

Books and Awards

Children's Books & Awards

The Mystery of the Monarchs

Illustrations: Erika Meza, Knopf, June, 2022. **NCTE ORBIS PICTUS Recommended**, NSTA Best Science Trade Books, 2022, Bank Street List, CCBC Best books, Bank Street College of Education Cook Prize Silver Medalist.

Mornings with Monet

Illustrations: Mary Grandpré, Knopf, 2021, Starred Review: Kirkus, Publisher's Weekly, CCBC CHOICES list; ALA Notable Books for Children.

Fight of the Century: Alice Paul Battles Woodrow Wilson for the Vote

Illustrations: Sarah Green, Boyds & Kane, 2020, A Mighty Girl Book of the Year, ALA Women's Suffrage Reading List

Leave it to Abigail: The Revolutionary Life of Abigail Adams

Illustrations: Elizabeth Baddeley, Little Brown, 2020, Starred Review: School Library Journal, A Mighty Girl Book of the Year.

Prairie Boy: Frank Lloyd Wright Turns the Heartland into a Home

Illustrations: Christopher Silas Neal, Calkins Creek, 2019. NSTA CBC Best STEM Books, CBC/NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book

Yogi: The Life, Loves and Language of Baseball Legend Yogi Berra

Illustrations: Terry Widener, Calkins Creek, 2019. Junior Library Guild, Starred review: School Library Connections. Texas Topaz Nonfiction List.

Through the Window: Views of Chagall's Life and Art

Illustrations: Mary Grandpré, Knopf/Random House, 2018. Junior Library Guild. Starred Reviews: Booklist, Publisher's Weekly. Illinois READS, **ALA SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR BOOK**

Otis & Will Discover the Deep

Illustrations: Katherine Roy, Little Brown, 2018. Junior Library Guild, **5 Starred Reviews**: The Horn Book, Publisher's Weekly, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, School Library Journal, School Library Connections. **NCTE ORBIS PICTUS Recommended**, **GOLDEN KITE AWARD**, NSTA Best STEM Books, NYPL Best Books for Kids, Chicago Library Best of the Best List, Nerdy Book Club NF PB Award, CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book, School Library Journal Best Books, ALA Children's Notables, Green Earth Awards Longlist, Bank Street Best Books of the Year, CCBC Choices, NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People, BCCB Bulletin Blue Ribbon Title. State Lists: Utah, Kansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Arizona,

Blue Grass Boy: The Story of Bill Monroe, Father of Bluegrass Music Illustrations: Edwin Fotheringham, Calkins Creek, 2018

The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, A Changing India and a Hidden World of Art Illustrations: Claire A. Nivola, Candlewick, 2018, Junior Library Guild, ORBIS PICTUS HONOR TITLE, SABA Award for Younger Readers.

Vincent Can't Sleep

Illustrations: Mary Grandpré, Knopf/Random House, 2017, Junior Library Guild, Starred reviews: Kirkus, BookList. CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, Illinois READS

Dorothea's Eyes

Illustrations: Gérard DuBois, Calkins Creek, 2016. Junior Library Guild, 2017 Amelia Bloomer List, NCSS Notable Trade Books for Young People, USBBY Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities List, Bank Street Best Books of the Year, The Colonial Dames of America Youth Book Award, State Lists: Kansas, Maine, Pennsylvania

Ben Franklin's Big Splash,

Illustrations: S.D. Schindler, Calkins Creek, 2015. Starred Reviews: Kirkus, School Library Journal. NSTA Best STEM Book, Junior Library Guild, 2015 Illinois READS program, ISHOF Dawson award, Jefferson Cup Honor, State Lists: Missouri, Kansas, Illinois

The Noisy Paint Box

Illustrations: Mary Grandpré, Knopf/Random House, 2014

2015 CALDECOTT HONOR BOOK

Starred Reviews: Kirkus, Publisher's Weekly, Booklist, School Library Journal. Recommended: Horn Book, New York Times Book Review. Junior Library Guild, SLJ Pick of the Day, Amazon Featured Title, Museum Store Association Buyer's Choice, Kirkus Best Books, Booklist Top 10 Books for Youth, ALA Notable Books for Children, CLA Notable Children's Books, CCBC Choice, Bank Street Best Books of the Year, ILA Teacher's Choice list, Illinois READS list, State Lists: California, Louisiana (award), New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland.

The Streak: How Joe DiMaggio Became America's Hero

Illustrations: Terry Widener, Calkins Creek, March, 2014. Starred Reviews: School Library Journal, Publisher's Weekly

Junior Library Guild, Bank Street Best Books of the Year, **NCTE Orbis Pictus Recommended**, State Lists: Kansas, Missouri

Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library

Illustrations: John O'Brien, Calkins Creek, 2013. Starred Review: Library Media Connections. **NCTE ORBUS PICTUS Recommended**, Cybils Award Nominee, Bank Street Best Books of the Year, Junior Library Guild

The Camping Trip that Changed America

Illustrations: Mordicai Gerstein, Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012. Starred Review: School Library Journal. Junior Library Guild, Book List Top Ten Books on the Environment for Youth, Parent's Choice Award – silver, 2013 California Library Association Beatty Award, Inaugural Theodore Roosevelt Children's Book Prize, Chicago Public Library "Best of the Best" List, Washington D.C. Capitol Choice List, Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People/CBC/NCSS, Bank Street Best Books, State Book Lists: Wyoming, Michigan, New Mexico, Illinois, Maryland, South Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia, Utah.

The Littlest Mountain

Illustrations: Melanie Hall, KarBen/Lerner, 2011, Sydney Taylor Notable Book, Bank Street Best Books of the Year.

Fearless: the story of legendary driver Louise Smith

Illustrations: Scott Dawson, Dutton Books for Children, 2010

Starred review: Publisher's Weekly. Awards: Top Ten, ALA, Amelia Bloomer Booklist, 100

Books to Read & Share, NYPL

Upcoming Contracted Titles: A Place Called Sargasso, Katy Listened, The Great Lakes, American Spirits, Houdini's Library.

Adult Books/Magazine Articles

Nonfiction Writers Dig Deep, NCTE, 2020, ed. by Melissa Stewart

Theodore Roosevelt, the Naturalist in the Arena, University of Nebraska Press, 2019, ed. Char Miller, starred review PW.

59 Reasons to Write, Stenhouse Publishers, 2015, ed. Kate Messner

Biographies in Focus, Illinois Reading Council Journal, Fall, 2013

Helen's Miracles, Highlights Magazine, 2008.

Dog Park, Wee Ones Magazine, May/June, 2006.

Sanity: Lost and Found & My Resolve is Slowly Fading, essays, Chicago Parent, 2005-06

Presentations & Literacy Program Development

American Library Association, Panel-social media & copyright, 2020

Art Education Association of Indiana, 2018, keynote

Authors for Earth Day, 2011-2019

Berwyn Library, Berwyn Illinois, Monarch Presentation, 2023

California Library Association, 2018 - Authors for Earth Day panel

Dunes Lit Fest, Valparaiso University, Presenter, 2023

EIU Literacy Conference, Keynote, 2019

Frostburg State Literacy Festival, keynote, 2016

Highlights Foundation Faculty, 2014, Writing the NF Picture Book

Illinois Reading Council, Beyond the Biography Project, webinar, 2020

Illinois Reading Council East Central Conference, keynote, 2020

Illinois READS: Illinois Reading Council, Biography Buzz & NF Classroom Connections, 2012

Illinois School Library Media Association, Tell Me a True Story, 2011,

Writing with the 5 Senses, 2017

Illinois Young Authors Conference, 2010, 2011, 2012

International Reading Association, Engaging Boy Readers, Author Panel, 2014

International Reading Association, Interact with Fact: Classroom Strategies Seminar, 2012

Judson University, Visiting Lecturer, Ph.D. program Children's Literature, 2020-2023

Lesley University, Visiting Speaker, Children's Literature, 2022

Library of Congress, Visiting Author, 2018

Michigan Arts Education Association, keynote, 2018

National Book Festival, Library of Congress, 2020

National Louis University, Author's Showcase, 2012

National Council for Teachers of English: Author Panel Presentations, 2016, 2018, 2019

Northeastern Illinois University, Visiting Speaker, Children's Literacy, 2022

Northern Illinois University, Children's Literacy Conference, PB Bios in Focus, 2014, 2015

Penn State - Berks, Visiting Speaker, Children's Literac, 2023

Printer's Row Book Festival, Chicago: Debut Author Panel, 2010

Read Aloud Revival, presenter, multiple online courses, 2021

SCBWI Michigan - 2020 faculty keynote

SCBWI Iowa - 2020 faculty presenter

South Suburban Library Council - 2017 keynote

Smithsonian Institution - Nat'l Postal Museum, The Streak, 2023 Baseball Exhibit Presentation

Starved Rock Reading Council - 2017 presentations to parents and children

Theodore Roosevelt Symposium - South Dakota, keynote, 2017

University of Illinois Youth Literacy Fest, Urbana, 2014

University of Richmond, Visiting Speaker, Adventures in Writing True Stories, 2022

Virginia Festival of the Book, NF Picture Book Author Panel, 2014

World Read Aloud Day, 2011-present

The Writing Barn Austin, TX, Picture Book Biography & NF KidLit Confab, 2022, 2023

Education

M.A.T. - National Louis University, Evanston, IL 2001, Elementary Education Illinois Teaching License: B.S. - Loyola University of Chicago, Psychology/PoliSci