



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



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2014 Honor Book Awards

Meet Holly Black

Holly Black won a 2014 Newbery Honor Book award for “Doll Bones.” She has written several books for kids and young adults. She is best known for the books in “The Spiderwick Chronicles” series, which she co-wrote with Tony DiTerlizzi.

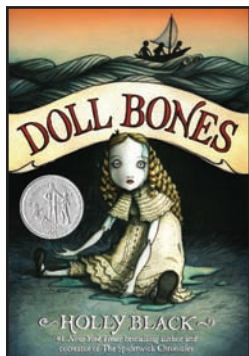
A writing life

Holly said that in eighth grade, she was lucky to be in a special class with a great teacher who required that each student write a novel.

Her middle-school novel, a 60-page book with vampires and dragons, “taught me I could finish something. I could make something,” Holly said.

After a pause in her writing during college, she told herself, “If I’m going to do this, I have to be serious about it.” It took her about six years to write her first published book, “Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale.”

In “Doll Bones,” three kids use dolls and action figures to help them create a story-game that goes on for years. But as they grow up, things change. All of a sudden, their world becomes scary and weird.



Jacket art © 2013 by Eliza Wheeler, published by Simon & Schuster



Photo by D. Williford

Holly Black, 42, her husband, Theodor Black, and their 15-month-old son, Sebastian, live in New England. Theodor is an illustrator, web designer and stay-at-home dad. They have three cats.

World of writing

While working on her first published novel, Holly worked for a medical journal and wrote for a role-playing gaming magazine. She met Tony DiTerlizzi when she interviewed him for that magazine. At the time, he was an artist for the role-playing game “Dungeons and Dragons.”

Tony had an idea for a guide to fantastic creatures. Holly and Tony began writing about that world, creating “The Spiderwick Chronicles.”

Holly writes in her home, but does much of her work away from home. She often travels to new places, holding writing retreats with friends.

Some favorites

Colors: “Black, like my name. It’s easy to wear black clothes because everything matches. But now my hair is aqua, and I’m super into aqua.”

Children’s books: “The Chronicles of Prydain” by Lloyd Alexander

Advice to kids

“When I was a kid, I did want to be a writer but didn’t know anyone who did anything creative professionally. It seemed really unlikely.

“People always said to me, ‘You have to believe in yourself if you want to do something.’ I knew I didn’t really believe in myself and thought, ‘I guess I can’t do this then.’

“But it’s OK if you don’t believe it will work. You can do it anyway. Keep going forward, keep at it. Just keep going like you do believe.”



Jacket art © 2003 by Tony DiTerlizzi, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

“The Field Guide” is the first book in “The Spiderwick Chronicles.” Three kids discover a guide to fairies, which pulls them into a world full of threatening danger and mystery.

Children's Book Awards

Each year, the Children's Book Council sponsors a survey to find out kids' favorite books. Children across the country vote for their favorite books, authors and illustrators.

Here are the kids' top choices for 2014.

Favorite author

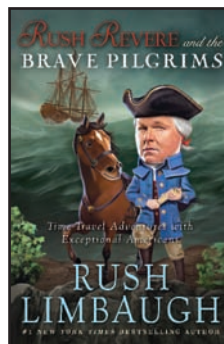
Kids voted for Rush Limbaugh as Author of the Year for "Rush Revere and the Brave Pilgrims: Time-Travel Adventures With Exceptional Americans." Rush is an adult-level talk show host and has written one other book for kids.



Rush Limbaugh

photo courtesy Simon & Schuster

In "Rush Revere and the Brave Pilgrims," a substitute history teacher goes back in time with a talking horse to meet the Pilgrims coming over on the Mayflower in 1620.



jacket art © 2013, published by Simon & Schuster

Favorite illustrator

Kids voted for Grace Lee as Illustrator of the Year for "Sofia the First: The Floating Palace" by Catherine Hapka. Grace has worked in movie animation and as a kids' book illustrator.



Grace Lee

photo courtesy Disney Publishing Worldwide

In "The Floating Palace," Sofia helps save a mermaid's kingdom and bring Sofia's people together with the mermaid's people.



jacket art © 2013 by Grace Lee, published by Disney Publishing Worldwide

The Children's Choice Book Award winners are:
Kindergarten to Second Grade Book of the Year: "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt



jacket art © 2013 by Oliver Jeffers, published by Philomel

In "The Day the Crayons Quit," the crayons refuse to keep coloring.

Third Grade to Fourth Grade Book of the Year: "Bugs in My Hair!" by David Shannon



jacket art © 2013 by David Shannon, published by Blue Sky Press

"Bugs in My Hair!" is a funny tale about head lice.

Fifth Grade to Sixth Grade Book of the Year: "National Geographic Kids: Myths Busted"

"Myths Busted" tells the truth about many modern beliefs. For example, alligators do not live in New York sewers.



jacket art © 2013 by National Geographic

Teen Book of the Year: "Allegiant" by Veronica Roth



jacket art © 2013 by Joel Tittle, published by HarperCollins

In "Allegiant," the conclusion to the "Divergent" trilogy, Tris and her friends discover the secrets behind society's factions, or groups.

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:

- storybreathing.com
- blackholly.com
- hmhbooks.com/wiesner

At the library:

- "Writer to Writer: From Think to Ink" by Gail Carson Levine

Book Awards



Basset Brown's

Try 'n' Find

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

Words that remind us of past and current Newbery and Caldecott winners are hidden in the block above. See if you can find: BUNTING, BYRD, CREECH, CURTIS, DIAZ, DICAMILLO, DILL, ETS, FLOCA, FOX, GANTOS, HALL, HESSE, LAI, LOWRY, PARK, PINKNEY, RATHMANN, SACHAR, SELZNICK, STEAD, THURBER, VOIGT, YOLEN.



Mini Spy

Mini Spy and her friends love reading new stories in the library. See if you can find:

<input type="checkbox"/> word MINI	<input type="checkbox"/> sock		
<input type="checkbox"/> kite	<input type="checkbox"/> letter T	<input type="checkbox"/> heart	<input type="checkbox"/> pocket knife
<input type="checkbox"/> letter M	<input type="checkbox"/> axe	<input type="checkbox"/> lips	<input type="checkbox"/> bandage
<input type="checkbox"/> pumpkin	<input type="checkbox"/> letter H	<input type="checkbox"/> mitten	<input type="checkbox"/> number 3
<input type="checkbox"/> letter J	<input type="checkbox"/> letter D	<input type="checkbox"/> olive	<input type="checkbox"/> musical note
<input type="checkbox"/> ladder	<input type="checkbox"/> letter A	<input type="checkbox"/> acorn	<input type="checkbox"/> exclamation mark



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Mild Mango Salsa

You'll need:

- 1 ripe mango, diced (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 1/3 cup of cilantro, chopped
- 1/3 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/4 cup purple onion, chopped (optional)
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- Pinch of salt

What to do:

1. Combine first four ingredients in medium-size bowl.
2. Stir in lime juice and pinch of salt.
3. Chill for 30 minutes to combine flavors.
4. Serve with chips, or with chicken, pork or fish as a side dish.

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

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Meet Raffi Cavoukian



photo by Billie Woods

Raffi Cavoukian, known simply as Raffi, is a singer, writer and composer famous for his music for kids, including the environmental song "Baby Beluga." His newest album is "Love Bug."

In the mid-1970s, he was performing at a folk music festival when festival organizers asked him to help with a school program where he sang with kids. At the same time, his mother-in-law asked him to sing at her preschool. She suggested he make an album for kids, and he took her advice.

Raffi has founded The Centre for Child Honouring, which works to help adults honor kids as a first step to promoting peace. He also co-founded the Red Hood Project, a movement to make social media safe for kids to use.

Raffi, 66, was born in Cairo, Egypt, and moved with his family to Canada when he was 10.

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Gus Goodsport's Supersport



Height: 5-9
Birthdate: 6-3-1992
Hometown: Memmingen, Germany

With the pressure on, German soccer player Mario Götze (GUTZ-ah) made the most of his moment in the spotlight. Mario came off the bench late in the final match of the 2014 FIFA World Cup with his team locked in a scoreless draw with Argentina. His coach had a simple message for the 22-year-old striker: "Show to the world ... that you can decide the World Cup."

A star player for the professional club Bayern Munich, Mario had been fairly quiet in the tournament up to that point, netting only one goal. In overtime of the finals, however, Mario received a pass near the goal, controlled the ball off his chest and booted it past the opposing goalkeeper.

Mario's goal gave Germany its first World Cup title since the country was reunified almost 24 years ago. West Germany won titles in 1954, 1974 and 1990.

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Mario Götze

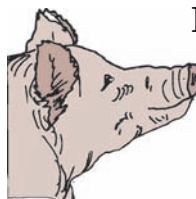


Mighty Funny's

Mini Jokes

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

Paula: What does a baby write with?
Percy: A playpen!



Pamela: What is big enough to hold a pig, but small enough to hold in your hand?

Polly: A pen!

Philip: What did the professor have to do when he lost his pen again?

Perry: Re-search!



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2014 Book Award Winners

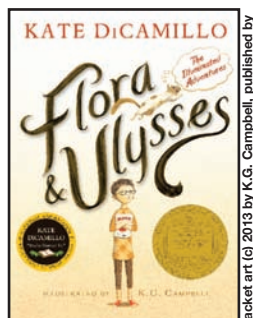
Read books and journey through exciting new worlds! To begin your exploration, check out some of this year's award-winning books.

The John Newbery Medal is awarded each year to the author of the most outstanding children's book. This year there were also four Honor Book winners, including "Doll Bones" by Holly Black.



Kate DiCamillo won the 2014 Newbery Medal for "Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures" and the 2004 Newbery Medal for "The Tale of Despereaux."

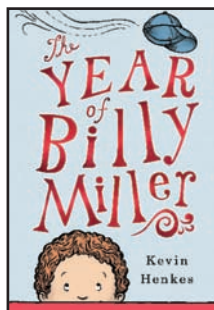
In "Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures," Flora rescues a squirrel after it is sucked into a vacuum cleaner. But the squirrel comes out with superpowers.



jacket art © 2013 by K.G. Campbell, published by Candlewick Press

More Newbery Honor Books

Kevin Henkes has written and illustrated about 50 books for kids. He received the 2005 Caldecott Medal for "Kitten's First Full Moon."



jacket art © 2013 by Kevin Henkes, published by HarperCollins

In "The Year of Billy Miller," Billy is anxious about starting second grade with a new teacher and a know-it-all desk partner. His teacher, father, sister and mother each tell parts of Billy's story.

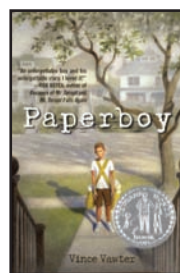
Amy Timberlake has written two other books for kids and teaches writing to college students.

In "One Came Home," 13-year-old Georgie does not believe her sister is dead. She and her sister's former boyfriend set out to track down the truth about her sister.



jacket art © 2013 by David Homer at Debaser, published by Alfred A. Knopf

Vince Vawter overcame his own stutter and became a newspaper publisher. This is his first novel.



jacket art © 2013 by Chris Sheehan, published by Random House Children's Books

In "Paperboy," an 11-year-old boy is great at baseball, but shy because of his stutter. When he takes over a friend's paper route, he finds new friends and a scary enemy.

The Caldecott Medal is presented each year to the illustrator of the most distinguished picture book for children. This year there were also three Honor Book winners.



Brian Floca won the 2014 Caldecott Medal for "Locomotive." He illustrates his own and other authors' books.



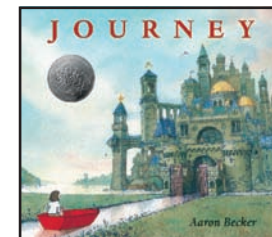
jacket art © 2013 by Brian Floca, published by Atheneum/ Simon & Schuster

"Locomotive" is a view of the machinery, crew and passengers of the locomotive in 1869, when it was changing history.

Caldecott Honor Books

Aaron Becker has worked in film design. His second book, "Quest," will be out this month.

In "Journey," a lonely girl creates a new world with her red crayon.



jacket art © 2013 by Aaron Becker, published by Candlewick Press

Molly Idle has worked in movie animation and written and illustrated several books.

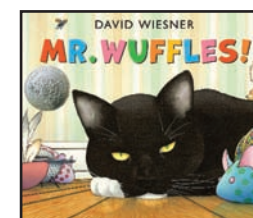


jacket art © Molly Idle, published by Chronicle Books LLC

In "Flora and the Flamingo," a girl and her flamingo friend explore their friendship through dance.

David Wiesner has won three Caldecott Medals, for "Tuesday," "The Three Pigs" and "Flotsam."

In "Mr. Wuffles!" a cat causes trouble for tiny aliens until they become allies of insects in the house.



jacket art © 2013 by David Wiesner, published by Clarion Books

Look through your newspaper for powerful stories that would make entertaining books.

Next week, The Mini Page is about the importance of sleep, especially as school starts.

The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Founding Editor and Editor at Large Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor Lucy Lien - Associate Editor Wendy Daley - Artist