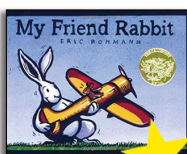
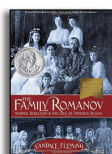


children's literature conference

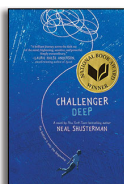
Western Washington University
Children's Literature Conference

Saturday, February 23, 2019
Performing Arts Center ~ Concert Hall



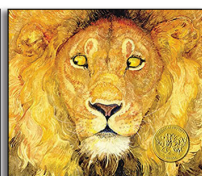
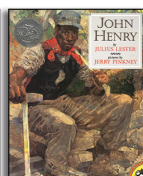
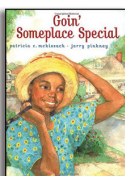
CANDACE
FLEMING
& ERIC
ROHMANN

BARBARA
O'CONNOR



NEAL
SHUSTERMAN

JERRY
PINKNEY



Dear Conference Participant:

Six decades ago I fell in love. Since then, I've fallen in and out of love dozens of times. I bet you have too. For me, it started with snuggling (as is often the case!). I cozied up to Margaret Wise Brown's **Mr. Dog**, transported by Garth Williams' gently powerful illustrations and my mother's voice. I distinctly remember that first page, "*Once upon a time there was a funny dog named Crispin's Crispian. He was named Crispin's Crispian because he belonged to himself.*" A dog who belonged to himself. Who, as the story revealed, was brave and resilient, generous and kind. Who was never really alone or lonely. How can you ever be lonely when there's the promise of story?

Story... in all its incarnations—real or imagined, text dominant or illustration rich, listened to or read on your own, tickle-your-funny-bone silly or heart-breaking serious—is what this Conference is all about. And this year, we vow to deliver the treasures found at any Sweet 16th party: good friends and new companions, some sweet treats, the wonder of wishing, and the possibility of falling in love.

We're delighted to welcome this year's special guests—Candace Fleming, Eric Rohmann, Neal Shusterman, Barbara O'Connor, and Jerry Pinkney—and we anticipate there might be some new book, character, author, or illustrator "crushes" once you meet them. They come bearing gifts: brave, selfless friendships; strong hearts; connections to culture; wide-eyed curiosity; permission to be everwild; and a lifetime ticket to wonderland.

This Conference has been—and always will be—a love story. And so, we invite you to snuggle in side-by-side (and we mean this literally—this will be one packed Concert Hall!). Open your eyes and ears, your heads and hearts, and fall in love with us... sharing the sweetness of story and the possibility of happily-ever-after.

Enjoy the Conference!

Nancy J. Johnson

On behalf of the 2019 Conference Advisory Planning Team

WWU Children's Literature Conference
Saturday, February 23, 2019
Performing Arts Center ~ Concert Hall

- 8:00-8:55 a.m..... Registration, Continental Breakfast
Book Sales & Autographing
PAC lobby areas
- 9:00 a.m Welcome: Nancy J. Johnson
Concert Hall
- 9:10-10:20 a.m..... Author/Illustrator Presentation
~ Candace Fleming & Eric Rohmann
Introduced by Thom Barthelmess
- 10:30-11:30 a.m..... Author Presentation
~ Neal Shusterman
Introduced by Kristine Nugent-Ohls
- 11:30-12:55 p.m Lunch (box lunches)
*Where to eat? See map in folder & follow the signs
and volunteers.*
- Noon-12:55 p.m Book Sales & Autographing
PAC lobby areas
- 1:00-2:00 p.m Author Presentation
~ Barbara O'Connor
Introduced by Carrie Gelson
- 2:10-3:10 p.m Author/Illustrator Presentation
~ Jerry Pinkney
Introduced by Rosemary Vohs
- 3:10-3:30 p.m Panel of Speakers ~ Q & A

Closing Remarks ~ Announcement of 2020 speakers!
Lucky Draw for Complimentary 2020 Conference Registration
Followed by Book Sales & Autographing in PAC lobby areas until 4 p.m.
A privacy room is available. If needed, please ask an usher for assistance.

Candace Fleming

A Snapshot of Her Life

"I'm a grown up and I spend my days thinking about tortoises and skunks and rabbits." (Reading Rockets interview)

Thank heavens for authors who spend their days thinking about tortoises and skunks and rabbits. For curiosity begets exploration, and exploration produces exceptional literature, and exceptional literature inspires more curiosity, starting the cycle all over again.

Candace Fleming feeds her curiosity, and ours, through an expansive body of literature for young people that encompasses everything from effervescent picture books for preschool children to illuminating historical biographies for teens. Though the scope of her work is immense, her body of work is unified by her careful attention to style, her deep fascination with history, and her contagious interest in her subject matter. Candace has an extraordinary ability to tailor the telling to the tale. From the repetitive delight of ***Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*** to the lyrical polish of ***The Family Romanov*** to the poetic spook



Credit: Michael Lionstar

of ***Giant Squid***, she communicates to her readers both in the content she presents and the tone and style of that presentation. With a gift for telling stories and a passion for history, a career writing for children and teens might have seemed an obvious choice. It was through reading to her own children that she found her calling, combining scrupulous research with inventive storytelling to capture the young reader's attention and hold tight. And capture it she does. There is no escaping her abiding fascination with her subjects. Her searing first-person embodiment of Katherine of Aragon in ***Fatal Throne*** is deeply human. The playful, contemporary apparition of historical American heroes in ***Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom*** and ***Eleanor Roosevelt's in My Garage*** manifest the joy of discovery. And the unflinching, nuanced examination of the life and legacy of legends in works

like *Presenting Buffalo Bill* and *The Great and Only Barnum* reveal and provoke in equal measure.

Fleming lives in a suburb of Chicago, where she writes in the company of her trusty dog, Oxford. She travels extensively to conduct research, and can sometimes be found teaching writing in classrooms on the other side of the world.

A Selection of Candace Fleming's Work

Eleanor Roosevelt's in My Garage! illustrated by Mark Fearing, Schwartz & Wade, 2018

Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen, illustrated by Eric Rohmann, Schwartz & Wade, 2018

Fatal Throne: The Wives of Henry VIII Tell All, written with M.T. Anderson, Stephanie Hemphill, Lisa Ann Sandell, Jennifer Donnelly, Linda Sue Park, and Deborah Hopkinson, Schwartz & Wade, 2018

The Amazing Collection of Joey Cornell: Based on the Childhood of a Great American Artist, illustrated by Gérard Dubois, Schwartz & Wade, 2018

Giant Squid, illustrated by Eric Rohmann, Roaring Brook Press, 2016

Bulldozer's Big Day, illustrated by Eric Rohmann, Atheneum, 2015

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia, Schwartz & Wade, 2014

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart, Schwartz & Wade, 2011

The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary, Schwartz & Wade, 2008

The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School, Schwartz & Wade, 2007

Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!, illustrated by G. Brian Karas, Atheneum, 2002

Some Significant Awards and Honors

2018 New York Public Library Best Book for Kids, Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best – *Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen*

2017 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award Honor Book, Orbis Pictus Honor, Cybils Award for Elementary Non-Fiction, Charlotte Zolotow Honor – *Giant Squid*

2015 Boston Globe–Horn Book Nonfiction Award, *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Young Adult Literature, Orbis Pictus Award, Robert F. Sibert

Nonfiction Honor – *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia*

2012 Golden Kite Award for Nonfiction – *Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart*

2009 Boston Globe-Horn Book Nonfiction Award, *LA Times* Literary Book Prize Finalist, Orbis Pictus Honor – *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary*

Insights from Fleming

How would you describe yourself as a 16-year-old?

Sixteen? The year I got my driver's license, made the pom-pom squad, had my first "real" boyfriend and weighed only 105 pounds. I should have been over-the-moon happy. I should have had the world by the ass. But I wasn't. I didn't. On the outside, I looked like a popular, well-adjusted kid with good grades, but on the inside I was simmering with self-doubt, self-consciousness, the feeling that I wasn't good enough, confusion about my future, questions about the purpose of life. I wanted to escape, but how? I fled to my imagination. I read a lot in high school. I wrote a lot, too.

Who or what did you have a "crush" on as a kid or teen (real or imagined)? What was the attraction?

Oh, Doug Cougill! He was tall, funny, captain of the basketball team and a senior. I believed he was perfect until...he broke up with me on the way home from the Homecoming Dance after dancing most of the night with another girl. It was my first heartbreak, and I thought I'd never survive. Let's face it. The only good thing about your first break up is that it only happens once.

What is the sweetest part of writing for kids/teens? Can you think of a specific incident that demonstrates that?

Recently, at a school visit, the librarian warned me about a quirky third grader who had checked out only one book for the past four weeks: *Giant Squid*. He was, she explained, "ready to explode with curiosity."

She wasn't kidding.

The kid's hand constantly shot into the air. He shouted out facts. He howled with delight when I showed a squid video. And at one point, unable to contain his excitement, he leaped to his feet and did a squidly dance – his arms writhing like tentacles, head and hips waving.

After school, that third grader found me in the library. I braced myself for more cephalopod enthusiasm. But the kid just pulled out a wad of folded paper and earnestly handed it over.

I asked him what it was.

“It’s my squid book. For you.” Before I could say another word, he darted in to give me a quick hug. “I never thought I’d meet another squid lover.”

What earned your time and attention as a child or teen?

Fossil hunting, bicycling to Lincoln Log Cabin, the Judy Bolton mystery series (I read all 38 titles in one summer), dogs—any kind, my father’s illness (he died when I was fourteen), swiping my big sister Carole’s diary and reading it aloud, arm wrestling, roller coasters, late night black-and-white movies, and the joy of simply looking, listening, discovering, puttering and whiling away a summer’s day.

Which of your books (or characters) would have captivated you as a child or teen?

Olive from my ***History Pals*** series. She is smart, funny, brave, sassy, sentimental, confident and possesses hidden and surprising talents. Her life is full of adventure. In short, she’s the kid I always wanted to be.

Eric Rohmann

A Snapshot of His Life

"I began drawing as a way of better understanding the world around me. When I encountered something strange and interesting I discovered that I could get closer to it, know more about the thing, by looking deliberately and carefully. That meant drawing a picture. That's what drawing is—deep, careful, attentive seeing." (www.ericrohmann.com)

Seeing is believing, and Eric Rohmann allows his readers to believe everything he puts before us, from the inconceivable truths about giant squid to the astonishing adventures of a girl and her enormous floating fish, combining exquisite draftsmanship, careful composition, and unbounded imagination to produce picture books that take us places we didn't know we dreamed of, and delight us on the way.



Credit: Michael Lionstar

As a child, Eric Rohmann made pictures more than he looked at them. A self-professed non-reader, he met and made sense of the world not by consuming other people's ideas but with artistic responses of his own. He imagined stories as a series of pictures, and so committed his own thoughts to paper in imagery. As a teen, he discovered the classics, picture books by the likes of Virginia Lee Burton and Wanda Gag, Robert McCloskey and Maurice Sendak; and novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Susan Cooper, and Jules Verne, adding to his affinity for pictorial storytelling an appreciation for the power of words. He combined words and pictures to tell stories throughout his life, in comic books, newsletters, and illustrated correspondence. When he took a teaching job in a summer arts program, his love of visual storytelling met the avid curiosity of young people. He pointed his artwork at a young audience and produced his first picture book, *Time Flies*. Since that time, he has created a collection of books that are playful, provocative, and irresistible. Though each is unique, from the detailed precision of *Time Flies* to the stylized whimsy of *Bone Dog*, together they are characterized by the indelible vision of their creator, and the inarguable truth of his perspective.

Rohmann works in a studio in his home in a suburb of Chicago and shares his work table with Oliver, the cat. When he's not chasing a deadline, Rohmann loves to travel the world.

A Selection of Eric Rohmann's Work

Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen, written by Candace Fleming, Schwartz & Wade, 2018

Bulldozer Helps Out, written by Candace Fleming, Atheneum, 2017

Giant Squid, written by Candace Fleming, Roaring Brook Press, 2016

Bulldozer's Big Day, written by Candace Fleming, Atheneum, 2015

Oh, No! written by Candace Fleming, Schwartz & Wade, 2012

Bless This Mouse, written by Lois Lowry, Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2011

Bone Dog, Roaring Brook Press, 2011

A Kitten Tale, Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2008

My Friend Rabbit, Roaring Brook Press, 2002

Clara and Asha, Knopf Books for Young Readers, 1997

Time Flies, Crown Books, 1994

Some Significant Awards and Honors

2018 New York Public Library Best Book for Kids, Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best – ***Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen***

2017 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award Honor Book, Orbis Pictus Honor, Cybils Award for Elementary Non-Fiction, Charlotte Zolotow Honor – ***Giant Squid***

2013 Bull-Bransom Award, granted by the National Museum of Wildlife Art – ***Oh, No!***

2003 Caldecott Medal – ***My Friend Rabbit***

1999 Caldecott Honor Book, *New York Times Book Review* Best Children's Book – ***Time Flies***

Insights from Rohmann

How would you describe yourself as a 16-year-old?

Unsure, skeptical, curious. When I look back, the boy appears often in doubt, wary of change, but enchanted by the natural world and surprised that he could draw. That year he worked—and escaped—as a volunteer at the children's zoo after school and weekends and it helped shape him into who he would become.

Who or what did you have a "crush" on as a kid or teen (real or imagined)? What was the attraction?

I was drawn to creative people who did things. Comic book artists, painters, woodworkers, gardeners, explorers and astronauts; and to characters in books I wished I could be more like: Abraham Lincoln, Holden Caulfield, Atticus Finch, Tarzan, Max (from *Where The Wild Things Are*), Mr. Spock.

If you could meet your 16-year-old self, what advice would you give about becoming a writer/illustrator, or anything else?

Draw. Draw every day and then draw some more. My entire life I have been trying to catch up to my shortcomings as a draftsman and so I'd hand him a pencil and sketch pad and say, "Let's make something."

What earned your time and attention as a child or teen?

A short list of things that earned my attention: The way a heavy snowfall alters the world; the heft, shape and luster of a quartz crystal; my dog, Cinders, running across a field; space exploration; picnics; Superman comics; my parents disdain of one another; the orange and black of Halloween; my devil-may-care friend Richard Bodmer; the selfless love of my great aunt Jenny.

Which of your books (or characters) would have captivated you as a child or teen?

Gus in *Bone Dog*. I would not have realized why at the time—like all 16-year olds, I felt things with great urgency, but was confused by what the feelings meant. I would have instinctively responded to Gus' grief and deep love for his lost companion, Ella.

Neal Shusterman

A Snapshot of His Life

"No one does doom like Neal Shusterman – the breathtakingly jagged brink of apocalypse is only overshadowed by the sense that his dystopias lie just below the surface of readers' fragile reality, a few thoughtless actions away."

(Kirkus review for **Dry**)

Those words apply not just to **Dry**, the latest book by Neal Shusterman, co-written with his son Jarrod, which addresses the looming water crisis. They can be said of nearly every novel he has written in his long and storied career. No one builds dystopian realities like he does, blending real world issues and fantastic scenarios, peppered with humor.

Perhaps Shusterman's background in psychology and drama, in which he received degrees from UC Irvine, served as the foundation for his storytelling acumen. He credits his experience living in Mexico City during his junior and senior years of high school for changing his perspective on the world and giving him confidence. What we know is this:

since college, where he swam competitively and wrote a humor column, Neal Shusterman has remained a very busy and very productive man. He has written for television, stage, and the page, winning awards and keeping readers and viewers on the edge of their seats with his compelling stories that are just believable enough to be truly unsettling. One thing is certain, his stories make us think and that's the whole idea. He says, "I consider it my job to pose questions and find interesting ways of posing those questions...so I'm never going to tell you what to think. But I will suggest what you might think about. And I consider that the job of a writer."



Credit: Brendan Shusterman

Whether Shusterman is writing about the water supply being shut off in California and the ensuing panic, or a not-so-unbelievable world where disease and war have been eradicated so organized murder serves as

population-control, one thing is certain; the reader will think about these stories, long after the last page is turned.

Neal Shusterman travels extensively speaking to teens and at conferences around the world and can sometimes be found sequestered on a cruise ship with the sole purpose...to write. Most recently, he lived in Southern California near his children Brendan, Jarrod, Joelle, and Erin, whom he credits as a constant source of inspiration. This Sunday, he'll begin a brand-new adventure when he moves to Jacksonville, Florida.

A Selection of Neal Shusterman's Work

The Toll (Arc of a Scythe, #3), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (forthcoming September 2019)

Dry, written by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018

Thunderhead (Arc of a Scythe, #2), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018

Scythe (Arc of a Scythe #1), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016

Challenger Deep, Harper Teen, 2015

Accelerati Trilogy, Disney-Hyperion, 2014-2016

Unwind Dystology (UnWind, UnWholly, UnSouled), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2007-2014

The Skinjacker Trilogy (Everlost, Everwild, Everfound), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006-2011

Bruiser, Harper Teen, 2010

The Schwa Was Here, Dutton Children's Books, 2004

Full Tilt, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003

Some Significant Awards and Honors

2017 Michael L. Printz Honor, 2017 PEN USA Literary Award Finalist – *Scythe*

2015 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, 2015 Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor, 2016 Golden Kite Award for Fiction, 2016 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Honor – *Challenger Deep*

2005 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Fiction – *The Schwa Was Here*

Insights from Shusterman

How would you describe yourself as a 16-year-old?

My teachers called me a renaissance man, because I was into everything. I wanted to be an artist, a composer, an actor, an architect, a rock star, oh, and a writer.

Who or what did you have a "crush" on as a kid or teen (real or imagined)? What was the attraction?

You mean aside from the girl who sat in front of me in Math? The one I most clearly remember is Alice Krige. She was in "Chariots of Fire," "Ghost Story," and a few other big movies in the early 80's. My friends and I thought she was going to be a huge star, but she kind of disappeared. Years later she showed up as the Borg Queen in "Star Trek: First Contact." She was creepy, but still hot!

What is the sweetest part of writing/illustrating for teens? Can you think of a specific incident that demonstrates that?

When people come up to me and tell me that one of my books changed their lives. I often have kids telling me things like "I never liked reading until I read ***Unwind***, and now I can't stop reading." Or, "***Scythe*** is the first book I ever read all the way through." I got an email from a girl telling me how ***Everlost*** helped her cope with the death of her best friend, and a college student came to me at a book signing in tears, saying that she had been suicidal, struggling with mental illness, and ***Challenger Deep*** saved her life. These are the moments that make you realize how important writing for teens is, and I'm honored to be able to do it!

What is the biggest risk you've taken (or the biggest reward you've received) as a writer?

Writing ***Challenger Deep***. It was a very personal story inspired by a very difficult time for our family. The book was therapeutic for all of us, but I was afraid it would bring back all the hardship of that time in my son's life. And because it was so personal, if it wasn't received well, it would have been an awful invalidation. It would have been hard to not take it personally. When ***Challenger Deep*** won the National Book Award, it was not just an award to us, but a validation of my son's experiences, and our family's lives.

What earned your time and attention as a child or as a teen?

Art. I loved to draw, paint, and sketch, and would spend endless hours doing so. I don't do it much anymore, but my son Brendan paints, and my daughter Erin is an art student at the Savannah College of Art and Design, so I guess I passed something down! People ask what I'll do when I retire. First – what writer retires? Writing is what people often do AFTER they retire. But when I slow down and allow myself time for other things when I get older, I'll probably spend more time drawing and painting.

Barbara O'Connor

A Snapshot of Her Life

"On the line beside Describe your family, I wrote, 'Bad.' What is your favorite subject in school? 'None.' List three of your favorite activities. 'Soccer, ballet, and fighting.' Two of those favorite activities were lies but one of them was the truth. I am fond of fighting." (**Wish**, 2016)

Barbara O'Connor's novels for middle grade readers lovingly portray diverse characters whose lives are rich, complex, working-class, and economically strained, and give readers many opportunities to recognize parts of themselves or people they know. Her books are not stories about class struggle, poverty, homelessness, strict gender roles, food scarcity, work, extended families, disabilities, orphans and misfits. Rather, they are stories about children, adolescents, and adults figuring out life. Never shying away from controversy, O'Connor uses dialogue to get to the heart of matters.

Her rich narratives and unique characters offer readers new insights while breaking stereotypes. They'll meet gentle, tattooed motorcycle riders and outspoken, self-sufficient grandmothers who smoke like a chimney. They'll read about families labeled as broken but, in reality, they are families that face challenges and also flourish. "I often find myself drawn to the troubled child, the outcast child, the spunky misfit. Those are the kind of kids who find their way into my stories."

Barbara O'Connor was born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina. As a child she loved dogs, salamanders, tap-dancing, and even homework. But her favorite days were when the bookmobile came to town. After taking a class in writing for children at UCLA, she was hooked. A few years and more than a few rejections later, she sold her first children's book and has been writing ever since. Barbara spends her days drawing on her childhood memories from the South to create stories, settings, and characters. "Sometimes my characters



eat boiled peanuts,” she says. “Sometimes they go to the Smoky Mountains. Maybe they see kudzu vines covering up barns or listen to church music on the radio inside their trailers. They might catch crawfish in an icy cold stream or eat pickled okra from a jar. My stories have pieces of me in them—all mixed in with the made-up parts. That’s what writers do—mix in the real stuff with the made-up stuff.”

Years ago, Barbara O’Connor left sunny California for snowy New England, where she spent 26 years before returning to the South. She currently lives with her husband and two dogs in Asheville, North Carolina, surrounded by the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

A Selection of Barbara O’Connor’s Work

Wonderland, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018

Wish, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016

On the Road to Mr. Mineo’s, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012

The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010

The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009

Greetings from Nowhere, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008

How to Steal a Dog, Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007

Fame and Glory in Freedom Georgia, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003

Moonpie and Ivy, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2001

Me and Rupert Goody, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999

Some Significant Awards and Honors

2017 SCBWI Crystal Kite Award, 2016 Nerdy Book Club Award, 2016

American Booksellers Association Best Books of the Year – *Wish*

2012 *School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year, 2012 Parents Choice

Silver Award – *On the Road to Mr. Mineo’s*

2010 *School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year, 2010 *Kirkus* Best Books of the Year – *The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester*

2010 *School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year, 2010 ALA Notable Children’s Books – *The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis*

2008 International Reading Association Notable Books for a Global Society,

2007 Bank Street College Best Books of the Year, 2007 *School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year – *How to Steal a Dog*

2001 *Child Magazine* Best Book of the Year – *Moonpie and Ivy*

Insights from O'Connor

How would you describe yourself as a 16-year-old?

A little wild, rebellious, risk-taker, independent.

Who or what did you have a "crush" on as a kid or teen (real or imagined)? What was the attraction?

Little Joe on *Bonanza*. So handsome! I used to play *Bonanza* with some of the neighborhood kids and I always insisted on being Little Joe.

What is the sweetest part of writing/illustrating for kids/teens? Can you think of a specific incident that demonstrates that?

Having a part in a child getting excited about reading. I recently received a wonderful letter from the mother of a child who had read my book *Wish*. She wrote: "I just wanted to write a quick thank you to let you know how much I appreciate the excitement for reading you lit within Haley... What you do matters and doesn't go unnoticed. You have given me a very special gift." Wow! Mission accomplished.

What was one of your less-than-admirable habits as a child or teen, or something that got you into trouble?

I'll never forget being reprimanded by my 8th grade Latin teacher for being too loquacious. Like an idiot, I asked her what loquacious meant. Naturally, I was told to look it up. Another teacher wrote on my report card, "Barbara can improve her grades by being more attentive to class instruction."

Who or what do you credit as a significant inspiration, influence, or mentor? What did you learn and/or what still resonates?

I always credit Cynthia Rylant for helping me find my writing voice. I especially love *Missing May*. It has such a strong sense of place that breathes life into the story.

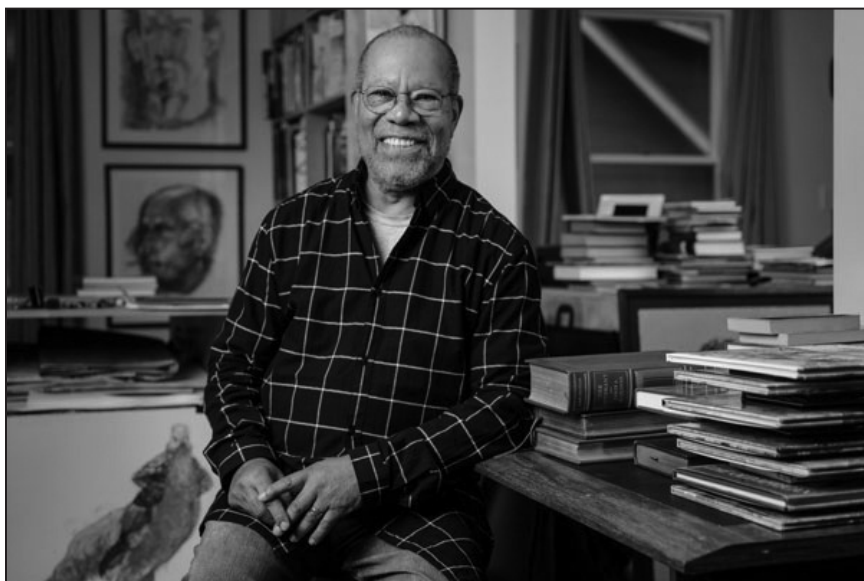
Jerry Pinkney

A Snapshot of His Life

"I am a storyteller at heart. There is something special about knowing that your stories can alter the way people see the world and their place within it."
(*"Witness: The Art of Jerry Pinkney"* author bio on the Norman Rockwell Museum website)

Jerry Pinkney's storytelling has influenced many a worldview in the past 55 years through over 100 books filled with richly detailed pencil drawings layered with vibrant watercolors. One of the most highly regarded illustrators working today, he has won a staggering number of awards for his books, including the Coretta Scott King and Caldecott medals for distinguished illustration and two lifetime achievement awards. In addition, his art has been featured in some of the world's finest museums such as the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Norman Rockwell Museum, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

As a child growing up in a working-class family in a mostly African American section of Philadelphia, Pinkney did not have much exposure to fine art. However, his parents and teachers recognized and encouraged his drawing talent early on by supplying him with pencils from the factory where his



Credit: Thomas Kristich

grandfather worked and paper of all types, including leftover wallpaper from his father's trade. Reading was difficult due to undiagnosed dyslexia but his mother was a great storyteller. Pinkney believes that his learning disability, which requires him to read slowly and translate words into pictures, has actually contributed to his success as a visual storyteller.

"When I speak of community, I am not only talking about the immediate world around me," writes Pinkney on his website, "but also legacy. I am always searching for projects that connect with my culture and the experience of being Black in America." Pinkney's early books represent groundbreaking work telling stories with African American subjects, and he was a major contributor to the first wave of diverse books in children's publishing.

Pinkney credits his wife, author Gloria Jean Pinkney, as an important ally in his success. Two of their four children, Myles and Brian, followed in their parents' footsteps and married partners with whom they have created children's books. His community of readers, students, and family is vast. He has undeniably earned—and achieved—his goal of legacy.

A Selection of Jerry Pinkney's Work

A Place to Land: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Speech that

Inspired a Nation, written by Barry Wittenstein, Neal Porter Books
(forthcoming September 2019)

A Home in the Barn, written by Margaret Wise Brown, HarperCollins,
2018

The Grasshopper and the Ants, Little, Brown, 2015

The Tortoise and the Hare, Little, Brown, 2013

The Lion & the Mouse, Little Brown, 2009

The Moon Over Star, written by Dianna Hutts Aston, Dial, 2008

Noah's Ark, Chronicle, 2002

Goin' Someplace Special, written by Pat McKissack, Atheneum, 2001

The Ugly Duckling, Morrow, 1999

Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman, written by Alan Schroeder,
Dial, 1996

John Henry, written by Julius Lester, Dial, 1994

Sunday Outing, written by Gloria Jean Pinkney, Dial, 1994

I Want to Be, written by Thylias Moss, Dial, 1993

Mirandy and Brother Wind, written by Pat McKissack, Knopf, 1988

Some Significant Awards and Honors

2016 Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement [ALA]

2016 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for Lifetime Achievement (renamed Children’s Literature Legacy Award in 2018) [ALA]

2010 Caldecott Medal, 2010 Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor, 2010 *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book – *The Lion & the Mouse*

2009 Coretta Scott King Honor – *The Moon Over Star*

2003 Caldecott Honor – *Noah’s Ark*

2002 Coretta Scott King Award – *Goin’ Someplace Special*

2000 Caldecott Honor – *The Ugly Duckling*

1997 Coretta Scott King Award, IRA/CBC Teacher’s Choice – *Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman*

1995 Caldecott Honor, 1995 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award – *John Henry*

1989 Coretta Scott King Award – *Mirandy and Brother Wind*

Insights from Pinkney

How would you describe yourself as a 16-year-old?

Focused.

Who or what did you have a "crush" on as a kid or teen (real or imagined)? What was the attraction?

In high school, I had a crush on Gloria Jean, who is now my wife of 59 years.

What is the sweetest part of writing/illustrating for kids/teens?

It may very well be a child’s first time to interact with art.

If you could meet your 16-year-old self, what advice would you give about becoming a writer/illustrator, or anything else?

Dream big and always stare down those who say you can’t.

What is the biggest risk you’ve taken as a writer/illustrator?

Moving from Boston to New York to increase my art-making possibilities. I was married with four children, and I was freelancing at the time.

Who or what do you credit as a significant inspiration, influence, or mentor? What did you learn and/or what still resonates?

Sam Brown, my high school art teacher. He was the first practicing African American artist I met, and his presence in my young life was essential to me pursuing art.

2019 Children's and Young Adult Literature Award Winners

**denotes past WWUCLC presenters*

Newbery Medal

Merci Suárez Changes Gears written by Meg Medina (Candlewick)

Honor Books:

The Night Diary written by Veera Hiranandani (Dial)

The Book of Boy written by Catherine Gilbert Murdock, illustrated by Ian Schoenherr (Greenwillow)

Caldecott Medal

Hello Lighthouse illustrated and written by Sophie Blackall (Little, Brown)*

Honor Books:

Alma and How She Got Her Name illustrated and written by Juana Martinez-Neal (Candlewick)

A Big Mooncake for Little Star illustrated and written by Grace Lin (Little, Brown)

The Rough Patch illustrated and written by Brian Lies (Greenwillow)

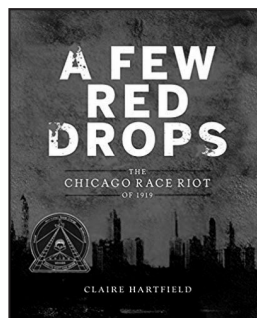
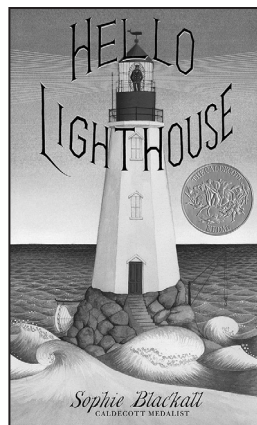
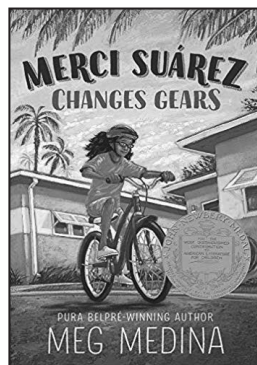
Thank You, Omu! illustrated and written by Oge Mora (Little, Brown)

Coretta Scott King Author Award

A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 written by Claire Hartfield (Clarion)

Author Honor Books:

Finding Langston written by Lesa Cline-Ransome (Holiday House)

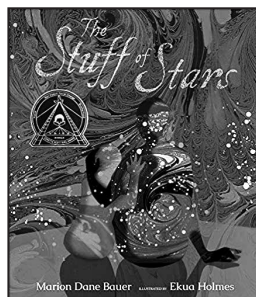


The Parker Inheritance written by Varian Johnson (Arthur A. Levine Books)

The Season of Styx Malone written by Kekla Magoon (Wendy Lamb Books)

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

The Stuff of Stars illustrated by Ekua Holmes, written by Marion Dane Bauer (Candlewick)



Illustrator Honor Books:

Hidden Figures illustrated by Laura Freeman, written by Margot Lee Shetterly (HarperCollins)

Let the Children March illustrated by Frank Morrison, written by Monica Clark-Robinson (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, written by Alice Faye Duncan (Calkins Creek)

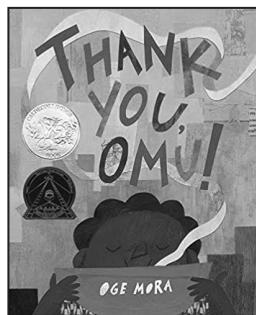
Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award

Monday's Not Coming written by Tiffany D. Jackson (Katherine Tegen Books)



Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award

Thank You, Omu! illustrated and written by Oge Mora (Little, Brown)



Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

This honor is given for a body of work which has made a significant and lasting literary contribution.

Dr. Pauletta Brown Bracy is the 2019 recipient.

Michael L. Printz Award

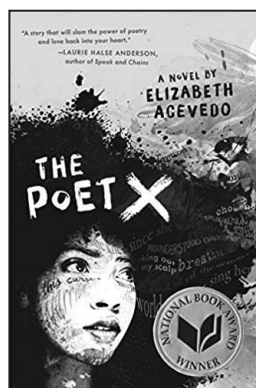
The Poet X written by Elizabeth Acevedo (Harper Teen)

Honor Books:

Damsel written by Elana K. Arnold (Balzer + Bray)

A Heart in a Body in the World written by Deb Caletti (Simon Pulse)

I, Claudia written by Mary McCoy (Carolrhoda Lab)

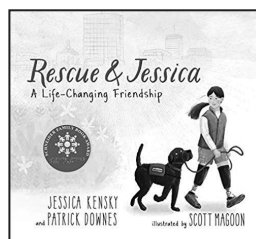


Schneider Family Book Award

Children's: *Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing*

Friendship written by Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes, illustrated by Scott Magoon (Candlewick)

Honor Book: *The Remember Balloons* written by Jessie Oliveros, illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte (Simon & Schuster)



Middle Grade: *The Truth as Told by Mason*

Buttle written by Leslie Connor (Katherine Tegen Books)

Honor Book: *The Collectors* written by Jacqueline West (Greenwillow)

Teen: *Anger Is a Gift* written by Mark Oshiro (Tor Teen)

Honor Book: *(Don't) Call Me Crazy: 33 Voices Start the Conversation about Mental Health* edited by Kelly Jensen (Algonquin)

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

Fox the Tiger written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor (Balzer + Bray)

Honor Books:

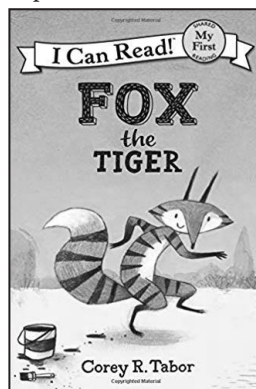
The Adventures of Otto: See Pip Flap written and illustrated by David Milgrim (Simon Spotlight)

Fox + Chick: The Party and Other Stories written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier (Chronicle)

King & Kayla and the Case of the Lost Tooth

written by Dori Hillestad Butler, illustrated by Nancy Meyers (Peachtree)

Tiger vs. Nightmare written and illustrated by Emily Tetri (First Second)



Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award

The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science written by Joyce Sidman (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)*

Honor Books:

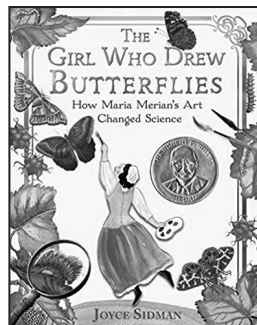
Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild
written by Catherine Thimmesh (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America written by Gail Jarrow (Calkins Creek)

The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees
written and illustrated by Don Brown (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga written by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac (Charlesbridge)

When Angels Sing: The Story of Rock Legend Carlos Santana written Michael Mahin, illustrated by Jose Ramirez (Atheneum)



Pura Belpré Author Medal

The Poet X written by Elizabeth Acevedo (Harper Teen)

Honor Book:

They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems written by David Bowles (Cinco Puntos Press)

Pura Belpré Illustrator Medal

Dreamers illustrated and written by Yuyi Morales (Neal Porter Books)*

Honor Books:

Islandborn illustrated by Leo Espinosa, written by Junot Díaz (Dial)

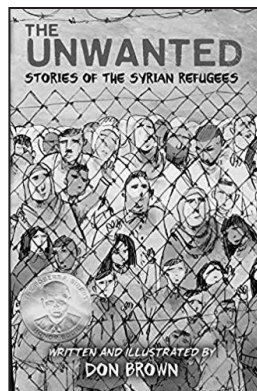
When Angels Sing: The Story of Rock Legend Carlos Santana written Michael Mahin, illustrated by Jose Ramirez (Atheneum)



YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults

The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees

written and illustrated by Don Brown (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)



Other Finalists:

The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor written by Sonia Sotomayor (Delacorte)

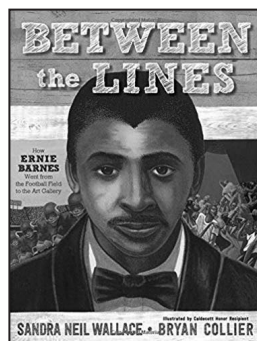
Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam written by Elizabeth Partridge (Viking)

The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler written and illustrated by John Hendrix (Amulet)

Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction written and illustrated by Jarrett J. Krosoczka (Graphix)

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children

Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery written by Sandra Neil Wallace, Illustrated by Bryan Collier (Simon & Schuster)



Honor Books:

Champion: The Comeback Tale of the American Chestnut Tree written by Sally M. Walker (Henry Holt)

Pass Go and Collect \$200: The Story of How Monopoly was Invented written by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Stephen Salerno (Henry Holt)

The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, a Changing India, and a Hidden World of Art written by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Claire Nivola (Candlewick)

Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story written by Marc Tyler Nobleman, illustrated by Melissa Iwai (Clarion)

We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga written by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Fran   Lessac (Charlesbridge)

Children's Literature Legacy Award

Honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children through books that demonstrate integrity and respect for all children's lives and experiences. The 2019 recipient is **Walter Dean Myers**.

Margaret A. Edwards Award

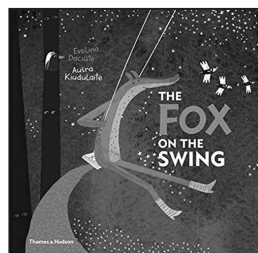
Given for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults. The 2019 recipient is **M.T. Anderson**.

May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture

Given to an author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children's literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site. **Neil Gaiman** will deliver the 2020 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture.

Mildred L. Batchelder Award

The Fox on the Swing written by Evelina Daciūtė, illustrated by Aušra Kiudulaitė, translated from Lithuanian by The Translation Bureau (Thames & Hudson, Inc.)



Honor Books:

Run for Your Life written by Silvana Gandolfi, translated from the Italian by Lynne Sharon Schwartz (Yonder)

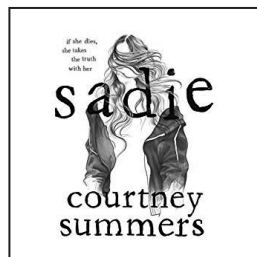
My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder written and illustrated by Nie Jun, originally published in Mandarin and translated from the French by Edward Gauvin (Graphic Universe)

Edison: The Mystery of the Missing Mouse Treasure written and illustrated by Torben Kuhlmann, translated from the German by David Henry Wilson (NorthSouth Books)

Jerome By Heart written by Thomas Scotto, illustrated by Olivier Tallec, translated from the French by Claudia Zoe Bedrick and Karin Snelson (Enchanted Lion Books)

Odyssey Award (Audio)

Sadie written by Courtney Summers, narrated by Rebecca Soler, Fred Berman, Dan Bittner, Gabra Zackman, and more (Macmillan Audio from Wednesday Books)



Honor Recordings:

Du Iz Tak written by Carson Ellis, narrated by Eli and Sebastian D'Amico, Burton, Galen and Laura Fott, Sarah Hart, Bella Higginbotham, Evelyn Hipp and Brian Hull (Weston Woods Studio)

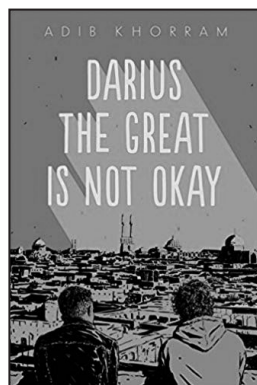
Esquivel! Space-Age Sound Artist written by Susan Wood, narrated by Brian Amador (Live Oak Media)

The Parker Inheritance written by Varian Johnson, narrated by Cherise Booth (Scholastic Audiobooks)

The Poet X written and narrated by Elizabeth Acevedo (HarperAudio)

William C. Morris Award

Darius the Great Is Not Okay written by Adib Khorram (Dial)



Other Finalists:

Blood Water Paint written by Joy McCullough (Dutton)

Check, Please!: #Hockey written and illustrated by Ngozi Ukazu (First Second)

Children of Blood and Bone written by Tomi Adeyemi (Henry Holt)

What the Night Sings written and illustrated by Vesper Stamper (Knopf)

Stonewall Book Award

Hurricane Child written by Kheryn Callender (Scholastic)

Julián Is a Mermaid written and illustrated by Jessica Love (Candlewick)

Honor Books:

Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World written by Ashley Herring Blake (Little, Brown)

Picture Us in the Light written by Kelly Loy Gilbert (Hyperion)

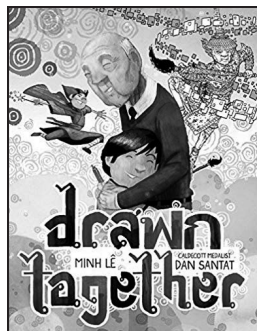


Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature

Picture Book: *Drawn Together* written by Minh Lê, illustrated by Dan Santat (Disney Hyperion)

Children's Literature: *Front Desk* written by Kelly Yang (Arthur A. Levine Books)

Young Adult Literature: *Darius the Great is Not Okay* written by Adib Khorram (Dial)



Sydney Taylor Book Award

Younger Readers: *All-of-a-Kind-Family Hanukkah* written by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky (Schwartz & Wade)

Older Readers: *Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster* written by Jonathan Auxier (Amulet)

Teen Readers: *What the Night Sings* written and illustrated by Vesper Stamper (Knopf)



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

2015

Matt de la Peña
Kate DiCamillo
Yuyi Morales
Joyce Sidman

2016

Peter Brown
Cynthia Lord
Melissa Sweet
Gene Luen Yang

2017

Laurie Halse Anderson
Christian Robinson
Matt Phelan
Rita Williams-Garcia

2018

Sophie Blackall
Kevin Henkes
Pam Muñoz Ryan
Benjamin Alire Sáenz

A Note of Thanks

It does, indeed, take a village to create this Conference. And that village has dedicated hours, weeks, and months to make this year's CLC a Sweeeeeet 16th celebration. Special thanks to our team of Western Washington University and Whatcom Community College student volunteers for their behind-the-scenes investment over the past month and throughout today. In addition, we're grateful to those who contributed to our scholarship fund for student conference registrations, and our generous supporters: WWU's English Department, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Woodring College of Education, Provost's Office, Western Libraries, Conference Services, and the PAC facilities team. We offer a standing ovation to the following folks for their generosity of time and talent, and their unwavering energy and enthusiasm:

Chris Baker

Tracey Bertels

Hana Boxberger and her team @ Village Books

Kathryn Boyd

Gretchen Coulter

Christy Fox and Shannon Fox @ Evolve

Kim Gasper

Carrie Gelson

McKenzie Grenz

Colleen Jacobson

Keith Kelley

Kirby Larson

Connie Mallison

Sam McCown

Scout Mitchell

Robert Mittendorf

A New Leaf

Hannah Newman

Micala Nitz

Kristine Nugent-Ohls

EJ Pollard

Tom Ross

Jennifer Sires

Keith Turley

Molly Vogel

Rosemary Vohs

Woods Coffee

Children's Literature Conference Advisory Team:

Thom Barthelmess

Kristin Cleary

Nancy Johnson

Claire McElroy-Chesson

Theresa Morrison

Adam Shaffer

Rachael Robbins

Sher Smith Ross

Sylvia Tag

Evaluation

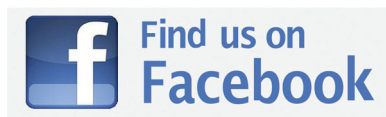
In about a week you'll receive an online survey requesting your feedback about this year's conference. We know it takes time to respond to a survey, but we also know the value of your specific comments, suggestions, and insight. Thank you in advance for making time to respond.

Notes

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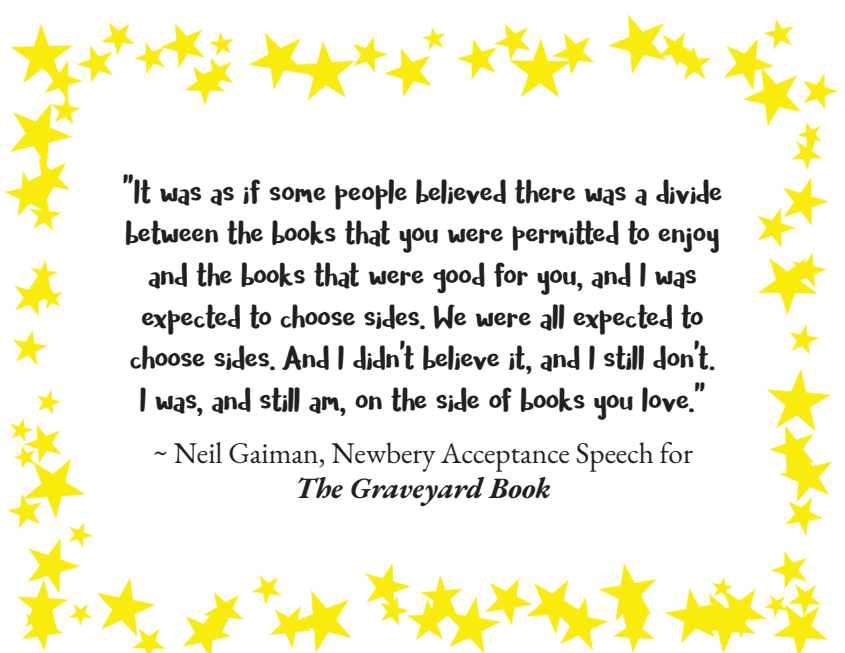
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2020 WWU CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CONFERENCE!

Scheduled for February 29, 2020
www.wwucl.com

A decorative border of yellow stars of various sizes surrounds the central text block.

"It was as if some people believed there was a divide
between the books that you were permitted to enjoy
and the books that were good for you, and I was
expected to choose sides. We were all expected to
choose sides. And I didn't believe it, and I still don't.
I was, and still am, on the side of books you love."

~ Neil Gaiman, Newbery Acceptance Speech for
The Graveyard Book