home. Ada decided it was a rare chance for her to make a break for freedom. At the end of their train trip Ada and Jamie were assigned to a rural home with Miss Susan Smith as their guardian, allowing both to begin adjusting to the prospects of a new lifestyle.

About the Author: Kimberly Brubaker Bradley was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1967. That location is very near the small town that was the setting for her first book, *Ruthie's Gift* in 1998. Ms. Bradley attended Smith College, in Northampton, Massachusetts where she graduated with a degree in chemistry. Quoting from her biography, "I studied chemistry in college because that was what I most loved to learn, but it's not what I most love to do." After her college roommate encouraged Ms. Bradley to take an Introduction to Children's Literature Class taught by famous author Patricia MacLachian she knew the direction she wanted to go. Ms. MacLachian helped her join a writer's group and learn both the art and the business of writing for children. It helped that another famous writer, Jane Yolen, was leading the group. Ms. Bradley took time out to marry her high school sweetheart and began writing while her husband attended medical school. A son was born in 1994, and a daughter followed in 1998. The family then moved to Bristol, Tennessee where they now live on their 52-acre farm with lots of animals and trees. Somehow those great historical fiction books, Ms. Bradley is famous for, just keep on appearing on the educational market.

Accelerated Reader Information: Quiz No. 170995 – Reading Level 4.1 – Points 9.0.

Reading Counts Information: Reading Level 3.3 – Points 16.0. Lexile 580L.

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
2016-17	Alexander, Kwame	The Crossover

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

2017-2018

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 2016-17 school year will take place on November 16-17, 2017, at the ARA Literacy Conference in Little Rock at the Statehouse Convention Center and Marriott Hotel. Books for the 2017-2018 school year must have a 2015 copyright. Electronic voting for the winners of the 2016-2017 school year began May 1, 2017 and ended May 5, 2017.

These thirteen Arkansas Diamond Primary Book Award titles, for the 2017-2018 school year, represent the twentieth 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 2018, 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 sixteen Charlie May Simon Book Award reading selections, for the 2017-2018 school year, represent the forty-eighth 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 2018, 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



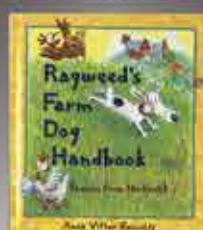
ARKANSAS DIAMOND PRIMARY AWARD BOOKS



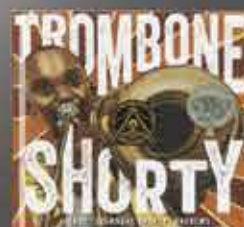
Winner
2016-2017



Honor Book
2016-2017



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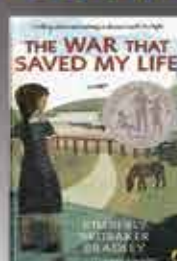
CHARLIE MAY SIMON



Winner
2016-2017



Honor Book
2016-2017



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