



***The Chickadee
Award
2017-18***

**A Maine Children's Choice
Picture Book Project**

*Funded by MASL
Maine Association of School Libraries*

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The Chickadee Award
A Maine Children's Choice Picture Book Project

Welcome to the Chickadee Award. This program is for children in kindergarten through fourth grade throughout the state of Maine. A committee of librarians, teachers and early literacy professionals selected this year's titles. All books were published in 2016.

We are now in our thirteenth year of the Chickadee Award, named after Maine's state bird. It is modeled after other successful state children's choice picture book awards and is intended to complement the Maine Student Book Award program that involves children in grades four through eight.

Over 20,000 Maine children and 123 schools and libraries participated in 2016. The winning book was *Land Shark* by Beth Ferry and Ben Mantle. Our goal is for children to develop an appreciation of outstanding writing and illustration in current children's picture books through participation in the program. We hope they will become discriminating readers by voting for their favorite book. This guide contains information on how to participate in the program as well as suggested activities for each of the books. Please be sure to visit our website at <http://www.chickadeeaward.org/>

The Chickadee Award Committee

Kelley Drisko has provided library services at Gilbert School in Augusta for over 15 years. She has a teaching certificate in language arts and social studies, and taught high school English for many years.

Matthew Halpern was an elementary classroom teacher for ten years and now works as a Literacy Strategist in RSU 5-Freeport, Durham, Pownal, Maine. He loves finding ways to weave children's literature into all areas of the curriculum. Matt's Master's degree in Literacy Education was earned at the University of Southern Maine, and he wrote a book, *Look at My Happy Rainbow*, based on his experiences as a male kindergarten teacher.

Teresa Holyoke once taught in a two-room schoolhouse, and now works at the largest school in the state. She has taught at every grade level K-8 except grade two. She was a classroom teacher for 23 years before earning her MLIS from Florida State University, and becoming the librarian at Brewer Community School.

Carey Johnson received her degree in English from Northeastern University and her Masters in Children's Literature from Simmons College. In 2003, she completed the TCP Program at UNE and earned her K-8 teaching certification. She currently teaches third grade at CK Burns School in Saco, where she is a team leader. A member of SCBWI, she loves the art of the picture book and teaching units about Caldecott Award winners. She also directs the 3rd Grade Chorus at Burns School. Twitter: @carey7_johnson

Kerri LeSieur has been a classroom for 15 years. She graduated from Plymouth State College with a degree in Elementary Education and received her Master's in Literacy Education from the University of Southern Maine in 2012. She currently teaches 3rd grade at Biddeford Primary School.

Lynn Mayer is the librarian at Old Town Elementary School. She was a classroom teacher for 11 years, a public library director for three years and has been a school librarian for 18 years. She holds a Masters degree in Library and Information Sciences from the University of South Carolina.

Cindy Petherbridge taught 18 years at the elementary and middle school level before receiving her Masters in Library and Information Science. She has been a Librarian for 12 years working in both public and school settings. She is currently the District Elementary Librarian for MSAD #17 and serves on the State Literacy Team.

Kathy Stevens emigrated from England in 1966 and settled first in Biddeford and then Saco. She holds a B.S. in library science from UMA and an MLIS from Drexel University. She has worked as a library Ed Tech at Saco Middle School. She has now retired as the Youth Services Librarian at Baxter Memorial Library in Gorham.

Jane Wellman-Little is a full-time lecturer in the College of Education and Human Development, University of Maine, Orono, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in children's literature, picture book art, reading, and literacy. She is a member of the National Council of Teachers of English, the Children's Literature Assembly, Maine Reading Association, and is currently the Vice-President of the New England Reading Association.

Lynn Young is currently librarian for the Mabel I. Wilson School in Cumberland. She has a B.S. in Child Development, having taught elementary grades in Maine and Vermont. She previously worked as a Training Specialist for L.L. Bean.

How to Participate

All schools, home-school groups, and libraries in Maine are invited to participate in the Chickadee Award project. Contact the chair of the committee listed below for more information. You may download the booklet from our website (www.chickadeeaward.org). We encourage you to make more copies for your own use or that of your school or library. This booklet includes activity suggestions, and curriculum connections.

IMPORTANT: All Chickadee vote totals from each school, home-schooling group/family, or library will be submitted electronically. To submit the votes for your organization, please visit the Chickadee Awards website www.chickadeeaward.org between March 1 and April 1, 2018.

If you have any questions about the electronic process, or encounter any difficulty submitting your vote totals electronically, please contact:

Kerri LeSieur, Committee Chair

klesieur@biddefordschools.me

Or

Matthew Halpern, Committee Chair

halpernm@rsu5.org

Please contact the chairperson above if you would like to nominate a picture book (published in 2017) to be reviewed for the 2017-2018 list.

**The Chickadee Award:
A Maine Children's Choice Picture Book Project**

Book List for 2016-2017 (All books published in 2016)

All art from the Chickadee Award book list is used with permission from the publishers.

Barton, Chris, and Don Date. *Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2016.

Bestor, Sheri, and Jonny Lambert. *Good Trick Walking Stick*. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2016.

Bledsoe, Josh, and Jessica Warrick. *Hammer and Nails*. New York: Flashlight Press, 2016.

Campoy, Isabel, and Theresa Howell. *Maybe Something Beautiful*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016.

Edwards, Michelle, and G. Brian Karas. *A Hat for Mrs. Goldman*. New York: Schwartz and Wade, 2016.

Funk, Josh, and Rodolfo Montalvo. *Dear Dragon*. New York: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2016.

Messier, Mireille, and Pierre Pratt. *The Branch*. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2016.

Scillaian, Devin, and Tim Bowers. *Memoirs of a Parrot*. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2016.

Verde, Susan, Georgie Badiel, and Peter H. Reynolds. *The Water Princess*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2016.

Willems, Mo. *Nannette's Baguette*. New York: Disney Hyperion, 2016.

Connections

A major aim of this Maine Children's Choice Picture Book Project is to foster the connections between schools and public libraries. We recognize that there is a strong desire for schools and libraries to work together for the benefit of all children. Just as both groups encourage children to experience the joys of reading, and both promote the Maine Student Book Award, a similar shared purpose can now be found through the Chickadee Award.

In public libraries, announcements and displays can help inform children and their parents of this exciting opportunity. Chickadee activities in both venues and classroom visits to public libraries will provide further connections and excitement, as well as encourage more children to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities available to them in public libraries.

We are pleased to have home-school groups participate in the Chickadee project in past years, and hope to see more home-schooled children involved. The public library can play a part in bringing homeschoolers and Chickadee books together.

Within schools we anticipate numerous connections among staff members. Classroom teachers, art teachers, music teachers and librarians will easily find ways and reasons to work together to promote the Chickadee program. In our choice of books and in our activity suggestions, we consciously have tried to make connections to language arts, art, music, physical education, math, social studies and science. Some schools prefer to have classroom teachers introduce the books to children, with librarians and other teachers providing supporting activities. In other schools librarians read all the books to children, with classroom teachers taking the supporting role. A few schools find reasons for the art teacher to take the lead with one book, the music teacher with another. There are many possible ways to integrate these ten books into your program, and we hope you will find the one that works best for you.

The Chickadee Committee recognizes that not all of the selections will be appropriate for all students in all grades. It is not the intent of the Chickadee Committee that every book be accessible for all participants. We do aim for books that are accessible for as many children in the grade span as possible. Participating teachers, librarians and parents should know that children are not required to read all 10 of the books to vote. We recommend that children read enough books that they feel they are making an informed choice.

In choosing activities to accompany each book, we have tried to demonstrate our recognition of children's different learning styles and interests. There are art and craft suggestions, as well as some that involve science, math, writing, listening, making music, or moving. We encourage you to use the books and this activity booklet to connect with children's interests and strengths in every way you can.

Of course, we hope librarians and teachers will use the Chickadee Award as a way to introduce children to quality literature. Inviting local authors or illustrators to schools and libraries can further deepen this connection. Such visits offer children a model for how their own attempts at writing and illustration might blossom into real works of literature.

Numerous professional reference materials highlight the importance of children linking what they read with what they already know. All ten books on this year's Chickadee Award list can be used to reinforce the important skills of making connections with other books, with children's lives, and with real life in the broader context of the world. We hope children will hear and read and use these ten books many times and in many ways throughout the coming months. We have incorporated the Common Core State Standards into the curriculum pages to support teaching and learning in the areas of literacy, speaking and listening.

Many schools that have participated in the Chickadee Award in the past few years have chosen to simulate a real voting experience for their K-4 children. This helped generate excitement about the Chickadee voting process and encouraged children to feel that their votes were important. Some schools even borrowed the official ballot box used in their town for this special event.

We were delighted with the number of Maine children who participated in the first years of The Chickadee Award: A Maine Children's Choice Picture Book Project. We hope even more children will make the connection with this exciting project in its twelfth year.

Sample Press Releases

Please help spread the word! Feel free to use one of the following samples, or create one of your own to let people in your area know about The Chickadee Award: A Maine Children's Choice Picture Book Project.

Press Release Sample 1:

All Maine schools, home-school groups and libraries are invited to participate in the Chickadee Award: A Maine Children's Choice Picture Book Project. Participating children in grades K-4 are the ones who will choose the award winner by voting for their favorite from among ten selected books published in 2016 and chosen by a committee of teachers, librarians and early literacy professionals. During the eleventh year of the program, approximately 20,000 Maine children chose *Carnivores* by Aaron Reynolds and Dan Santat as the winner of the Chickadee Award.

In this process children and adults will develop and share an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustration that will stay with them forever. This statewide project encourages connections between public libraries and schools and helps foster literary dialogue among adults and children. In addition to selecting the ten books for review, the committee has compiled a booklet of information, suggestions and activities to make it easy for any interested school, home school group, or public library to participate.

The Chickadee Award Project is funded by the Maine Association of School Libraries. For more information, visit the chickadee website at www.chickadeeaward.org

Press Release Sample 2:

Kindergarten to grade 4 school children will get a chance to become fully involved with ten selected picture books this school year through The Chickadee Award: A Maine Children's Choice Picture Book Project. Children will have a variety of opportunities to become involved with each story, to explore its meaning and share their ideas with others. All children who participate in the program will vote for their favorite book prior to April 1, 2018.

The ten picture books were selected by a panel of teachers, librarians and early literacy professionals. These books were all published in 2016 and selected because they presented a solid story combined with artwork that enriched and supported the text. The panel then created a guide for each book, including biographical summaries about the author and illustrator, a list of companion books, and a variety of activities for readers to enjoy that connect with the story or subject.

The Maine Association of School Libraries has offered generous support, enabling the program to expand throughout the state each year. Approximately 20,000 children voted last year, and chose *Land Shark* by Beth Ferry and Ben Mantle as the 2016-2017 Chickadee winner.

Maine children have enjoyed the Maine Student Book Award program focusing on grades 4 – 8 and the Lupine Award has brought interest and recognition to Maine authors. The Chickadee Award allows Kindergarten to 4th grade readers to become involved in a statewide program to stimulate their reading skills.

For more information, visit the chickadee website at www.chickadeeaward.org.

Press Release Sample 3:

The Chickadee Award is a picture book award program for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. This award is in its twelfth year, and is given annually to one of ten picture books nominated by a committee of teachers, librarians, and early literacy professionals, with the winner chosen by Maine school children. The purpose of this award is to encourage children to develop an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustration that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. The evaluation process leading up to voting will help children understand and interpret books and help them to express and support their judgment about text and pictures with convincing evidence. It is hoped that this Maine Children's Choice Picture Book Project will be incorporated into the curriculum and supported by both school and public libraries. The Maine Association of School Libraries is providing financial support for this project.

For more information, visit the chickadee website at www.chickadeeaward.org.

A Hat for Mrs. Goldman
Written by Michelle Edwards
Illustrated by G. Brian Karas

Mrs. Goldman knits hats for everyone in her neighborhood. Sophia thinks knitting is too hard so she makes the pompoms. When winter comes everyone has a warm hat except Mrs. Goldman, so it is up to Sophia to make one for her.

Before Reading:

Build background knowledge: Ask students if they know anyone who can knit. Is knitting a difficult skill to learn? Why or why not?

Discuss the meaning of the word “mitzvah.” Mitzvah is a Hebrew word that means a kind deed. What are some examples of good deeds? Why is kindness important?

During Reading:

Discuss important vocabulary words and how they are used in the story. Have students use context clues to determine meanings of words. (keppie = head, mitzvah = good deed, abuela = grandmother)

How would you describe Mrs. Goldman? What kind of a person is she? How do you know? .RL.1.3

How do the illustrations help to tell the story?

RL 2.7

After Reading:

How does Sophia respond to the challenge of helping Mrs. Goldman? What qualities does she possess that help her face this challenge? RL.2.3

What is the central message or moral of the story? Have students write their thinking.

RL 2.2 & W 1.1

Have students try making their own pom-pom. You will need yarn, index cards, and scissors. The directions are in the back of the book.

Read the story “Mr. George and the Red Hat.” Have students do a venn diagram comparing and contrasting this story with “A Hat for Mrs. Goldman.”

RL 2.9

Biographical Sketch of the Author:

Michelle Edwards is an award winning author who has written many books for children and one for adults. Her stories are about friendship, family, and community. She grew up in Troy NY and now lives with her husband in at Iowa City IA.

Biographical Sketch of the Illustrator:

G. Brian Karas is an award winning author/illustrator. He attended the Paier School of Art in Connecticut and worked for Hallmark before becoming a freelance illustrator. He currently lives in Rhinebeck NY.

Companion Books:

- *Ned the Knitting Pirate* by Diana Murray and Leslie Lammle
- *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen
- *Woolbur* by Leslie Helakoski and Lee Harber
- *Knit Together* by Angela Dominguez

Books written by Michelle Edwards:

- *Pa Lia's First Day: A Jackson Friends Book*
- *Chicken Man*
- *Zero Grandparents: A Jackson Friends Book*
- *Room for the Baby*

Books illustrated by G. Brian Karas:

- Wise, Margaret Brown. *I Like Bugs*
- Beely, Selby. *Throw Your Tooth on the Roof*
- Applegate, Katherine. *Ivan: The Remarkable Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla*
- Mills, Claudia. *7 x 9 = Trouble!*

Websites:

- <http://michelledwards.com/>
- <http://www.gbriankaras.com/>
- <https://www.thespruce.com/teaching-children-to-knit-2116018>
- <http://www.howweelearn.com/knitting-for-kids/>

Dear Dragon
Written by Josh Funk
Illustrated by Rodolfo Montalvo

Dear Dragon is a friendship story about looking past physical differences to appreciate personalities instead. George and Blaise are pen pals, and they write to each other about all of the important things in their lives. The only thing they don't know about each other is that George is a human and Blaise is a dragon. Things become very interesting when these two meet face to face for the first time.

Before Reading:

Activate prior knowledge: This book is about pen pals. Ask students if they have ever had a pen pal before. What are some of the benefits of having a pen pal?

Read the title and show students the illustration on the cover. Then have the students make predictions about who the penpals will be. (RL K.1)

During Reading:

Discuss how the characters in the story change as the letters get more personal. How can you tell that George and Blaise are starting to become friends? (RL 2.3)

Ask students to look carefully at the illustrations - specifically, how the thought bubbles differ from the actual events. How do the illustrations help you understand how Blaise and George are interpreting each other's letters? (CCSS RL 3.7)

After Reading:

Ask students what the central lesson or moral is in the story. (CCSS RL.2.2)

Discuss the elements of letter writing. Demonstrate writing the date, greeting, asking questions, and closing. Have students practice by writing a letter to a friend and mailing it to them, or writing a friend to a student in another classroom and delivering it. Extension: use 'Dear Dragon' as the introduction to a Pen Pal project with another school or grade level.

Biographical Sketch of the Author:

Josh Funk is an author of humorous children's books. He studied computer science in college. Josh grew up and still resides in New England and is a board member of the Writer's Loft in Sherborn, Ma. He divides his time between writing computer code and manuscripts.

Biographical Sketch of the Illustrator:

Rodolfo Montalvo is an award winning artist who has been drawing since before he can remember. He shares his studio with his drawing partner, Wooky and his life with his wife Rene who is also an artist. They live in Long Beach, Ca. Dear Dragon is his first picture book.

Companion Books:

- *Dear Mrs. Larue* by Mark Teague
- *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmeiri
- *Do Not Bring Your Dragon to the Library* by Julie Gassman and Andy Elkerton

Books written by Josh Funk:

- *Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast* illustrated by Brendan Kearney
- *The Case of the Stinky Stench* illustrated by Brendan Kearney
- *Pirasuars!* Illustrated by Michael H. Slack
- *It's Not Jack and the Beanstalk* illustrated by Edwardian Taylor

Books illustrated by Rodolfo Montalvo:

- Dewitt, Fowler. *The Contagious Colors of Mumpley Middle School*
- Dewitt, Fowler. *The Amazing Wilmer Dooley: A Mumpley Middle School Mystery*

Websites:

- <https://www.joshfunkbooks.com/>
- <http://www.rodolfomontalvo.com/>
- <http://www.readbrightly.com/best-dragon-books-for-kids/>

Good Trick Walking Stick
Written by Sheri Mabry Bestor
Illustrated by Jonny Lambert

Walking sticks are among the world's most fascinating insects; and one many youngsters can find in their own backyards. With a simple story and colorful illustrations, this scientific look at a walking stick's life-cycle will captivate children. Sidebars are included that give even more information about these interesting insects.

Before Reading:

Build background knowledge and talk about what a walking stick is. Show pictures from the internet. Ask students if they have ever found a walking stick. What makes them special insects? What “tricks” do you think they can do? Then read the paragraph on the opening flap of the book.

Show a few pages of the book and explain how the author uses the text in different ways to add to the story. (bold words, larger text, different color text, text in various places on the pages) Ask why the author did this.

During Reading:

Ask questions about the story, have students refer to the text to support their answers. RI 3.1

Have students describe how the words and phrases add rhythm to the story. RL 2.4

Use the illustrations and details to describe the key ideas of the text. RI 1.7

After Reading:

Determine the main idea of the story. Then students can partner up and identify the supporting details that were included in the story. RI 4.2

Make a chart of the tricks that walking sticks can do. Then have students draw a picture of a walking stick and then write about all of the tricks that the insect can do. RL 1.3, W K.2

Biographical Sketch of the Author:

Sheri Mabry Bestor is an author, yoga instructor, and life coach. She enjoys spending much of her time enjoying nature and the endless discoveries found in the woods. *Good Trick Walking Stick* is her first children’s book.

Biographical Sketch of the Illustrator:

Jonny Lambert has illustrated over three hundred titles. He studied art at the Reigate School of Art and Design in England. Jonny says that he is inspired by everything and everyone he comes in contact with. He lives with his wife, daughter, and a menagerie of animals in West Sussex, England.

Companion Books:

- *Weird Walking Sticks* by Greg Goza
- *Creepy Creatures: Stick Insects* by Valerie Boden
- *Walking Sticks* by Fran Howard

Books written by Sheri Mabry Bestor:

This is her first children's book.

Books illustrated by Jonny Lambert:

- *Lach, Will. I Am Not a Dinosaur!*
- *Little Why*
- *Tiger, Tiger*
- *Special You*
- *The Only Lonely Panda*

Websites:

- <http://www.willowwords.agency/sheri-m.-bestor-author.html>
- <http://www.plumpuddingillustration.com/work/?page=1&artist=168&name=&cat=1&id=131>
- <http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/arthropods/stick-insect>
- <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/stick-insect/#stick-insect-arm.jpg>
- <http://www.bugfacts.net/walking-stick.php>

Hammer and Nails
Written by Josh Bledsoe
Illustrated by Jessica Warrick

When Darci's friend cancels their play date, Darci feels that her whole day is doomed. Daddy comes up with a plan. He has a list of things he wants to do, Darci has a list of things she wants to do. Darcy-Daddy Day entails doing one item from Daddy's list followed by one item from Darci's, until both lists are done. They will each have to step out of their comfort zones in order to make Darci-Daddy day a success.

Before Reading:

Read the title and ask the students what they think "Hammer and Nails" means. Refer them to the illustration on the cover. Then have the students make predictions about what will happen in the story. RL K.1

Have the students identify what type of story this is. (Fiction/Nonfiction, storybook/poem) RL K.5

Have students share a few stories about a time when they had a special mommy/child or daddy/child day.

During Reading:

After reading a few pages (at any point in the story), have students use the text/illustrations to support/explain what is happening with the characters in the story. RL 3.1

Using the text, have students explain what these words mean: uncrumple, unfashionable, milady, announced, secure, tiara, tutu, manicures. RL K.4

After Reading:

Have students write/draw how Darcy felt in the beginning of the story compared to the end of the story. Students should include examples of things that helped her change. RL 2.3

Have students partner up and practice retelling the story, including key story elements. RL 1.2

Biographical Sketch of the Author:

Josh Bledsoe is an elementary school teacher who enjoys spending time with his children. He lives with his wife and two children near Nashville, Tennessee. This is his first picture book.

Biographical Sketch of the Illustrator:

Jessica Warrick is an illustrator who specializes in the humor genre. She attended Thomas Edison University for art. She has illustrated several children's books. Her work is semi digital; partly watercolor and finished with photoshop. She lives in Jacksonville, Florida with her significant other and two cats.

Companion Books:

- *How a House is Built* by Gail Gibbons
- *Building a House* by Byron Barton
- *Look at that Building!* By Scot Ritchie
- *When I Build with Blocks* by Niki Alling

Books written by Josh Bledsoe:

This is his first picture book.

Books illustrated by Jessica Warrick:

- Rosenthal, Cathy. *The Happy Tale of Two Cats*
- Rosenthal, Cathy. *The Lucky Tale of Two Dogs*
- Dalal, Krishna. *Sardoodledom: A Spelling Bee Tale*
- Nass, Lisa. *Monk Monk & Me: A Comfort Critter Tale*

Websites:

- <http://jessicawarrick.com/>

Maybe Something Beautiful
Written by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell
Illustrated by Raphael Lopez

Maybe Something Beautiful is based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail. Mira and her family live in a gray community until a muralist comes to town and helps show them how a little color and imagination can inspire change; and that no one is too small to have an impact.

Before Reading:

Build background knowledge: What is a mural? (Definition: A painting or other work of art directly painted on a wall). Where have you seen murals?

Tell students that this is a story about a group of people that came together to put something beautiful into their community. Ask students if they can think of any places they may have seen similar works of community art in their area. (Some examples include public art displays around the state, including painted lighthouses, adirondack chairs, and garbage cans.)

During Reading:

1. Discuss how the characters in the story felt about participating in the artist's project. (CCSS RL 2.3)
2. How do Mira and the artist have a similar vision about putting "something beautiful" into the world? How are Mira and the artist alike? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3
3. How do the words contribute rhythm and meaning to the story? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4

After Reading:

1. Discuss the way the illustrator uses color in the book's illustrations. Compare the first endpaper to the last endpaper. Look at the very first illustrated page with text and notice where the colors are. Compare this with one of the final pages where the artist is talking to the community. How are they different? (CCSS RL 3.7)
2. Look at the very last page where Mira is painting the bird. Predict what she might be thinking. What will happen next?
- 3.. If you could paint a mural in your school, where would it go? What would you put on the mural and why? Pass out drawing paper and have students design their own ideas for a school mural.

From the Publisher:

Biographical Sketch of the Authors:

F. Isabel Campoy is an award winning author and translator of books from English to Spanish. Her books cover a wide variety of genres and styles. Her children's books generally focus on the richness of the Latino culture and her strong belief in the power of transformation and social justice. She currently lives in San Rafael, California.

Theresa Howell has been a successful editor of children's books, especially bilingual books for a number of years. She now writes books of her own as well. She lives in Colorado with her husband and two daughters.

Biographical Sketch of the Illustrator:

Rafael Lopez is an award winning artist. His artistic style draws heavily on the Mexican heritage and traditions he grew up with. In addition to working on the Urban Art Trail in San Diego and creating artwork for the National Book Festival in Washington DC in 2012, he has been illustrating children's books since 2004. He divides his time between his studios in San Miguel de Allende Mexico and San Diego where he works and lives with his wife and son.

Companion Books:

- *Swatch: The Girl Who Loved Color* by Julia Denos
- *Ada's Violin* by Susan Hood and Sally Wern Comport
- *Follow the Moon Home* by Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson

Books written by F. Isabel Campoy:

- *¡Pío Peep!: Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes*
- *I Like It When . . . /Me gusta cuando . . .* (translator)

Books written by Theresa Howell:

- *A is for Airplane/A es para avion*
- *Scout Moore: Junior Ranger, Grand Canyon*
- *The Ravenous Raven*
- *Great Grand Canyon Time Train*

Books illustrated by Rafael Lopez:

- Engle, Margarita. *Drum Dream Girl*
- Mora, Pat. *Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day*
- Brown, Monica. *My Name is Celia/Me llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/la vida de Celia Cruz*
- Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Our California*

- Vamos, Samantha. *The Cazuela That the Farm Maiden Stirred*

Websites:

- <http://isabelcampoy.com/>
- <https://www.theresahowell.com/>
- <http://rafaellopez.com/>
- <http://maybesomethingbeautiful.com/>

Memoirs of a Parrot
Written by Devin Scillian
Illustrated by Tim Bowers

A grumpy parrot trades his boring life in a pet shop for a frustrating life with Todd. Both owner and pet will need to learn how to appreciate the other if they're going to make their new found partnership work.

Before Reading:

Build background knowledge. Ask the students if anyone has a pet. What are the things that you need to do to take care of a pet.

Discuss the meaning of the word *memoirs*.

Read the first few pages. Ask the students who is telling the story. Then you can discuss the format of the story (journal of the Parrots experiences). RL 1.6

During Reading:

Describe the parrot and how he feels in the beginning of the book compared to the end of the book. RL 1.3

Ask the students how the meaning of the story changes when the teacher reads the speaking parts using a "character voice". RL 2.6

Create a chart for characters, setting, and major events in the story. Throughout the story, have the students identify information to add to the chart. RL K.3

After Reading:

Read Memoirs of a Goldfish. Compare and contrast Memoirs of a Goldfish and Memoirs of a Parrot. Use a Venn Diagram to record the information. RL 3.9

Students will write about Echo and explain the changes that occurred to Echo throughout the story. RL 3.3

Biographical Sketch of the Author:

Devin Scillian is an award winning author, and Edward W. Murrow award winning broadcast journalist, and an award winning country musician. He believes that all three are just different ways of telling stories. He lives in Grosse Pointe, Mi with his wife and four children.

Biographical Sketch of the Illustrator:

Tim Bowers is an award winning illustrator known for his humorous illustrations. He attended the Columbus College of Art and Design. Prior to becoming a children's book illustrator he worked for an advertising artist and Hallmark. He lives in Ohio with his wife. They have four grown children and several grandchildren.

Companion Books:

- *Papagayo: The Mischief Maker* by Gerald McDermott
- *Parrots Over Puerto Rico* by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore
- *Parrots for Children* by Hettie Brazil

Books written by Devin Scillian:

- *Memoirs of a Hamster* by Devin Scillian and Tim Bowers
- *Memoirs of a Goldfish* by Devin Scillian and Tim Bowers
- *H is for Honor: A Millitary Family Alphabet* by Devin Scillian and Victor Juhasz
- *A is for America* by Devin Scillian and Pam Carroll
- *S Is For Sooner: An Oklahoma Series Alphabet* by Devin Scillian and Kandy Radzinski

Books illustrated by Tim Bowers:

- *Memoirs of a Hamster* by Devin Scillian and Tim Bowers
- *Memoirs of a Goldfish* by Devin Scillian and Tim Bowers
- *Cool Dog, School Dog* by Deborah Heiligman and Tim Bowers
- *Dinosaur Pet* by Neil Sedaka and Marc Sedaka
- *Not Your Typical Dragon* by Dan Bar-el and Tim Bowers

Websites:

- <https://www.devinscillian.com/>
- <http://www.timbowers.com/>
- <http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-parrots/>

Nanette's Baguette
Written and Illustrated by Mo Willems

Set against a beautifully illustrated French village, readers find Nanette on a solo trip to the bakery to buy a baguette for her mother for the very first time. Along the way she meets a number of her friends. Her problems don't really start until after she leaves the bakery. This laugh-out-loud rhyming story will entertain both children and adults.

Before Reading:

Look at the cover illustration together. What is a baguette? If you aren't sure, can you guess by looking at the picture? Do you know what country a baguette is from?

Activate prior knowledge: Talk about the author/illustrator of the book, Mo Willems. Ask students if they are familiar with other books by Mo Willems. What do you know about this author's work? How would you describe his style of storytelling?

Look at a map and find France. Have students share what they know about French cuisine, language and culture.

During Reading:

After reading a few pages (at any point in the story), have students use the text/illustrations to support/explain what is happening with the characters in the story. RL 3.1

This book uses rhyme and wordplay to make the story entertaining and fun. Have students recount specific words and phrases that add to the meaning of the story. CCSS RL.2.4

Look for the Pigeon, who makes a surprise appearance in every Mo Willems book.

After Reading:

What challenge does Nanette face in the story? How does she respond to this challenge? CCSS RL.2.3

Have students share a time that they felt regret after making a mistake or letting someone else down. What was the central message or meaning behind *Nanette's Baguette*? CCSS RL.1.2

Biographical Sketch of the Author/Illustrator:

Mo Willems is the award winning author/illustrator of many popular children's book series. He graduated cum laude at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He started his career as a writer and animator for *Sesame Street*. He won multiple Emmy Awards for his work there before choosing to write books so that he

could be a stay at home dad with his young daughter. Currently he lives in Northhampton, Massachusetts with his wife and daughter.

Companion Books:

- *Tony's Bread* by Tomie dePaola
- *Sun Bread* by Elisa Kleven
- *Bread, Bread, Bread* by Ann Morris and Ken Heyman

Books written by Mo Willems:

- *Hooray for Amanda and Her Alligator!*
- *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*
- *The Thank You Book*
- *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*
- *Welcome: A Mo Willems Guide for New Arrivals*

Websites:

- <http://www.mowillems.com/>
- <https://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Baguette>

The Branch
Written by Mireille Messier
Illustrated by Pierre Pratt

When an ice storm snaps a young girl's special branch ('it was my castle, my spy base...') from a tree in her yard, she doesn't want it to be thrown away. Fortunately, her neighbor agrees with her. He helps her find the potential that still exists in the branch, transforming something that was virtually destroyed into something new that can be enjoyed for years to come.

Before Reading:

Activate prior knowledge. This story is a personal narrative about a young girl's experience with the after effects of an ice storm. Ask students if they have ever experienced a serious weather event such as an ice storm, blizzard or hurricane.

Sometimes a place you play at home can have special meaning. Ask students if they have ever played in a tree or a treehouse in their yard.

During Reading:

Ask questions about the story, have students refer to the text to support their answers. RI 3.1

Stop on the page where the girl is holding onto "her" branch. Why does she want to keep it forever? What does the branch mean to her? Ask students if they have ever wanted to keep something that their parents wanted them to discard. CCSS RL.3.3

Discuss the meaning of the word "potential." What does it mean if something or someone has potential? CCSS RL.3.4

After Reading:

How does Mr. Frank help the girl use her imagination to solve her problem? CCSS RL.3.1

Have the students imagine what they would create out of a broken branch. Hand out drawing paper and ask students to draw and write about their creations.

Talk about recycling and upcycling in your local community. Discuss ways that things that are being discarded can be reused for other purposes. In what ways can you recycle or upcycle items at home and at school?

Biographical Sketch of the Author:

Mireille Messier is a French Canadian author. She also works as a voice over actress and radio host. She has written over a dozen children's books and has collaborated in the production of many family programs for local television stations. She currently lives in Toronto with her husband, two teenage daughters, and two cats.

Biographical Sketch of the Illustrator:

Pierre Pratt is an award winning children's book author and illustrator. He studied graphic design at Ahuntsic College in Montreal. His distinctive illustrations have featured in over fifty titles. Pratt's illustrations are simple, varied in technique yet recognizable, and allow children to imagine freely. He spends his time between his two homes in Montreal and Lisbon.

Companion Books:

- *The Oak Inside the Acorn* by Max Lucado and George Angelini
- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *A Tree Is Nice* by Janice May Udry
- *The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree* by Gail Gibbons
- *Trees* by Kristi Ferguson and Shondra M. Quarles

Books written by Mireille Messier:

- *Fatima and the Clementine Thieves* by Gabrielle Grimard and Mireille Messier
- *Night Flight* by Carl Pelletier Illustrator and Mireille Messier

Books illustrated by Pierre Pratt:

- *That New Animal* by Emily Jenkins and Pierre Pratt
- *Doors in the Air* by David Weale and Pierre Pratt
- *Roar of a Snore* by Marsha Diane Arnold and Pierre Pratt
- *Stop Feedin' da Boids!* by James Sage and Pierre Pratt
- *Albert, the Dog Who Liked to Ride in Taxis* by Cynthia Zarin and Pierre Pratt

Websites:

The Water Princess
Written by Susan Verde
Illustrated by Peter Reynolds

Princess Gie Gie's kingdom is a wonderful land lacking in only one thing – clean and abundant drinking water. Every day Gie Gie and the other women and girls in her village walk miles to the only well which only has murky, dirty water. She dreams of the day when all of the people in her village will have enough clean water to drink. This story is based on the childhood of Georgie Badiel.

Before Reading:

Read aloud the end pages of the story to build background knowledge about this story.

Ask students to explain what they would do without running water. How would they get it? What would some challenges be?

During Reading:

Ask and answer the following questions: RL 2.1, RL 1.9

- *What would happen if you drank dirty water?
- *Why do you think these children need to travel so far for water?
- *What happens if the children and their families can't get water?
- *What do you think is Gie Gie's wish?
- *How do you think Gie Gie feels about traveling so far each day for water?
- *Does Gie Gie have time to play? Why or why not?
- *Is Gie Gie happy in the story? Why or why not?
- *Do you think Gie Gie gets to attend school on daily basis? If not, please explain why.

Show a map of Africa. Point out where Princess Gie Gie lives.

Determine the meaning of the following words: Karite Tree, shea nuts, Maman, maintenant, kingdom. RL 3.4

After Reading:

Download the activities for The Water Princess, <https://www.susanverde.com/free-downloads/>. Have students complete these and then they can share with a partner. RI 1.7

Using a Venn Diagram, compare and contrast your day to Gie Gie's day. RL 4.9

Biographical Sketch of the Author:

Susan Verde was an elementary school teacher for a number of years before becoming an author. She now writes children's books and teaches yoga. She lives in East Hampton, New York with her three children and their dog.

Biographical Sketch of the Illustrator:

Peter Reynolds is an award winning author/ illustrator of children's books. He is also the founder of the educational media company FableVision. He attended the Massachusetts college of Art and Fitchburg State College. He is best known for his children's books about creativity and authentic learning. Peter lives in Dedham, Massachusetts and is the co-owner of his family's book store, The Blue Bunny Bookstore.

Companion Books:

- *A Cool Drink of Water* by Barbara Kerley
- *A Drop Around the World* by Barbara McKinney
- *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth* by Rochelle Strauss
- *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia* by Miranda Paul

Books written by Susan Verde:

- *I Am Yoga* by Susan Verde and Peter H. Reynolds
- *I Am Peace: A Book of Mindfulness* by Peter H. Reynolds and Susan Verde
- *The Museum* by Susan Verde and Peter.H Reynolds
- *My Kicks: A Sneaker Story!* by Susan Verde and Katie Kath

Books illustrated by Peter Reynolds:

- *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds
- *Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds
- *Happy Dreamer* by Peter H. Reynolds
- *Little Miss, Big Sis* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Peter H. Reynolds
- *Someday* by Alison McGhee and Peter H. Reynolds

Websites:

- <https://www.susanverde.com/>
- <http://www.peterhreynolds.com/>
- <http://georgiebadielfoundation.org/>

Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions

Written by Chris Barton

Illustrated by Don Tate

Everyone knows the Super Soaker. It is one of the top 20 toys of all time. However, few knew that it was invented accidentally when Lonnie Johnson was working on a cooling system. Whoosh follows the story of Lonnie Johnson life from his childhood experiments to his work with NASA. Along the way he invented the water gun that he will long be remembered for.

Before Reading:

Discuss what an invention is. What type of things have been invented? What types of things do you like to create?

Show the class a map and point out where Alabama is. Tell students this is where the character Lonnie Johnson lives.

During Reading:

Determine the meaning of the following words: propulsion, compression, prototype, invention. Use the text and illustrations to help. RL 4.4

Answer the following questions, use the text and illustrations to provide proof. RL 1.1

- * To become an inventor, what steps did Lonnie Johnson have to take?
- * Lonnie Johnson was told that he wouldn't make a very good engineer. Why did he keep trying? What other setbacks did Lonnie have to overcome?
- * Why was it so hard for Lonnie to sell the Super Soaker?
- * Ask students, "Would your parents let you experiment at home the way Lonnie's did? If no, what alternatives to experimenting do you have?"

After Reading:

Have students use their imagination to invent something. Students will draw what their invention is and then write about the materials needed and what their invention does. W 2.2

Biographical Sketch of the Author:

Chris Barton is an award winning author of children's books. He grew up in a small town in Texas, attended the University of Texas at Austin and became a journalist. A few years later he made the transition to children's author. He lives in Austin Tx with his wife, who is also an author, their four children and their dog

Biographical Sketch of the Illustrator:

Don Tate is an award winning author/illustrator of children's books. He grew up in Des Moines Ia and attended university there as well. He worked as both a graphics reporter and a publication designer for an educational publication company before working as an author/illustrator full time. He now lives in Austin Tx with his wife and son.

Companion Books:

- *The Hole Story of the Doughnut* by Pat Miller
- *The Secret Subway* by Shana Corey
- *Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille* by Jen Bryant
- *Inventions: That Could Have Changed the World...But Didn't!* by Joe Rhatigan
- *Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts

Books written by Chris Barton:

- *Shark vs. Train* by Chris Barton and Tom Lichtenheld
- *88 Instruments* by Chris Barton and Louis Thomas
- *The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors* by Chris Barton and Tony Persiani
- *Mighty Truck* by Chris Barton and Troy Cummings
- *That's Not Bunny!* by Chris Barton and Colin Jack

Books illustrated by Don Tate:

- *Ron's Big Mission* by Rose Blue and Corinne Naden
- *Strong as Sandow: How Eugen Sandow Became the Strongest Man on Earth*
- *It Jes' Happened: When Bill Traylor Started to Draw* by Don Tate and R. Gregory Christie
- *She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story* by Audrey Vernick and Don Tate

Websites:

- <http://www.chrisbarton.info/>
- <https://dontate.com/>
- http://www.al.com/entertainment/index.ssf/2017/07/meet_the_alabama-born_nasa_eng.html
- <http://www.greatbusinessschools.org/10-great-inventions-dreamt-up-by-children/>



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