

Children's Books & Awards

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

Illustrations: Sarah Green, Boyds & Kane, 2020

Leave it to Abigail: The Revolutionary Life of Abigail Adams

Illustrations: Elizabeth Baddeley, Little Brown, 2020

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

Illustrations: Christopher Silas Neal, Calkins Creek, 2019. NSTA CBC Best STEM Books

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

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, NY Library Best Books for Kids, Chicago Library Best of the Best List, Nerdy Book Club NF PB Award, Best Science Book Nonfiction Detectives, CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book, School Library Journal Best Books, 2019 Green Earth Awards list, Bank Street Best Books of the Year, State Lists: Utah, Kansas

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, NCTE/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 ORBIS 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**, 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: Knopf: *Mornings with Monet, The Great Monarch Mystery*

Articles/Book Chapters

Featured in: *Theodore Roosevelt, the Naturalist in the Arena*, University of Nebraska Press, 2019.

Featured in: Kate Messner's *59 Reasons to Write*, Stenhouse Publishers, 2015.

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 on social media & copyright*, 2020

Art Education Association of Indiana, 2018, keynote.

Authors for Earth Day, 2011-2019 (program end)

California Library Association, 2018 – *Authors for Earth Day* panel

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

Library of Congress, Visiting Author, 2018

Michigan Arts Education Association, keynote, 2018.

National Louis University, Author's Showcase, 2012

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

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

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

SCBWI Michigan – 2020 faculty keynote

SCBWI Iowa – 2020 faculty presenter

South Suburban Library Council – 2017 keynote

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

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

World Read Aloud Day, 2011-present

Education

M.A.T. - National Louis University, Evanston, IL 2001, Elementary Education

B.S. – Loyola University of Chicago, Psychology