



Advancing Diversity In Children's Literature

EJK Award and Honor winners provided the following personal info to share for the 35th Anniversary of the EJK Awards. Please email Foundation@Ezra-Jack-Keats.org should you have any questions. We hope you enjoy.

marta altes: Honor

From: Barcelona (Spain); **Now:** London

6 Word Memoir:

Activities: I love dancing and going for long walks with my little dog Sam

Distractions: I LOVE drawing. And usually I want to draw what I shouldn't be drawing. Those are my distractions! Silly thoughts or characters that I need to draw before they disappear :)

Other Awards:

- Prix Des Incorruptibles 2014-15 (Kindergarten Category) for "NON!" (Éditions Circonflexe)
- ★ Winner of the "Read it again!" for "NO!" (Child's Play)
- Winner of the "Nottingham Children's Book Prize" for "NO!" (Child's Play)

Upcoming: *New In Town*, Fall 2020

Micha Archer: Award

From: Concord MA; **Now:** Leverett, MA

6 Word Memoir: From and for children I learn.

Activities: I walk in the mountains and plant trees and plants.

Procrastination: I am SO messy because I work in collage so my floor is covered in confetti I have snipped. When I procrastinate I make little fun collages with my scraps and wish I could just do that all day some days.

Other Awards:

- Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program: *Daniel* books

Upcoming: Manuscripts in development, 2021.

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Adam Auerbach: Honor

From and Now: Brooklyn, NY

6 Word Memoir: Will learn to drive some day.

Activities: I love to relax by playing music. Sometimes I try out instruments I can barely play, such as the piano or my daughter's cello.

Neat or Messy: I am quite messy, and unfortunately have no great strategies for dealing with distractions.

Other Awards:

- So far, the EJK honor is the only award I've received for my children's books. Lucky for me, It's a great one! I hope to get another award soon. Maybe for my cello playing.

Upcoming: *Legendary Creatures*, 2022.

Kristen Balouch: Award

I moved around the US as a child

6 Word Memoir: dreamy child, big city, still dreamy sleeping in a field—under stars

Activities: I like to read and I like to make things.

Where do you work?/Neat or Messy?: In the summer time I work in my hammock. It doesn't look like work. But it is! I am messy. I like to see all my things around me, but my drawers are pretty organized.

Other Awards:

- Golden Kite Award for Illustration: *The King & the Three Thieves*
- CCBC Best Book of the Year: *Charlotte Zolotow Commended: Mystery Bottle*
- Middle East Book Award
- Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year

Upcoming: *1 Million Trees*, Fall 2021

Derrick Barnes: Award

From: Kansas City, MO; **Now:** Charlotte, NC

6 Word Memoir: Resilience and faith have eliminated doubt

Activities: Take notes on the interactions and mannerisms of strangers between flights or in other public places

Distractions: Watching YouTube videos on travel and food that my wife won't let me eat anymore.

Other Awards:

- Coretta Scott King Honor, Newbery Honor, Kirkus Prize: *Crown: An Ode To The Fresh Cut*
- NY Times Bestseller: *The King of Kindergarten*

Upcoming: Three picture books, a middle grade novel, and the first book in a series for a very popular animated franchise

Jonathan Bean: Award

From/Now: Providence, RI

6 Word Memoir: Country mouse, city mouse, town mouse

Activities: Draw from observation, play chess, read!

Distractions: Indulge them! Neat or messy? Neat then messy, neat then messy, neat. . .

Procrastination: Play chess!

Other Awards:

- *At Night and Building Our House*, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, Charlotte Zolotow Award runner up,
- *Big Snow*, Charlotte Zolotow Award book of note

Upcoming: Authoring and illustrating *New Friend, New Home*. Fall 2021

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Cari Best: Award

From: New York; **Now:** Connecticut

6 Word Memoir: I came. I saw. I stayed.

Activities: Dance wildly on FaceTime. Drive Matchbox cars.

Where do you work: I work neatly and daily at my desk no matter what

Other Awards:

- Three Cheers: *Catherine the Great* -
- Charlotte Zolotow Honor & Amelia Bloomer Award: *Sally Jean the Bicycle Queen*
- Goose's Story Henry Bergh Award (SPCA)

Upcoming: *I'm Brave! I'm Strong! I'm Five!*, 2019; manuscripts in development

Sophie Blackall: Award

From: Australia; **Now:** Brooklyn, New York

6 Word Memoir: Never enough hours in the day.

Activities: Raising ducklings, building stone walls, scouring flea markets, visiting writers' houses...

Distraction: I am very lucky to share a studio in Brooklyn with three other picture book makers, Brian Floca, Rowboat Watkins and Douglas Salati. When I'm not there I'm in the Catskill Mountains where I'm building a retreat for children's book people in an old dairy farm, called Milkwood.

Other Awards:

- *Finding Winnie*, 2016 Caldecott Medal
- *Hello Lighthouse*, 2019 Caldecott Medal
- *Meet Wild Boars*, Society of Illustrators Founder's Award

Upcoming: *If you Come to Earth*, Chronicle Books September 2020.

Shirin Yim Bridges: Award

From: Malaysia; **Live:** Silicon Valley

6 Word Memoir: Read, write, paint; Always doing two.

Activities: I travel and learn languages. Right now, it's Greek.

Neat or messy: I am neat. They say creative people are messy, but I hope I prove otherwise, because the first thing I do when I get up is make my bed!

Other Awards:

- Top 10 Children's Book by TIME/CNN (2008): *Umbrella Queen*
- Top 10 Nonfiction Series for Youth by the ALA (2012): *The Thinking Girl's Treasury of Dastardly Dames*
- International Reading Association Children's Choice Award (2013): *Horrible Hauntings*

Upcoming: *Get Up, Elizabeth*, September 9, 2020.

Keith Calabrese: Honor

From: Springfield, Ohio; **Now:** Los Angeles

6 Word Memoir: Fall down, get back up. Repeat.

Activities: Reading (naturally), coaching youth soccer

How do you procrastinate: chores, naps

Upcoming: *Connect the Dots*, a middle grade novel, May 2020

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Keith Campbell: Honor

From: Kenya **In Between:** Scotland **Now:** California

6 Word Memoir: Write. Fridge. Draw. Fridge. Nap. Repeat.

Activities: I'm an adventurous cook (though draw the line at anything alive). Big fan of historical fiction (especially mysteries) and plan to write my own.

Procrastination: I procrastinate with a lot of ambitious cooking, and reading historical mysteries.

Other Awards:

- Golden Kite Award: *Lester's Dreadful Sweaters*
- Socal Kids Lit Council Excellence in Picture Books: *Dylan the Villain*
- Christopher Award: *Flora & Ulysses*

Upcoming: *The Zombie Stone* and *August of the Zombies*, second and third installment of the Zombie Problems, 2021

Misty Copeland: Honor

Born: Kansas City, MO, raised in San Pedro, CA. **Now:** NYC

6 Word Memoir: My trauma has built my voice.

Activities: Cooking and traveling gives me so much inspiration because it's never the same. You always discover new things when cooking a meal or traveling somewhere. Both awaken your senses and your spirit.

Distractions/Neat or Messy: I try to stay as present as I can whether I'm on stage or in life. The people around me, like my mentors, family and friends are really good at keeping me focused and away from negativity. As a Virgo, I tend to be pretty neat and organized.

Laurel Croza: Award

From: Canada; **Now:** Toronto

6 Word Memoir: Me, born to be a momma.

Activities: Read - I was a reader way before I was a writer.

Neat or Messy: My desk right now - laptop, fave dictionary, fave thesaurus, piles and piles of sticky notes - is messy.

Other Awards:

- Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award
- Boston Globe-Horn Book Award

Upcoming: Manuscript in development

Mike Curato: Honor

From: New York; **Now:** Massachusetts

6 Word Memoir: Dessert and Art, but mostly Dessert.

Activities: Travel and film

Neat or messy: I am messily neat aka organized chaos

Other Awards:

- Society of Illustrators Founder's Award for Little Elliot, Big City

Upcoming: *The Power of One*, written by Trudy Ludwig, August 2020; *Flamer*, debut YA graphic novel, September 2020; and *The Sharey Godmother*, written by Samantha Berger, April 2021

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Linda Davick: Honor

From: Chattanooga, TN; **Now:** Albuquerque, NM

6 Word Memoir: Better late than never I hope!

Activities: biking, making popcorn and sangria

Where do you work?: I work in a cozy walk-in closet.

Upcoming: *Our Dragon* by Mem Fox, 2021; writing and illustrating *We'll See*, TBD

Bianca Diaz: Honor

From: Pilsen Chicago **Now:** Brooklyn, New York

6 Word Memoir: Happily here, dreaming in between worlds.

Activities: sing and whistle, collect children's books in any language from different areas of Earth

Distraction: I look up song lyrics when I hear a song I like while painting and get distracted trying to learn the song

Other Awards:

- 96 Acres Project Grant, *The Princess Who Went Quiet*, a comic book

Upcoming: *Starting Over in Sunset Park* by Jose Pelaez and Lynn McGee

Megan Dowd Lambert: Honor

From: Bennington, VT; **Now:** Amherst, MA

6 Word Memoir: Family and books get me through.

Activities: Reading, of course! By myself and with kids.

Distractions: I am an expert at dealing with distractions because I have 7 kids, and my best tool for getting stuff done is my planner, with built-in weekly to-do lists.

Other Awards:

- 17th Annual Massachusetts Book Award Must Read Picture Book/Early Reader and a 2017 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People: *Real Sisters Pretend*, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell

Upcoming: *April and Mae*. 7-book early reader series, 2022

Ame Dyckman: Award

From: Former Army Brat, lived EVERYWHERE! **Now:** Happy to call NJ home

6 Word Memoir: The twist: I see read people.

Activities: Google, Google, Google, and roller coasters. (Sometimes, at the same time!)

Where do you work?/Distractions: I usually write in the kitchen. (Because the kitchen is closest to the cookie jar.) 2. I deal with distractions by ignor--WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?!

Other Awards:

- Parents Magazine Best Fictional Picture Book (2015): *Wolfie the Bunny*
- South Carolina Picture Book Award (2018); *Horrible Bear!*
- Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award (2018): *You Don't Want A Unicorn*

Upcoming: *You Don't Want a Dragon!*, illustrated by Liz Climo, 2020; *Tiny Barbarian*, illustrated by Ashley Spires, 2021; *Tiny Barbarian* sequel, manuscript in development, 2022.

David Ercolini: Honor

From: North Andover, Massachusetts **Now:** Brooklyn, New York

6 Word Memoir: Never aged out of picture books.

Activities: I really enjoy going to see art in galleries and museums.

Procrastination: I avoid procrastinating by working in hour long increments that I track with a timer. When the timer goes off, I take a short break and embrace my distractions.

Upcoming: *It's A Moose!* by Meg Rosoff, April, 2020

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Matthew Farina: Honor

From: Wisconsin; **Now:** Fort Greene, Brooklyn

6 Word Memoir: out looking: color, light, connection, relief

Activities: While I'd like to say my stories are rigorously researched projects, they begin from unshakable memories from my own childhood.

Neat or messy: When I'm feeling most productive, a messy creative process has its own neatness and sense of promise.

Other Awards:

- Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection Award: *Lawrence in the Fall*

Upcoming: Manuscript in development

E. B. Goodale: Honor

From: Near Salem, MA; **Now:** Salem, MA

6 Word Memoir: Drive to create. Hope to Relate.

Activities: I'm a huge music fan and love listening to my record collection, especially if I can do that while also playing with my son. I grew up playing violin but find much more satisfaction in playing piano these days, though I'm not very good.

Where do you work? I paint in a small room upstairs with lots of light and I print on my presses in a dark basement.

Upcoming: *Under the Lilacs*, author/illustrator debut, March 2020, *Also*, Fall 2021.

Janice N. Harrington: Award

From and Now: South Midwest

6 Word Memoir: Girl story lover: now woman storyteller

Activities: Long walks and raiding my local libraries

Where do you work: I write in a small upstairs room crowded with books, paper, notebooks, files, my letter writing boxes, files, and a comfortable rocking chair.

Other Awards:

- The Charlotte Zolotow Award: *The Chicken Chasing Queen of Lamar County*
- Arnold Adoff Poetry Award Honor: *Catching a Storyfish*

Upcoming: A new children's biography and verse novel

Chris Haughton: Award

From: Dublin, Ireland; **Now:** London, UK

6 Word Memoir: designer who's trying to make stories

Activities: Read and draw

Distraction: I answer questionnaires when I am supposed to be working!

Other Awards:

- Dutch Picture Book of the Year
- Irish Children's Book of the Year
- Anderson Book of the Year (Italy)

Next Book: 'Maybe' and a climate change animation

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Juanita Havill: Award

From: Mt. Carmel, IL; **Now:** Arizona

6 Word Memoir: Wednesday's child and full of joy.

Activities: I walk alone while working on poems. Walking with a dog is an adventure. I have been inspired more times than I care to admit while ironing.

Where do you do your work? I have a home office. One of the pleasures of working at home is not having to wear shoes (I have to watch out for scorpions).

Other Awards:

- Santa Monica Green Prize for Youth Fiction and the Carol D. Reiser Children's Book Award: *Grow, A Row, A Novel in Verse*
- Crown/Lamplighter Honor Book: *Eyes Like Willy's*

Upcoming: *The Tortoise and the Hare*, TBD

Daisy Hirst: Honor

From: London, England **Now:** Cambridge

6 Word Memoir: Climbed a tree, stayed up there.

Activities: Doodling, walking, making toys

Neat or Messy? I'm quite messy: everything piles up until I don't know where I am and then I burrow out from under and sort it all out.

Other Awards:

- Lara Jones Award: *Hilda and the Runaway Baby*
- Shortlisted for Klaus Flugge Prize: *The Girl with the Parrot on her Head*
- Nimmerland Bilderbuchpreis: *Alphonse That is Not OK to Do!*

Upcoming: *Hamish Takes the Train*, September 2020.

Stian Hole: Award

From and Now: Oslo, Norway, Scandinavia, Europe, Planet Earth (third planet from the sun)

6 Word Memoir: Do you know how it feels?

Activities: Work with stage design for theatre plays

Distraction: My image-processing mind is always working. Distractioctions happen all the time. I try to sort things out and look for connections.

Other Awards:

- Deutsche Jugendliteraturpreis: *Garmann's Summer*
- Norwegian Brage award
- Bologna Ragazzi Award

Upcoming: *The Clown Who Really Wasn't Very Funny* by Kim Fupz Aakeson

Gordon James: Honor

From: Fort Washington, MD; **Now:** Charlotte, NC

6 Word Memoir: I work hard practicing my craft.

Activities: I ride motorcycles with my club for fun. I listen to podcasts for education. I work hard to further the development of my books.

Distraction: I have a studio at Clearwater Artist Studios in Concord, NC and my space is pretty messy.

Other Awards:

- Society of Illustrators Gold Medal: *Crown*
- Coretta Scott King Honor: *Crown*
- Caldecott Honor: *Crown*

Upcoming: *I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes. September 2020.

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Matt James: Honor

From: Woodstock Ontario Canada; **Now:** Toronto

6 Word Memoir: Head in clouds, lost my shoe.

Activities: I play guitar and write songs, almost everything I learn about music can be applied to visual art and book development! The more time I spend doing that the better my art is. It's true!

Distraction: I plan on reading every one of these questionnaires to find out how everyone else deals with distractions! Unfortunately, that will get in the way of me getting my work done.

Other Awards:

- New York Times / New York Public Library Best Illustrated Children's Book: *The Funeral*
- The Boston Globe-Horn Book Award: *I Know Here* (written by Laurel Croza)
- The Governor General's Literary Award, *Northwest Passage*

Upcoming: *Nice Try, Charlie!*, September 2020

D. B. Johnson: Award

From and Now: New Hampshire

6 Word Memoir: Live in nature, love your work.

Activities: Getting out in nature is a great way to clear my mind and also make me realize that there's a whole world bigger than myself.

Where do you do your Work?/Distractions: I work in a small studio in my house. It has a large patio door facing a quiet backyard where I find few distractions, except for the occasional fox flashing past.

Other Awards:

- Boston Globe/Horn Book award for best picture book, NYTimes Best Illustrated Award, silver medal at The Society of Illustrators Original Art Show for my first book: *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg*

Upcoming: *Polly Wolly Willy Woggle* and *Pots, Rebbor!* currently downloadable; *Lost Woods* (comic strip), TBD

Ana Juan: Award

From: Valencia (Spain); **Now:** Madrid (Spain)

6 Word Memoir: Under bed listening steps then, silence...

Activities: I am a storyteller and nothing can't be funnier for me than telling stories through pictures.

Distraction/Neat or Messy? Anywhere, anytime... I am messy neat.

Other Awards:

- The National Illustration Prize 2010 awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Culture.

Upcoming: *The secret Life of Cats*, Lunwerk Publishers, Fall 2020

Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw: Award

From: St. Louis, MO; **Now:** Taos, New Mexico

6 Word Memoir: Barefoot in mountains, listening to stars

Activities: Read everyday and play with my kids

Distraction: First I clean, then I make a wild, colorful mess.

Other Awards:

- South Asian Book Award: *Same, Same but Different*
- CLC Book Award (Children's Literature Centre at Frostburg State University)
- Green Prize for Sustainable Literature: *Luna & Me*

Upcoming: *Papa Brings Me the World*, May 2020, Christy Ottaviano Books

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Jennifer Lanthier: Honor

From: Toronto **Now:** Toronto

6 Word Memoir: Brevity was never my strong suit!

Activities: Running and gardening

Neat or Messy? I am messy on an epic scale. As a reporter, I was once told by my managing editor that I was single handedly responsible for the newsroom being in violation of the fire code.

Other Awards:

- The Crystal Kite: *The Stamp Collector*
- Golden Oak: *The Stamp Collector*
- 2017 USBY Outstanding International Book, *Hurry Up, Henry*

Upcoming: A screenplay

Jessica Love: Honor

From: Santa Barbara, CA; **Live:** Brooklyn, NY

6 Word Memoir: Find some place with good swimming.

Activities: Sitting on the subway drawing people.

How do you procrastinate? Filling out questionnaires. But a cat is the best way to procrastinate.

Other Awards:

- The Stonewall Award, The Klauss Flugge Prize, the Opera Prima award: *Julián is a Mermaid*.

Upcoming: *Julián at the Wedding*, October 2020 .

Elaine Magliaro: Honor

From and Now: Massachusetts

6 Word Memoir: Word play. Imagination. Life rhythms. Poetry.

Activities: Daydreaming...reading aloud to my granddaughters

Where do you work? Neat or Messy? I work in my library/office. I'm neat and messy.

Other Awards:

- 2018 Margaret Wise Brown Prize in Children's Literature, *Things to Do*

Upcoming: Three humorous children's books, a collection of poems about monarch butterflies, a collection of winter poems, and a picture book in verse about December.

Juana Martinez-Neal: Honor

From: Lima, Peru; **Now:** Arizona

6 Word Memoir: I double dare you to try.

Activities: I love listening to music. Traveling fills my head with new ideas, keeps me humble and teaches me new things.

Where do you work? I work in my studio which is very well-organized yet I struggle focusing.

Other Awards:

- 2019 Caldecott Honor: *Alma and How She Got Her Name*
- 2020 Robert F. Sibert Medal Award: *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*
- 2018 Pura Belpré Medal for Illustration: *La Princesa and the Pea*

Upcoming: *Swashby and the Sea*, May 5, 2020.

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Stacy McAnulty: Honor

From: Upstate New York; **Now:** North Carolina

6 Word Memoir: Lacks natural gifts but tries hard.

Activities: I'm obsessed with the non-fiction/science section of the bookstore.

Procrastination: I procrastinate but am working on new projects. It's amazing that I ever finish anything. I could be ninety percent done with a book, and a new nugget of an idea can always lure me away.

Other Awards:

- Mathical Book Prize for "The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl" and Irma Black Award Honor for "Sun! One in a Billion."

Upcoming: *"Millionaires for the Month,"* September 2020

Jane McGuinness: Honor

From: Scotland **Now:** England

6 Word Memoir: I find hope in living things.

Activities: I love walking outside with my dog and looking at nature! Also, seeing surprising art and objects in books, in galleries or on the street.

Where do you work?: I work in a few different places around my home. I do have a spare room with a desk but sometimes I find myself working in the kitchen just for a change of scenery!

Other Awards:

- Masters Degree in Children's Book Illustration
- Sebastian Walker Prize, Walker Books, London, for promising graduates.

Upcoming: Two wonderful nonfiction picture book texts about lots of different animals, UK in 2021; working on first author-illustrated fiction picture book text, which is so exciting.

Meg Medina: Award

From: Cuba; Grew up in NYC; **Now:** Richmond, VA.

6 Word Memoir: Muchacha shaping stories for all kids

Activities: I garden to remind myself that life is stubborn and dirty and beautiful all at once.

Procrastination: When I am stuck, I stand in front of the pantry and eat potato chips out of the bag.

Other Awards:

- 2014 The Pura Belpré Award: *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*
- 2019 John D. Newbery Medal: *Merci Suárez Changes Gears*
- Pura Belpré Honor Award: *Mango, Abuela and Me*

Upcoming: *Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away*, Sept 2020 *Merci Suárez Can't Dance*, 2021.

Aaron Meshon: Award

From: West Chester, PA; **Now:** Brooklyn NY

6 Word Memoir: long baths help write short stories.

Activities: travel and read every street sign

Distraction/Procrastination: I AM the distraction! Sorry, I have to check product reviews online now, I'll be back...

Other Awards:

- Publishers Weekly, starred review, : *Now That I'm Here*
- Kirkus, starred review: *Take Me Out to the Yakyu*
- Kirkus, starred review: *Deliver*

Upcoming: *Tufts*, *Adirondack Life*; Eating Well Magazines

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Oge Mora: Award

From: Columbus, OH; **Now:** Providence, RI

6 Word Memoir: I'm too wordy for six words.

Activities: I go to the art museum and listen to music but leaving the studio and living your life is the best mode of inspiration.

Neat or Messy?/Distractions: I aspire for neatness but it can get messy! Chatting with people is usually what gets me. I get the most work done when I am alone!

Other Awards:

- Caldecott Honor Award 2019
- Coretta Scott King John Steptoe New Talent Award 2019
- Anna Dewdney Read Together Award, 2019: *Thank You, Omu!*

Upcoming: *Everybody and the Red Brick Building* by Anne Wynter

Tao Nyeu: Award

From: Upstate NY; **Now:** *Southern California*.

6 Word Memoir: Where is the leftover birthday cake?

Activities: Knitting and reading about brains.

Distractions: Distractions win. **Procrastination:** Hang on a sec...

Other Awards:

- *Wonder Bear*, Society of Illustrators' 2008 Founders Award

Soyung Pak: Award

From: South Korea; **Now:** New Jersey

Activities: Read! Daydream!

Where do you work?/Distraction: I work in my messy home office. I get distracted by everyday life because I have three kids and a dog.

Other Awards:

- I have a vague memory of something small but I don't remember what it is

Upcoming: I just published a pet project and I am working on finishing a novel

Zeke Peña: Honor

From: New Mexico; **Raised and now:** El Paso, TX

6 Word Memoir: A desert dog found a pencil.

Activities: I like to plant things and do yard work. It grows my patience. I also like to build things out of scrap wood.

Where do you do your work? I do my work anywhere there is a flat surface and decent light. I like packing light and being mobile.

Other Awards:

- Boston Globe Horn Book Award for Photographic: *The Life of Graciela Iturbide*
- Pura Belpre Illustrator Honor for *My Papi Has a Motorcycle*.
- In high school I received an editorial cartooning award for a poorly drawn cartoon.

Upcoming: Two manuscripts in development.

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Bao Phi: Honor

From: Vietnam; **Raised and now:** Minneapolis

6 Word Memoir: Neurotic refugee dad writer in Minnesota

Activities: Read, spend time with my kid, keep my eyes, heart, and mind open. And watch trashy television and movies.

Procrastination: I'm an expert at it. I sometimes start three writing projects at once knowing that I'll work on one to procrastinate working on the other.

Other Awards:

- Charlotte Zolotow Award for Outstanding Writing in a Picture Book, Minnesota Book Award, and Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association award, all for *A Different Pond*.

Upcoming: *My Footprints*, with illustrator Basia Tran available now; *The Mandarin Duck* (working title), 2021

Kate Read: Honor

From: Glastonbury, UK; **Now:** Norfolk, UK

6 Word Memoir: Texture, Colour, Play! Refine, Reflect, Smile.

Activities: Walk on the beach, watch films, get lost, take a train somewhere new, read

Neat or messy: I wish with all of my heart that I was neat. In my head I am a minimalist but the reality of collage is the opposite.

Other Awards:

- Mathical Award, shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's book award's book and the Klaus Flugge Prize

Upcoming: *TBD*, Spring 2021

Christian Robinson: Award

Born in LA, 7 years in SF, currently living in Sacramento, CA

6 Word Memoir: Eating Flaming Hot Ruffles With Chopsticks

Activities: I find a lot of inspiration from antique stores and yard sales.

Distraction/Neat or Messy?: I work out of my art studio, which is actually the tiny garage behind my house. I clean my entire space before making a new piece of art. So neat. Very neat. Pathologically neat.

Other Awards:

- Caldecott Honor: *Last Stop in Market Street*
- Coretta Scott King Honor
- 2019 NYT Best Illustrated Book of the Year: *Another*

Upcoming: *You Matter*, (my first solo picture book with words) June 2, 2020; *Milo Imagines the World* by Matt de la Peña, (third book with Matt) February 2021.

Mara Rockliff: Honor

From: All over; **Now:** Lancaster, PA

6 Word Memoir: History is the fun stuff too!

Activities: Talk to friends around the world in Esperanto

Distraction: I procrastinate by filling out questionnaires.

Other Awards:

- Cook Prize and Orbis Pictus for *Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France*

Upcoming: *Jefferson Measures a Moose*, August 2020

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Doug Salati: Honor

From: Upstate New York; **Now:** Brooklyn

6 Word Memoir: Well, let's give it a try

Activities: I'm a volunteer gardener at Fort Greene Park.

Neat or Messy?: I operate in a functioning mess that gets neaten up every couple of weeks.

Other Awards:

- 2019 Society of Illustrators Original Art Exhibition: *Lawrence in the Fall*
- Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection Award

Upcoming: A new project at Knopf Books for Young Readers

Francesca Sanna: Honor

From: Italy; **Now:** Zurich (Switzerland)

6 Word Memoir: Living between mountains, missing the sea

Activities: Trying to learn new languages (I am really bad at it!), visiting museums

Neat/Messy and Procrastination: Messy, of course. I procrastinate by embracing many of my distractions!

Other Awards:

- Amnesty CILIP Honour, Klaus Flugge Prize, Society of Illustrators Gold Medal

Upcoming: *Perkin's Perfect Purple*, October 2020

Julia Sarcone-Roach: Honor

From: Midwest born, Virginia grown; **Now:** Brooklyn, NY

6 Word Memoir: Painter, sandwich eater, painter of sandwiches

Activities: I love taking a walk, observing nature, and people. It can be inspiring, relaxing, and sometimes there are raccoons!

Procrastination: Sometimes I engage in "useful procrastination" by researching details of a current project. Recently I have been watching videos of squirrels eating ice cream.

Upcoming: A new bear book featuring woodland creatures and an ice cream heist.

Sydney Smith: Award

From and Now: Nova Scotia, Canada

6 Word Memoir: chasing what is universal yet indescribable

Activities: Running always brings good ideas and music inspires emotions.

Distractions and Neat or Messy: I don't deal well with distractions. I am very messy. I watch videos about film and filmmakers.

Other Awards:

- NYT/NYPL best illustrated: *Sidewalk Flowers*, *The White Cat and the Monk*, *Town is by the Sea*
- Kate Greenaway award: *Town is by the Sea*
- Governor Generals award for Literature: *Sidewalk Flowers and Small in the City*

Next Book: *Talk Like a River* by Jordan Scott, 2020

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Shadra Strickland: Award

From: Atlanta, GA. **Now:** Baltimore, MD

6 Word Memoir: Coffee...work...and everything in between.

Activities: I read and teach. Both fuel the creative fire.

Where do you work? I have a studio and an office in my home. I paint and draw in the studio and work digitally in my office.

Procrastination: I procrastinate by working on too many projects at a time (productive procrastination)

Other Awards:

- *Bird*, Coretta Scott King John Steptoe Award
- *Our Children Can Soar*, NAACP Image Award

Upcoming: I'm illustrating my first authored book titled *Jump In*.

Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen: Award

From and Now: Wisconsin, WI

6 Word Memoir: Reading Runner Mothering Girls, Books, Cats

Activities: Reading, Traveling

Procrastinate: By leaving things until I've nearly run out of time.

Other Awards:

- Nebraska Golden Sower Award: *The Compound*
- Connecticut Nutmeg Award & Missouri Truman Award: *The Raft*

Upcoming: I'm working on an adult thriller.

John Sullivan: Award

From and Now: Chicago, IL

6 Word Memoir: Feeling at home feeding homeless cats

Activities: Besides ...writing stories and caring for neighborhood strays, I love to tap-dance and craft haiku. I've published haiku in Frogpond, Modern Haiku, and several children's anthologies edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins.

Distraction: When I'm putting off a difficult revision, I usually spend time on other worthwhile activities, like birding or learning Spanish. When I'm truly wasting time, I'm trying to make sense out of politics.

Other Awards:

- Margaret Wise Brown Award Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection Award

Upcoming: *Ethan and the Strays (working title)*, 2023.

Gabi Swiatkowska: Award

Spun in Poland threading through America and France

6 Word Memoir: I am on my way to where i am already

Activities: I stare at things and talk with people.

Where do you work: in my head, mostly.

Distractions: I celebrate them and make them into oeuvres. **Neat or messy?:** ooh, but why define oneself as either?

Upcoming: *Picture* due to come out when done, which will still take a while. Very labour intensive so...

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Don Tate: Award

From: Des Moines, IA; **Now:** Austin, TX

6 Word Memoir: In-person introvert. Online extrovert. Text me.

Activities: Swim. Bicep curl. Coffee with tiny pies.

How do you deal with distractions: Complain to my wife.

Other Awards:

- SCBWI Crystal Kite, a Christopher and a Texas Institute of Letters book prize: *Poet*

Upcoming: *William Still's Freedom Stories: Father of the Underground Railroad*: Nov. 2020

Yoriko Tsutsui: Award

From: Tokyo **Now:** Miyagi prefecture

6 Word Memoir: Sky, wind and child bring story

Activities: Walking the forest, listening to nostalgic songs and watching children.

Work: ~~Mainly in the den, sometimes at the kitchen and the living room.~~ **Distractions:** ~~Walking.~~ Making delicious foods that I want to have at that time. **Neat or messy?** Usually, I'm messy, sometimes I'm so neat. **Procrastination:** I discontinue the work. Then I go blank my mind. I stare at sky and listen to twitter of the bird.

Other Awards:

- I have only received the Keats Foundation award. It is the greatest honor of my life.

Upcoming: *"At a town with four parks" Serialized in the Fukuinkan Shoten monthly magazine.*

"Haha no tomo(mother's friend)" The story of children who experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake. I hope it will be a book someday, but I'm not sure if my dream will come true.

Evan Turk: Award

From: Colorado **Now:** New York's Hudson Valley

6 Word Memoir: Always looking over the next mountain.

Activities: I love to travel and draw outside, spending time in nature

Distraction: I find that the best way to deal with distractions is to not have my phone with me!

Whenever I'm drawing, and I'm away from my phone or computer, I find that I am much more present.

Other Awards:

- 2017 New York Times/New York Public Library Best Illustrated Books List: *Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters*
- 2017 Children's Africana Book Award: *The Storyteller*
- Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Honor: *You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks*

Upcoming: *A Thousand Glass Flowers: Marietta Barovier and the Invention of the Rosetta Bead*, August 2020. *The People's Painter: Ben Shahn's Artful Stories of Life in America*, by Cynthia Levinson, 2021.

Chieri Uegaki: Award

From: Canada; **Now:** Sunshine Coast, BC

6 Word Memoir: Immigrant parents, two cultures, teachers, books.

Activities: I love to bake which helps me with mindfulness--distraction leads to baking failures. I also read as much as I can, whatever looks interesting--books, articles, news, blogs, song lyrics. You never know what you might learn, even if it's just a new word you might want to use in a story one day.

Distractions: Looking up stuff while researching something or by using up an ingredient in the fridge to make or bake something.

Other Awards:

- Children's Book Award Notable Book (International Reading Association): *Suki's Kimono*
- Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association's Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (Picture Book): *Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin*

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

- Junior Library Guild's Gold Standard Selection Award: *Ojiichan's Gift*

Upcoming: Manuscripts in development

Rowboat Watkins: Honor

From: Philly; **Now:** Brooklyn, NY

6 Word Memoir: What I meant to say was

Activities: I love reading under my dog + pretending I know how to garden.

Where do you work?: In a former sweater factory. What? Ask my wife. (sigh...)

Upcoming: *Mabel: A Mermaid Fable*, March 24, 2020.

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Jeri Watts: Award

From: Lynchburg, VA; **Now:** Lexington, VA

6 Word Memoir: A teacher believed: in the hands of a real writer.

Activities: Live openly: read, listen, see, touch, smell, taste, all with the idea of how writers could sense such experiences.

Distraction: I spend time with my grandchildren, read more, straighten messes, piddle around. My desk for writing is in the middle of the house so I'm available. EEK!

Upcoming: Manuscript in development

Ashleigh Webb: Award

From: Warrenton, VA; **Now:** Falls Church, VA

6 Word Memoir: Country girl pursuing her destiny.

Activities: Love nature and taking pictures of patterns I find when out and about. I also love hand-lettering quotes that I love.

Distraction: To avoid distractions I like working late at night when it is quiet and everyone is asleep. This is when I feel like I focus best.

Upcoming: Currently working on an eBook for kids to help them cope with the Coronavirus pandemic.

Deborah Wiles: Award

From: A military kid from the South, D.C. area; **Now:** Georgia

6 Word Memoir: I write for a ten-year-old me, mostly.

Activities: I listen to audiobooks and cook from scratch.

Neat or Messy? I'm a messy writer. I clean up during revision.

Other Awards:

- Two-time National Book Award finalist
- Jane Addams Children's Book Award honoree
- NAACP Image Award honoree
- E.B. White Read-Aloud Award winner

Upcoming: *Kent State*, April 2020, my first YA novel.

Nicola Winstanley: Honor

From: Auckland, NZ; **Now:** Hamilton, Ontario

6 Word Memoir: Why did I go this way?

Activities: Draw comics, walk my dog

Neat or messy: I'm messy--but I like everyone else to be neat!

Other Awards:

- Shortlisted for the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award: *Cinnamon Baby*
- Shortlisted for a Governor General's Award (Canada): *How to Give Your Cat a Bath in Five Easy Steps*

Next book: *How to Teach Your Cat a Trick*, Fall 2022

EJK Award and Honor Winners Fun Facts

Anna Witte: Honor

From: Madrid **Now:** Hannover, Germany

6 Word Memoir: Never could pick a favorite colour.

Activities: Walk, watch and listen.

Procrastination and Where do you work? I procrastinate painting by writing, writing by painting. I do art in my home studio, and (used to) write in cafes.

Upcoming: Right now, I'm putting the finishing touches on a project to be shared online with all the kids cooped up at home.

hyewon yum: Award

From: Seoul, Korea; **Now:** Brooklyn, NY

6 Word Memoir: Wish I could cackle more

Activities: Reading and watching movies

Neat or messy: I clean my desk every 3 months.

Other Awards:

- Golden Kite award: *Clever Little Witch*
- Charlotte Zolotow Award: *Saturday is Swimming Day*
- Society of Illustrators' Founder's Award: *There Are No Scary Wolves*

Upcoming: *Lion Needs a Haircut*, May 5, 2020

Taeun Yoo: Award

From: Korea; **Now:** Seoul

6 Word Memoir: Drawing at cafe with endless coffee

Activities: playing with print textures

Where do you work?/Distraction: I work at home and often draw at cafe. I clean and organize my studio and kitchen.

Other Awards:

- Society of the Illustrator Founders Award, *The Little Red Fish*
- New York Times Best Children's Book Award, *Only A Witch Can Fly*
- New York Times Best Children's Book Award, *Here Is the Baby*

Upcoming: *When the Storm Comes*, May 2020

Pat Zietlow Miller: Honor

From: Oshkosh, WI; **Now:** Madison, WI

6 Word Memoir: Loved writing words. Never gave up.

Where do you work? I work at the island in my kitchen on my laptop. This is right in the middle of my house, so there's always stuff going on around me.

Other Awards:

- Golden Kite Award and a Charlotte Zolotow honor: *Sophie's Squash*

Upcoming: *Be strong*, 2021.