

children's literature conference

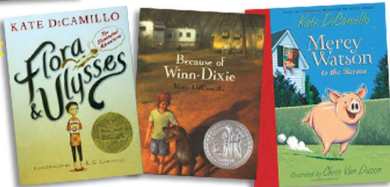
Western Washington University
Children's Literature Conference

Saturday, February 28, 2015
Performing Arts Center ~ Concert Hall



MATT
DE LA PEÑA

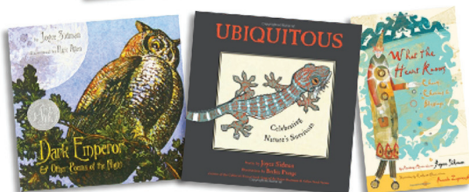
KATE
DiCAMILLO



YUYI
MORALES



JOYCE
SIDMAN



Dear Conference Participant:

A dozen years ago this very weekend a small gross (120) of children's literature aficionados gathered on Western's campus for our debut Children's Literature Conference and what has become an annual celebration of "book love." Since then, 40 authors and artists have inspired, delighted, awakened, and educated thousands of conference attendees. We've welcomed veteran authors and authors just beginning their careers. We've heard drafts of new novels and viewed in-process illustrations. We've been mesmerized by authors' stories, entertained by our speakers' humor and wit, and honored by their honesty and dedication to deliver the best-of-the-best in books for child and teen readers. This year is no exception.

Today we welcome another star-studded quartet of presenters—Matt de la Peña, Kate DiCamillo, Yuyi Morales, and Joyce Sidman—to our conference. They are eager to offer a glimpse into their lives and their art through words, images, and the passion that drives their creations. Their commitment to readers – young and old – reminds us of the allure and magic of reading, and the delight that story, in all its forms, brings to our lives.

In her 1963 Newbery Award speech for *A Wrinkle in Time*, Madeleine L'Engle suggested: "*A book, too, can be a star, 'explosive material, capable of stirring up fresh life endlessly,' a living fire to lighten the darkness, leading out into the expanding universe.*" This year's Conference, and the 600 readers in attendance (including you!), pay tribute to the unique power of literature to "lighten the darkness" and ignite curiosity and wonder. We trust you'll experience this "expanding universe" as you listen to our speakers, engage in conversation over coffee and lunch, thumb through this program, and read the articles and interviews in your Conference packet. We hope you'll feel stirred up, entertained, comforted, challenged, and inspired as readers, writers, teachers, librarians, parents, and lovers of literature.

Welcome to the 12th Western Washington University Children's Literature Conference. We're eager to share this day with you!

Nancy J. Johnson

On behalf of the Conference Advisory Planning Team

WWU Children's Literature Conference
Saturday, February 28, 2015
Performing Arts Center ~ Concert Hall

8:00-8:55 a.m.Registration, coffee/breakfast breads
Book Sales & Autographing
PAC lobby areas

9:00 a.m.Welcome: Nancy J. Johnson
Concert Hall

9:10-10:10 a.m.Author Presentation
~ ***Joyce Sidman***
Introduced by Meredith Attar

10:20-11:20 a.m.Author/Illustrator Presentation
~ ***Yuyi Morales***
Introduced by Josie Estrada

11:20-12:55 p.m.Lunch (box lunches)
Viking Union, MultiPurpose Room

11:55-12:55 p.m.Book Sales & Autographing
PAC lobby areas

1:00-2:00 p.m.Author Presentation
~ ***Matt de la Peña***
Introduced by Lyndsey Runyan

2:10-3:10 p.m.Author Presentation
~ ***Kate DiCamillo***
Introduced by Kate Schueler

3:10-3:30 p.m.Panel of Speakers ~ Question/Answer

Closing Remarks ~ Announcement of 2016 CLC speakers!
Followed by book sales and autographing in PAC lobby areas.

Joyce Sidman

A Snapshot of Her Life

"For me, nature and creativity are firmly entwined. With my books I hope to help young readers delve into the world outside their four cozy walls."

Nature has always inspired Joyce Sidman. Growing up in Connecticut, she and her sisters loved being outside. From fond memories of summers spent at an outdoor camp in Maine, to a not-so-fond memory of the sisters coming home with sneakers full of mud after visiting a forbidden marsh, nature played a role in her childhood. And so did books. As a child, she loved reading, writing, drawing, singing, and school, despite being sent out into the hall for talking too much. In grade school words were something Sidman enjoyed. "From early on, I felt compelled to write."



In high school Sidman discovered poetry, falling in love with its metaphors and concise nature. She realized poetry came naturally to her, and offered a powerful way to express her thoughts and feelings. Sidman followed poetry into college where she studied with published poets and relished hanging out with "creative" people rather than "boring" pre-med types. She acknowledged, "Fate had the last laugh, however; I married a doctor." Sidman and her husband have two sons, and it was ultimately those boys that led her to write poetry for children. As a mother, she read many books to her sons. She also enjoyed seeing the world through their young eyes. The trio spent their days wondering and learning, and then writing and illustrating their own books together.

Sidman continues to draw inspiration from the wonder of nature and a strong desire to learn, as she takes daily walks in the woods near her home in Minnesota with her beloved dog, Watson. She claims she, "...gets ideas while outdoors... But being outside is more to me than that. I need the sights, smells, and sounds of the natural world. They fill me up somehow, fill my well of joy and creativity."

In addition to daily walks, researching ideas, and writing thirteen award-winning poetry books, including Newbery Honor book *Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night*, Sidman spends time as a poet-in-residence at local K-8 schools, introducing students to the power and art of poetry.

A Selection of Joyce Sidman's Work:

Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold, illustrated by Rick Allen,
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014

What the Heart Knows: Chants, Charms and Blessings, illustrated by
Pamela Zagarenski, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature, illustrated by Beth Krommes, Houghton
Mifflin Harcourt, 2011

Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night, illustrated by Rick Allen,
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010

Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors, illustrated by Beckie Prange,
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010

Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors, illustrated by Pamela
Zagarenski, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009

This is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness, illustrated by
Pamela Zagarenski, Houghton Mifflin, 2007

Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow, illustrated by Beth
Krommes, Houghton Mifflin, 2006

Meow Ruff: A Story in Concrete Poetry, illustrated by Michelle Berg,
Houghton Mifflin, 2006

Song of the Water Boatman & Other Pond Poems, illustrated by Beckie
Prange, Houghton Mifflin, 2005

The World According to Dog: Poems and Teen Voices, photographed by
Doug Mindell, Houghton Mifflin, 2003

Some Significant Awards and Honors:

2014 School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, ALA Notable Book –
Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold

2013 National Council of Teachers of English Award for Excellence in
Poetry for Children

2011 Newbery Honor, 2011 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor
Book, 2010 Horn Book Fanfare Book, ALA Notable Book – *Dark
Emperor and Other Poems of the Night*

2011 NCTE Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts, 2011
IRA Teacher's Choices Award, ALA Notable Book – *Ubiquitous:
Celebrating Nature's Survivors*

2010 Caldecott Honor, 2010 Minnesota Book Award, 2009 Cybils Poetry Award – *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors*
2006 Caldecott Honor, 2006 Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, 2005 Horn Book Fanfare Book, 2005 NCTE Notable Book in the Language Arts – *Song of the Water Boatman & Other Pond Poems*

Insights from Sidman:

What are your writing quirks?

In between writing projects, I am absolutely certain I will never come up with another good idea for a book. I gnash my teeth and lament. I sadly clean my office. I talk to myself: “Well, Joyce, you had a pretty good run. Time to retire and raise orchids.”

If you were stranded on a desert island, which one of your characters (real or imagined) would you choose (or not choose) to be stranded with and why?

I am not sure if bees live on desert islands, but I think the hive from WINTER BEES would be pretty good company. I could “live alone in a bee-loud glade,” as Yeats would say. And there would be honey! Once I learned bee-whispering, that is.

What was your favorite book or book character when you were a child and why?

I liked the intrepid girls of *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken, who were staunch friends and always smarter and more stoical than the adults around them. Another favorite was the eponymous bat in *The Bat Poet*, a nonconformist who stays up during the day and tries to find the truth—through poetry—about what he finds.

For more information visit: <http://www.joycesidman.com>

Yuyi Morales

A Snapshot of Her Life

"One day, my mother-in-law...brought my son and me to the most incredible place I was going to know in the USA. She brought us to the Public Library."

Yuyi Morales was born in Xalapa, Mexico. The oldest of four children, she showed an interest in drawing at an early age but was never encouraged to pursue a career in art. Instead she found success as a swimmer. Upon completing a degree in physical education at the University of Xalapa, Morales began a career as a swim coach. It was during this time that she met her husband, Tim O'Meara. After the birth of their son, Kelly, the family moved to California to be closer to Tim's ailing grandfather.



In San Francisco, Morales took her young son to the public library where they read together. Not only did she fall in love with picture books, she discovered their profound effect as she and her son learned English. Morales wondered whether she might be able to create picture books herself. If she could, she could share the stories, the colors, and the people she remembered and missed from Mexico.

Morales took evening courses to learn how to write and illustrate children's books. In one class she wrote and made a dummy and two paintings that she submitted to the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators with the hopes of winning a grant. Years later this draft evolved into the award-winning *Just a Minute*. After winning SCBWI's Don Freeman Grant, Morales prepared a portfolio of her work and submitted it for display at the annual SCBWI conference in Los Angeles. Her career was launched.

Early this month, Morales' *Viva Frida*, a stunning pictorial homage to Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, was recognized as both a 2015 Caldecott Honor

book and the 2015 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award. This marks the sixth Pura Belpré Award or Honor that Morales has received. The extraordinary journey of *Viva Frida* started as a small idea sparked from her writers' group, The Revisionaries. The group challenges themselves annually with an assignment meant to trigger an idea for a picture book. That year's assignment was based on the words, "baby book." From a two-word "assignment" Morales' imagination went wild as she created this radiant tribute to Frida Kahlo.

Morales recently moved back to her beloved homeland, Mexico, where she continues to write and illustrate with vibrancy and passion, as well as dance and make music (two of her other passions). Her unique and magical books will likely charm niños and niñas for years to come.

A Selection of Yuyi Morales' Work:

Viva Frida, with Tim O'Meara, Roaring Brook Press, 2014

Niño Wrestles the World, Roaring Brook Press, 2013

Ladder to the Moon, written by Maya Soetoro-Ng, Candlewick Press, 2011

My Abuelita, written by Tony Johnston, Harcourt, 2009

Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book, Roaring Brook Press, 2008

Nochecita, Roaring Brook Press, 2007

Little Night, Roaring Brook Press, 2007

Los Gatos Black on Halloween, written by Marisa Montes, Henry Holt, 2006

Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book, Chronicle Books, 2003

Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez, written by Kathleen Krull, Harcourt, 2003

Some Significant Awards and Honors:

2015 Caldecott Honor, 2015 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award, Cybils Award – *Viva Frida*

2014 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award, Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year – *Niño Wrestles the World*

2010 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor – *My Abuelita*

2009 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award, Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year – *Just in Case*

2008 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award – *Los Gatos Black on Halloween*

2004 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award, Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature, Tomás Rivera Mexican-American Children's

Book Award – *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book*
2004 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor, Jane Addams Children's Book Award,
Christopher Award – *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*

Insights from Morales:

If your life was a picture book, what type of creature would you choose to represent you and why? What would you name yourself?

I would like to be represented by a nagual, a shape-shifter, like in the many Mexican legends. During the day, I would be a child or an insect, a deer, or a bird, but at night I would transform into a jaguar, a raven, or a coyote.

If you were stranded on a desert island, which one of your characters (real or imagined) would you choose (or not choose) to be stranded with and why?

Oh my, I would probably choose to stay with Niño and las Hermanitas! For sure, together, we would protect each other and we would find our way out of there.

If you could meet your 15-year-old self, what advice would you give about becoming a writer/illustrator, or anything else?

I would tell my young self that it is about to get awesome! I would tell her to keep daydreaming, to keep writing in her journal rather than leaving it behind like I did. I would tell her that everything she is going through will some day make sense, because that is how she is becoming the most creative version of herself. I would tell her to keep asking questions, to keep hearing stories, to know that being afraid is just part of the process of learning who she is. I would tell her to start saying NO with ease and without shame. I would tell her to dare! Dare to declare her love for what she adores, dare to work for what she dreams, dare to draw and draw and draw. I would tell her it is time for her to become the love of her life.

For more information visit: <http://www.yuyimorales.com>

Matt de la Peña

A Snapshot of His Life

“Don’t talk about it, be about it.’ I used to hear this on the court when I was a kid. It was a response to trash talk. Little did I know it would become my motto in life several years down the road.”

Matt de la Peña grew up in Southern California in a working-class family of mixed culture. He struggled to find his place in the world as a non-Spanish speaker with a Hispanic last name. He found a fit on the basketball court. Ball was what mattered and he was good at it. He attended the University of the Pacific on a full basketball scholarship, completing his BA.

“Even though I was a reluctant reader in junior high and high school, I found myself writing poems in the back of class. Secret spoken-word-style poems I never shared...I wasn't able to express myself the way I truly wanted to, though, until I was introduced to multicultural literature in college. That led to me falling in love with books.” As de la Peña’s desire grew to read and create literature that spoke to kids like him, he completed his MFA in creative writing at San Diego State University.



“I start really digging into the character because, to me, I don’t care what the story is. All that matters to me as a reader are characters. I want characters to be real, authentic, and rounded.” Although there is no lack of plot or literary passion in de la Peña’s writing, his characters take center stage. They shine with authenticity and complexity, and they resonate with many teen readers. “The biggest thing is that a kid growing up in a working-class environment often doesn’t know how to show emotion. They’re taught to be tough, machismo. I think it’s fun to watch those characters try to figure out what to do with their heart.”

De la Peña's approach to writing is one of determination, creativity, and humorous humility: "Each story has so much possibility. (Some of them are dumb, of course). And luckily my memory isn't the best, so I never remember how incredibly long and arduous the process of writing a book is. This allows me to start with the same naive smile I've started every book with." De la Peña is committed to books for all readers as is evident by his active role in the We Need Diverse Books campaign, <http://weneeddiversebooks.org/>.

Matt de la Peña's writing crosses genre boundaries and successfully navigates diverse audiences. His work includes YA and middle grade novels, picture books, short fiction, and essays published in various newspapers and literary journals, including *The New York Times* and *NPR.org*. He models his writing life on observations of his parents' work ethic. At home, he writes on a strict schedule and teaches creative writing. He is often on the road, visiting schools and bookstores. De la Peña currently lives in Brooklyn with his wife and young daughter.

A Selection of Matt de la Peña's work:

The Hunted, Delacorte Press, forthcoming May 2015

Last Stop on Market Street, illustrated by Christian Robinson, Putnam, 2015

Infinity Ring Book 8: Eternity, Scholastic, 2014

The Living, Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2013

Infinity Ring Book 4: Curse of the Ancients, Scholastic, 2013

I Will Save You, Delacorte Press, 2010

A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, Dial, 2010

We Were Here, Delacorte Press, 2009

Mexican Whiteboy, Delacorte Press, 2008

Ball Don't Lie, Delacorte Press, 2005

Some Significant Awards and Honors:

2014 Pura Belpré Honor, Junior Library Guild Selection – *The Living*

2011 Booklist Editor's Choice Best Book, School Library Journal Best Book – *A Nation's Hope*

2010 YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers, Junior Library Guild Selection, finalist for the 2011 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award – *I Will Save You*

2009 YALSA Best Book for Young Adults, YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers, Junior Library Guild Selection – ***We Were Here***
2009 Notable Book for a Global Society, 2008 YALSA Best Books for Young Adults (Top Ten), 2008 Bulletin for the Center of Children's Literature Blue Ribbon List – ***Mexican Whiteboy***
2005 YALSA Best Book for Young Adults and a YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers – ***Ball Don't Lie***

Insights from de la Peña:

What are your writing quirks?

I'm very superstitious. So whenever I go to the Brooklyn Writers Space (where I write when I'm home) I always bring a copy of Cormac McCarthy's ***Suttree***. And I read a page before I resume whatever book I'm writing. Even if it's a picture book. And I drink an iced coffee and eat a hard-boiled egg. And I listen to a tropical storm on my headphones. And before I leave my writing space each day, I write a to-do list of the things I have to accomplish the following day.

If you were stranded on a desert island, which one of your characters (real or imagined) would you choose (or not choose) to be stranded with and why?

I'd have to choose Mei-li from ***We Were Here***. Why? Because she's sort of based on my wife. So, if I choose a female character other than Mei-li, I think I'd be in trouble. My other choice would be Kidd from ***I Will Save You***. Why him? I'd like to take care of that guy. Show him the hope he has trouble seeing.

What was your favorite book or book character when you were a child and why?

I was in love with Esperanza from ***The House on Mango Street***. It was the first time I ever read a book that featured a Hispanic character. That alone was mind blowing. And her neighborhood reminded me of where I grew up, by the border in San Diego. But I also loved her spunk. And the way she described the characters that populated her life. Most of all, I loved reading about a young Mexican girl who was dead set on putting her foot in the world. It made me think maybe I could do that, too.

For more information visit: www.mattdelapena.com

Kate DiCamillo

A Snapshot of Her Life

"Stories are light. Light is precious in a world so dark. Begin at the beginning... Make some light." – from ***The Tale of Despereaux***

Born in Philadelphia, Kate DiCamillo moved with her mother and brother to tiny Clermont, Florida, at age five. Chronically sick as a child, DiCamillo learned to entertain herself, and the most common source of joy and escape was reading. She would read anything, anywhere, anytime. She couldn't get enough. For her, books were a way to understand the world.



"I could feel the stories I read pushing against the walls of my heart. I could feel myself expanding."

DiCamillo graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in English. She also graduated with a strong sense that she should become a writer, that she had talent. But, she had little sense of what that meant, or how to get there. Bouncing around odd jobs, from Disney World to campgrounds to greenhouses, DiCamillo did a bit of writing, a bit of submitting, and a whole lot of reading...of rejection letters.

"I finally realized that talent really doesn't have anything to do with it, but working does."

After moving to Minneapolis at age 30, DiCamillo took a job in a wholesale book warehouse. As she packed boxes of books, she would borrow and read titles, astonished at the craft and skill that went into writing for children. She even transcribed chapters to try to get a sense of how and why the writing worked so well. Her first published novel was ***Because of Winn-***

Dixie, a book that received over 450 manuscript rejections before going on to win a Newbery Honor. DiCamillo had arrived.

“We have been given the sacred task of making hearts large through story. We are working to make hearts that are capable of containing much joy and much sorrow, hearts capacious enough to contain the complexities and mysteries and contradictions of ourselves and of each other.”

DiCamillo has received much acclaim and earned many honors, including the 2013 Kerlan Award from the University of Minnesota for “singular attainments in the creation of children's literature,” and appointment as the fourth National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. She currently lives in Minnesota, where she writes two pages a day, five days a week, so that she may share her stories with the world.

A Selection of Kate DiCamillo's work:

Francine Poulet Meets the Ghost Racoon, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen, Candlewick, forthcoming September 2015

Leroy Ninker Saddles Up, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen, Candlewick, 2014

Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures, illustrated by K.G. Campbell, Candlewick, 2013

Bink and Gollie, with Alison McGhee, illustrated by Tony Fucile, Candlewick, 2010 [Book #1 in the *Bink and Gollie series*]

The Magician's Elephant, illustrated by Yoko Tanaka, Candlewick, 2009

Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken, illustrated by Harry Bliss, HarperCollins, 2008

Great Joy, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, Candlewick, 2007

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, Candlewick, 2006

Mercy Watson to the Rescue, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen, Candlewick, 2005

The Tale of Despereaux, illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering, Candlewick, 2003

The Tiger Rising, Candlewick, 2001

Because of Winn-Dixie, Candlewick, 2000

Some Significant Awards and Honors:

2014-2015 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature

2014 Newbery Medal, ALA Notable Book, 2013 National Book Award

Longlist – *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures*

2011 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award – *Bink and Gollie*
2007 Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor – *Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride*
2006 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Fiction – *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*
2004 Newbery Medal, ALA Notable Book – *The Tale of Despereaux*
2001 National Book Award Finalist – *The Tiger Rising*
2001 Newbery Honor, ALA Notable Book, 2000 Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner – *Because of Winn-Dixie*

Insights from DiCamillo:

If your life was a picture book, what type of creature would you choose to represent you and why? What would you name yourself?

A chipmunk. Because I am small, skittish and chubby-cheeked. And what would my chipmunk name be? Um. Fredericka. Freddie for short.

If you were stranded on a desert island, which one of your characters (real or imagined) would you choose (or not choose) to be stranded with and why?

I would like to have Winn-Dixie there. I would rest my head on his flank and stare up at the stars.

What was your favorite book or book character when you were a child and why?

I adored Paddington the bear—his perpetual confusion combined with his perpetual optimism (and his love of food) really spoke to me. Still speaks to me, in fact.

For more information visit: www.katedicamillo.com

2015 Children's and Young Adult Literature Award Winners

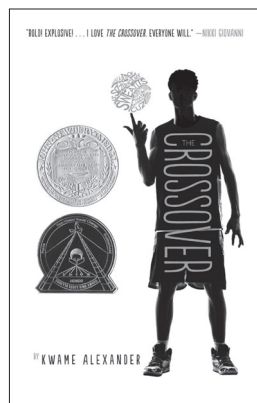
*denotes past, present, and future WWUCLC presenters

Newbery Medal

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Honor Books:

- *El Deafo* written and illustrated by Cece Bell (Amulet Books)
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (Nancy Paulsen Books)



Caldecott Medal

The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend illustrated and written by Dan Santat (Little, Brown and Company)

Honor Books:

- *Nana in the City* illustrated and written by Lauren Castillo (Clarion Books)
- *The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art* illustrated by Mary GrandPré, written by Barb Rosenstock (Alfred A. Knopf)
- *Sam & Dave Dig a Hole* illustrated by Jon Klassen, written by Mac Barnett (Candlewick Press)
- *Viva Frida* illustrated and written by Yuyi Morales* (Neal Porter Books/ Roaring Brook Press)
- *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus* illustrated by Melissa Sweet*, written by Jen Bryant (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)
- *This One Summer* illustrated by Jillian Tamaki, written by Mariko Tamaki (First Second)

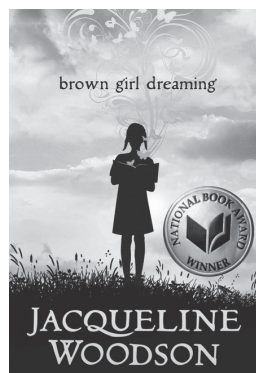


Coretta Scott King Author Award

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
(Nancy Paulsen Books)

Author Honor Books:

- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- *How I Discovered Poetry* written by Marilyn Nelson, illustrated by Hadley Hooper (Dial Books)
- *How It Went Down* by Kekla Magoon (Henry Holt and Company)

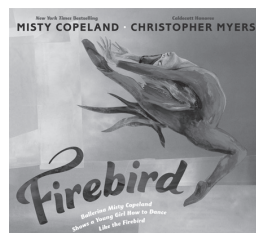


Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

Firebird illustrated by Christopher Myers, written by Misty Copeland (G. P. Putnam's Sons)

Illustrator Honor Books:

- *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker* illustrated by Christian Robinson, written by Patricia Hruby Powell (Chronicle Books)
- *Little Melba and Her Big Trombone* illustrated by Frank Morrison, written by Katheryn Russell-Brown (Lee and Low Books)



John Steptoe Award for New Talent

When I Was the Greatest written and illustrated by Jason Reynolds (Atheneum Books for Young Readers)



Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

Deborah D. Taylor for her 40 year career in public service as mentor, educator and literacy advocate for young adults. As an inspiring young adult librarian, leader in national associations and university instructor, Taylor has been distinctly effective in introducing young people and her professional colleagues to the outstanding work of African American authors.

Michael L. Printz Award

I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson (Dial Books)

Honor Books:

- *And We Stay* by Jenny Hubbard (Delacorte Press)
- *The Carnival at Bray* by Jessie Ann Foley (Elephant Rock Books)
- *Grasshopper Jungle* by Andrew Smith (Dutton Books)
- *This One Summer* written by Mariko Tamaki, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki (First Second)



Schneider Family Book Awards

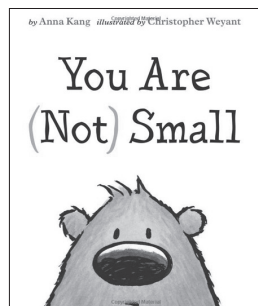
- *CHILDREN'S: A Boy and a Jaguar* written by Alan Rabinowitz, illustrated by Catia Chien (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- *MIDDLE: Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin (Feiweil and Friends)
- *TEEN: Girls Like Us* by Gail Giles (Candlewick Press)

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

You Are (Not) Small written by Anna Kang, illustrated by Christopher Weyant (Two Lions)

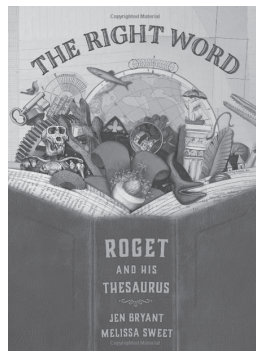
Honor Books:

- *Mr. Putter & Tabby Turn the Page* written by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Arthur Howard (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- *Waiting Is Not Easy!* written and illustrated by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children)



Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus written by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet* (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)

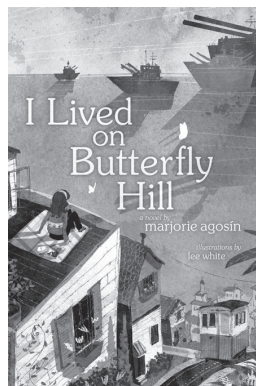


Honor Books:

- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (Nancy Paulsen Books)
- *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, & the Fall of Imperial Russia* by Candace Fleming* (Schwartz & Wade Books)
- *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker* written by Patricia Hruby Powell, illustrated by Christian Robinson (Chronicle Books)
- *Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands* written and illustrated by Katherine Roy (David Macaulay Studio)
- *Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers)

Pura Belpré Author Medal

I Lived on Butterfly Hill written by Marjorie Agosin, illustrated by Lee White (Atheneum Books for Young Readers)

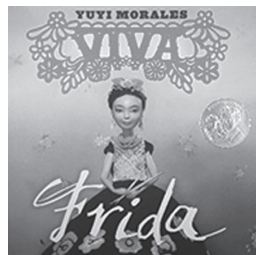


Honor Book:

- *Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes* written by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Raúl Colón (Dial Books for Young Readers)

Pura Belpré Illustrator Medal

Viva Frida illustrated and written by Yuyi Morales* (Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press)



Honor Books:

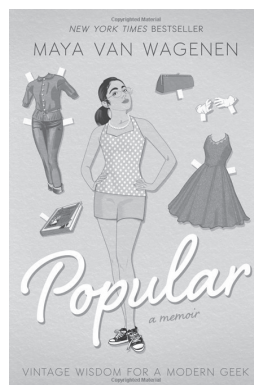
- ***Green Is a Chile Pepper*** illustrated by John Parra, written by Roseanne Greenfield Thong (Chronicle Books)
- ***Little Roja Riding Hood*** illustrated by Susan Guevara, written by Susan Middleton Elya (G. P. Putnam's Sons)
- ***Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*** illustrated and written by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers)

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek by Maya Van Wagenen (Dutton)

Other Finalists:

- ***The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia*** by Candace Fleming* (Schwartz & Wade)
- ***Laughing at My Nightmare*** by Shane Burcaw (Roaring Brook Press)
- ***Ida M. Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business—and Won*** by Emily Arnold McCully* (Clarion Books)
- ***The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights*** by Steve Sheinkin* (Roaring Brook Press)



Margaret A. Edwards Award

This award is given for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults.

Sharon M. Draper is this year's winner.

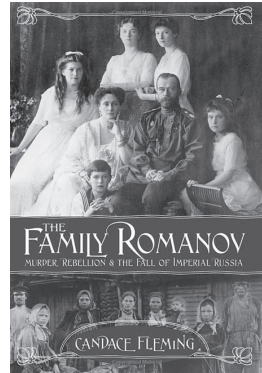
May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Award

This award is given to an author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children's literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site.

Pat Mora* will deliver the 2016 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture.

Orbis Pictus Award

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia by Candace Fleming*
(Schwartz & Wade)

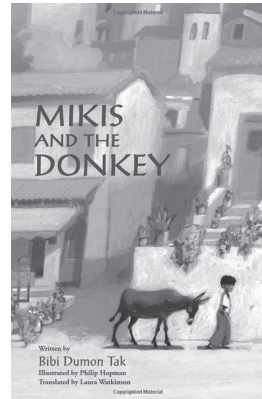


Honor Books:

- *A Home for Mr. Emerson* written by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Scholastic Press)
- *Mr. Ferris and His Wheel* written by Kathryn Gibbs Davis, illustrated by Gilbert Ford (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus* written by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet* (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)
- *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- *Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos* written and illustrated by Stephanie Roth Sisson (Roaring Brook Press)

Mildred L. Batchelder Award

Mikis and the Donkey written by Bibi Dumon Tak,
illustrated by Philip Hopman, translated by Laura Watkinson (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers)



Honor Books:

- *Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust* written by Loic Dauvillier, illustrated by Marc Lizano, color by Greg Salsedo, translated by Alexis Siegel (First Second)
- *Nine Open Arms* written by Benny Lindelauf, illustrated by Dasha Tolstikova, translated by John Nieuwenhuizen (Enchanted Lion Books)

Odyssey (audio)

H. O. R. S. E. A Game of Basketball and Imagination produced by Live Oak Media, written by Christopher Myers and narrated by Dion Graham and Christopher Myers

Honor Audiobooks:

- ***Five, Six, Seven, Nate!*** produced by AUDIOWORKS, written and narrated by Tim Federle
- ***The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place*** produced by Listening Library, written by Julie Berry, narrated by Jayne Entwistle
- ***A Snicker of Magic*** produced by Scholastic Audiobooks, written by Natalie Lloyd, narrated by Cassandra Morris

William C. Morris

Gabi, A Girl in Pieces by Isabel Quintero (Cinco Puntos Press)

Other Finalists:

- ***The Carnival at Bray*** by Jessie Ann Foley (Elephant Rock Books)
- ***The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim*** by E.K. Johnston (Carolrhoda Lab)
- ***The Scar Boys*** by Len Vlahos (Egmont Publishing)
- ***The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender*** by Leslye Walton (Candlewick Press)



Stonewall Book Award

This Day in June written by Gayle E. Pitman, Ph.D., illustrated by Kristyna Litten (Magination Press)

Honor Books:

- ***Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*** written and photographed by Susan Kuklin (Candlewick Press)
- ***I'll Give You the Sun*** by Jandy Nelson (Dial Books)
- ***Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*** written by Christine Baldacchio, illustrated by Isabelle Malenfant (Groundwood Books)

Our Previous Speakers

WWU Children's Literature Conference over the years . . .

2004

Keith Baker
Pam Muñoz Ryan
Suzanne Fisher Staples

2005

Avi
Nina Laden
Katherine Paterson
Janet Wong

2006

Jon Agee
Laurie Halse Anderson
Emily Arnold McCully
Deborah Wiles

2007

Candace Fleming
Lois Lowry
Pat Mora
David Wiesner

2008

Chris Crutcher
Christopher Paul Curtis
John Rocco
Eric Rohmann

2009

Joan Bauer
Kadir Nelson
Sara Pennypacker
Brian Selznick

2010

Marla Frazee
John Green
Allyn Johnston
Gerald McDermott
Linda Sue Park

2011

Kirby Larson
Chris Raschka

2012

Patrick Carman
Laura McGee Kvasnosky
Gary D. Schmidt

2013

Katherine Applegate
Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Michael Grant
Brian Pinkney

2014

Nic Bishop
Jennifer Holm
Steve Sheinkin
Laura Vaccaro Seeger

A Note of Thanks

Talent, energy, hard work, and unflagging enthusiasm – the perfect “ingredients” to create this weekend’s literary celebration. The individuals whose names appear below have dedicated hours of their time and expertise to make this conference a success. In addition, gratitude goes out to our team of 87 student volunteers from Western Washington University and Whatcom Community College, and to our co-sponsors and partners at WWU: English Department, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Woodring College of Education, Provost’s Office, Western Libraries, Conference Services, and the PAC facilities team.

Michele Anderson

Meredith Attar

Cory Bartel

Tracy Bertels

Kathryn Boyd

Gretchen Coulter

Josie Estrada

Mataio & Jessica Gillis @ Ciao

Thyme

Sorrell Hartford

Sarah Hutton and her team @

Village Books

Elspeth Jensen

Aubri Keleman

Connie Mallison

Melissa Menti

Robert Mittendorf

Hannah Newman

Alesha Perrin

Lyndsey Runyan

Kate Schueler

Keith Turley

Children’s Literature Conference Board:

Theresa Hadley

Bethany Hoglund

Nancy Johnson

Adam Shaffer

Sher Smith Ross

Sylvia Tag

Evaluation

In about a week you’ll receive an online survey requesting your feedback about our conference. We know it takes time to respond to a survey, but we also know the value of your specific comments, suggestions, and insight. Thank you in advance for making time to respond.

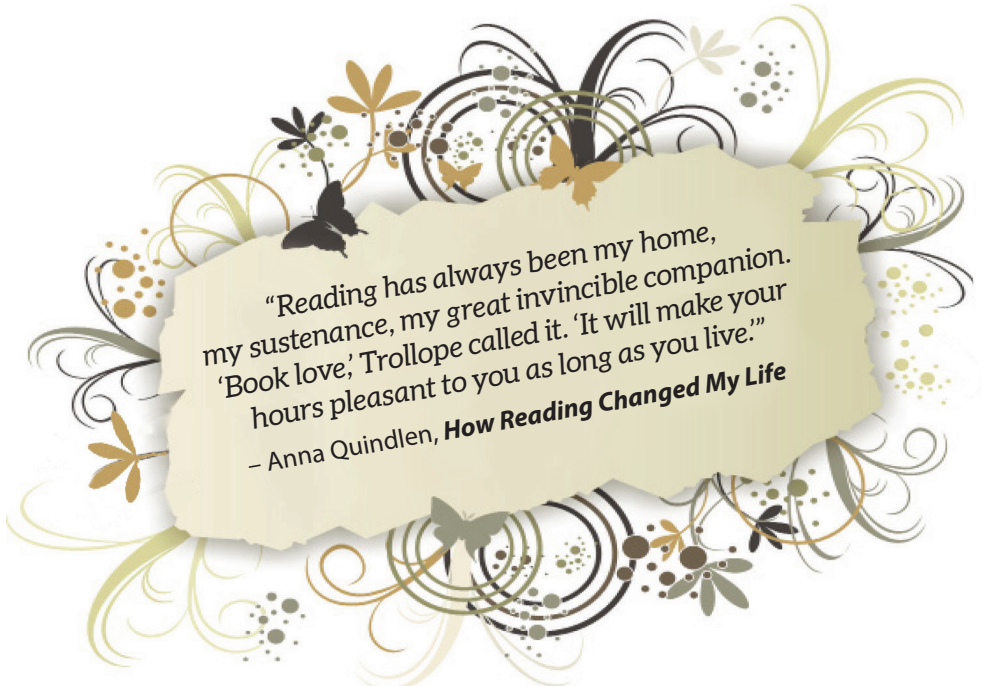
Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE
2016 WWU CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CONFERENCE!

Scheduled for February 27, 2016
www.wwuclc.com

A decorative border featuring stylized floral elements, swirls, and butterflies in shades of gold, brown, and green, framing the central text.

"Reading has always been my home,
my sustenance, my great invincible companion.
'Book love,' Trollope called it. 'It will make your
hours pleasant to you as long as you live.'"
– Anna Quindlen, **How Reading Changed My Life**