



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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2015 Newbery and Caldecott Winners

Meet Author Kwame Alexander

National Library Week is April 12-18. This year's theme is "Unlimited possibilities @ your library."

The John Newbery Medal is awarded each year to the author of the most outstanding children's book.



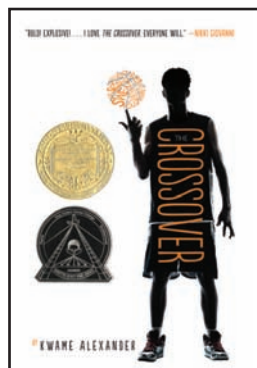
Kwame Alexander won the 2015 Newbery Medal for "The Crossover." He also won a Coretta Scott King Author Honor for this book.

Kwame is a poet and the author of 18 books for adults and kids.

Growing up with books

"I essentially grew up in a library," Kwame said. "There were books everywhere." His mother was a school principal and a college professor who taught writing. His father was a college professor, Baptist minister and book publisher.

In "The Crossover," twin brothers love their family and basketball. But in middle school, the twins begin to grow apart. The story is told through poetry.



jacket art © 2014, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt



photo courtesy Kwame Alexander

Kwame's wife, Stephanie, teaches Zumba and body pump. Their two daughters, Nandi, 24, and Samayah, 6, both love to read. Their family lives in Reston, Virginia.

The magic returns

When he was a kid, Kwame said, "I loved the magic of stories. But once I got to fourth and fifth grade, it changed, and I wanted to do sports and be outside and have fun, so reading sort of stopped and became more of a chore."

His folks made him read anyway, he said. After a few years, his love of reading returned.

Becoming a poet

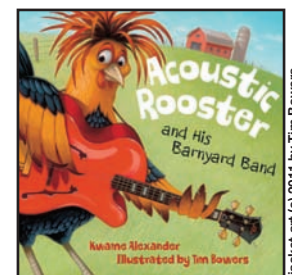
Kwame planned to become a doctor and studied organic chemistry in college. He started writing love poetry to impress girls. "It got me a lot of dates," he said. His college teacher, poet Nikki Giovanni, inspired him to follow his growing love of poetry.

Sharing his love

Kwame founded Book-in-a-Day, a program for elementary through high school students. In one day, students write a poem good enough to publish. They collect their poems into a book.

Kwame also helped set up a literacy program in Ghana, Africa. It trains teachers and has built a library.

In "Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band," a rooster forms a jazz band for the barnyard talent show. This funny tale is in verse.



jacket art © 2011 by Tim Bowers, published by Sleeping Bear Press

Advice to kids

"Say yes even when you're afraid because you never know what's on the other side of that door that you're going to walk through. It could be really awesome, and you don't want to miss out on that."

King and Belpre Awards

Coretta Scott King Awards are given each year to an outstanding black author and illustrator.



Jacqueline Woodson

jacket art © Marty Umans

King Author Award

Jacqueline Woodson won the King Author Award for “Brown Girl Dreaming.” It was also a National Book Award and Newbery Honor Book winner. Jacqueline has written many award-winning books.



“Brown Girl Dreaming” is the true story of the author’s childhood, told in verse.

jacket art © 2014, published by Penguin

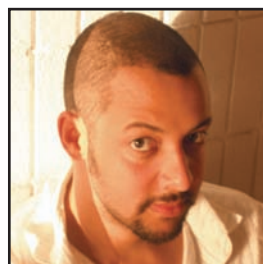
King Illustrator Award

Christopher Myers won the King Illustrator Award for “Firebird” by Misty Copeland. He designs clothes and has illustrated and written several books for kids.



In “Firebird,” a girl gains the confidence to follow her dream of becoming a dancer.

jacket art © 2014 by Christopher Myers, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons



Christopher Myers

photo courtesy PenguinPutnam

Pura Belpre Awards are given each year to an outstanding Latino author and illustrator.



Belpre Author Award

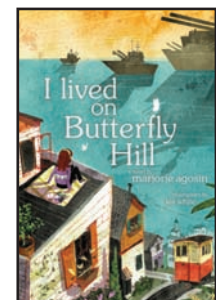
Marjorie Agosin won the Belpre Author Award for “I Lived on Butterfly Hill.” Marjorie has written many adult-level books. This is her first book for young people.



Marjorie Agosin

photo courtesy Wellesley College

In “I Lived on Butterfly Hill,” the dictator Augusto Pinochet takes over Chile in a series of violent acts. An 11-year-old girl is sent from Chile to the United States to keep her safe.



jacket art © 2014 by Lee White, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

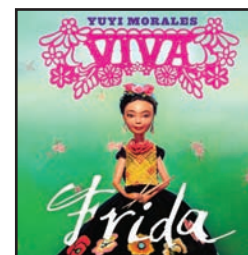
Belpre Illustrator Award

Yuyi Morales won the Belpre Illustrator Award and a Caldecott Honor Book award for “Viva Frida.” She has written and illustrated several books for kids.



Yuyi Morales

photo © Yuyi Morales



jacket art © 2014 by Yuyi Morales, published by Roaring Brook Press

“Viva Frida” is the true story of the artist Frida Kahlo.

Ready Resources



The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week’s topics.

On the Web:

- sites.google.com/site/colemantaina/home
- yuyimorales.com
- bookinaday.org
- dantat.com
- jacquelinewoodson.com
- ala.org/yma

At the library:

- “My Pen” by Christopher Myers



Try
'n'
Find

Libraries

C	B	D	D	M	L	S	E	N	I	Z	A	G	A	M
O	M	O	I	E	E	C	N	E	R	E	F	E	R	C
M	V	U	O	S	S	G	N	I	D	A	E	R	M	O
P	I	C	S	K	K	K	T	R	A	D	O	G	A	P
U	D	W	A	I	S	S	D	I	A	P	A	M	N	I
T	E	V	L	T	C	S	E	I	R	O	T	S	U	E
E	O	R	I	A	H	C	G	U	I	D	E	S	A	R
R	S	S	R	E	P	A	P	S	W	E	N	K	L	S
S	S	D	I	K	S	N	A	I	R	A	R	B	I	L

Words that remind us of things you might find in a library are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: AID, ART, BOOKS, CAT, CHAIR, COMPUTERS, COPIERS, DESK, DISKS, DOG, GUIDES, KIDS, LIBRARIANS, MAGAZINES, MANUAL, MAP, MUSIC, NEWSPAPERS, READING, REFERENCE, STORIES, VIDEOS.



Mini Spy

Mini Spy shows a great book to Basset Brown.

See if you can find: word MINI butterfly letter B

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> tin can | <input type="checkbox"/> pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> mitten | <input type="checkbox"/> kite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter M | <input type="checkbox"/> sock | <input type="checkbox"/> letter H | <input type="checkbox"/> number 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> banana | <input type="checkbox"/> pocketknife | <input type="checkbox"/> number 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> pumpkin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> bandage | <input type="checkbox"/> heart | <input type="checkbox"/> letter A |



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Chillin' Yogurt Pops

You'll need:

- 2 (8-ounce) containers low-fat peach yogurt
- 6 (3-ounce) small paper cups
- 1/2 cup frozen peaches
- 6 plastic spoons
- 1/2 cup frozen raspberries or strawberries
- blender
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat milk

What to do:

1. Place yogurt, fruit and milk in blender. Blend for 30 to 60 seconds until ingredients form a thick liquid.
2. Pour into the paper cups.
3. Place a plastic spoon in the middle of each cup, with handle sticking out.
4. Freeze for 8 hours. Remove for 5 minutes to soften just before eating.
5. Peel away cup from frozen yogurt to enjoy the pop on a stick.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Jim Parsons



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Jim Parsons is the voice of Oh, an alien who doesn't fit in on his home planet, in the animated movie "Home."

Jim is best known for his part as Sheldon in the TV series "The Big Bang Theory." He has received four Emmy® Awards for that role. He was the voice of Buddy in the animated TV special "Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas." He has also acted in several movies, commercials and plays.

Jim, 42, grew up in Houston with his younger sister. When he was 6, he landed his first acting role as a bird in a school play. He took piano lessons for 14 years and has a master's degree in fine arts in acting. He lives in Los Angeles.

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Lindsey Vonn

**Goldie
Goodsport's
Supersport**



Height: 5-10
Age: 30
Hometown:
St. Paul,
Minnesota

Prior to 2013, skier Lindsey Vonn was in a league all by herself. She won three consecutive overall World Cup skiing titles from 2008 to 2010, lost the 2011 title by just 3 points, and reclaimed it in 2012. Along the way, she collected the gold medal in downhill racing at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada.

But a pair of knee injuries threatened to end her domination of the sport. Even surgery and months of painful rehabilitation could not guarantee her knee would hold up to the stresses of rocketing down mountains.

Lindsey set her sights on the 2015 World Cup season for a comeback. After a slow start, Lindsey got in a groove. By early March, she had topped the winner's podium in six races. A victory on March 8 pushed her career World Cup medal count to 111.



from The Mini Page © 2015 Universal Uclick

Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Liz: Why did the librarian slip and fall?

Leonard: Because he wandered into the non-friction section!



Leopold: Why was the clock banned from the library?

Lester: It tocked too much!

Larry: What should you do if your dog starts eating your favorite library book?

Lonny: Take the words right out of its mouth!



Meet Illustrator Dan Santat

The Caldecott Medal is presented each year to the illustrator of the most distinguished picture book for children.



Dan Santat won the 2015 Caldecott Medal for “The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend.” Dan has written and illustrated three books and has illustrated many more by other authors.

Finding his own path

Dan loved drawing when he was a kid. However, he earned his college degree in microbiology because his father, a doctor, wanted him to become a doctor as well.

He said that his father “discouraged me from taking art classes, but he couldn’t discourage me from reading Garfield cartoons, reading books and drawing things on my own.”

Dan said he was planning to go on to dental college, but “I started having cold feet. I told myself I would probably really regret my life if I didn’t pursue art since that’s what I loved.”

In “The Adventures of Beekle,” an imaginary friend sets off on a journey to find a child who needs him.



Jacket art © 2014 by Dan Santat, published by Little Brown and Company

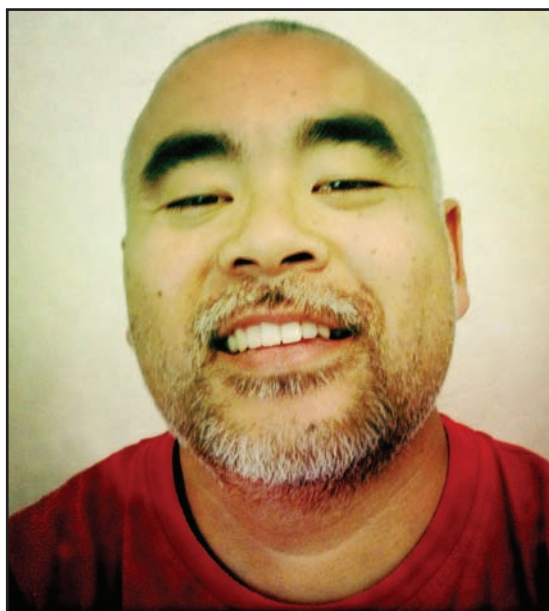


photo courtesy Dan Santat

Dan Santat’s wife, Leah, is a biologist. They have two sons, Alek, 9, and Kyle, 6. The family, who live in Southern California, have a border collie/chow mix, a mini Australian shepherd, a cat and a hamster.

Going after his dream

When he was ready to graduate from college, Dan told his father he wanted to go to art school. His dad said, “I just want you to be happy.”

Dan said, “This gave me the drive to really show him that that was the right decision. I attacked art like it was a mission.” He took every art class he could so that he could build up a **portfolio**, or set of his artwork. His portfolio earned him admission into art college.

Right after graduating, he got a job working on art for video games. He soon wrote his first picture book, “The Guild of Geniuses.” He went on to create the Disney Channel animated series “The Replacements.”

Books for his sons

Dan wrote “The Adventures of Beekle” for his son Alek. “Beekle,” the first word Alek said, was his word for bicycle. Beekle wears a paper crown because in a picture of his son, Alek is wearing one.

Dan is now writing a book for his son Kyle. In this book, a boy grows so bored on a car trip that time slows down, and he travels back in time. It is scheduled to come out in 2016.

In the graphic novel “Sidekicks,” a superhero’s dog, chameleon and hamster decide they would make excellent sidekicks. But where is the cat?



Jacket art © 2011 by Dan Santat, published by Scholastic

Some favorites

Color: “Indian yellow. The unusual thing about that is that the paint is made from yak urine, but it’s a beautiful yellow.”

Hobbies: “Cooking, playing video games, watching cartoons with my kids.”

Advice to kids

“Don’t be afraid to make mistakes; don’t be afraid to get messy; don’t be afraid to be yourself.”

Look through your newspaper for stories that would make a good book.

Next week, The Mini Page celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope.

The Mini Page Staff

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