



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



© 2013 Universal Uclick

from The Mini Page © 2013 Universal Uclick

2013 Honor Book Awards

Meet Sheila Turnage

Sheila Turnage won a 2013 Newbery Honor Book award for “Three Times Lucky.” This is her first novel for kids.

Growing up

Sheila decided to become a writer when she was in the first grade. After she wrote her first story in class, the teacher said, “This is an excellent story, and you are an excellent writer.”

“I absolutely believed her,” Sheila said. The teacher took her to the third-grade classroom, telling her, “Read it to the third-graders.”

“I was terrified of them; they were so big,” Sheila said. “I was scared to death.” But by the end of the story, she said, “I had the third-graders eating out of my hand. I remember walking out of that room and thinking, ‘This is it. This is what I’m doing.’”

In “Three Times Lucky,” Moses LoBeau plans to hang out for the summer with her best friend, Dale. But when Dale becomes a suspect in a murder, the two friends go to work to clear his name.



Jacket art © 2012 by Gilbert Ford, published by Dial Books for Young Readers



photo by Rodney L. Beasley

Sheila, 59, and her husband, Rodney Beasley, live in the house in North Carolina where her great-grandparents lived. They have a blind dog, an Australian blue heeler. Her husband owns a company that restores old homes, and the couple restored their home. There are deer, turkeys, coyotes, rabbits and chickens in their yard.

Learning to tell stories

Sheila said her experience “just shows how important teachers are.” Her teacher could have discouraged her instead of making her excited.

Many members of her parents’ families were great storytellers, she said. She learned from them.

She has written many magazine articles, especially travel stories. She has also written adult-level nonfiction books and one picture book for kids.

Her background

Sheila earned her college degree in **cultural anthropology**, which is the study of how people live. She said it “is the study of realities, so a pretty good thing for a writer to learn about and think about.” When she was a student, she helped excavate a Mayan temple.

Some favorites

Sports: scuba diving — “It’s so beautiful under the water.”

Books for kids: “Peter Pan” and Hardy Boys mysteries: “I loved those books you could move right into. The Hardy Boys were both exciting and safe at the same time. You knew they’d be OK.”

Advice for kids

“If you want to be a writer, just jump in there and do it. You can’t do it wrong. If you’re doing it for yourself, nobody’s going to be grading it. Write about what you really, really care about.”



Jacket art © 1984, published by Harcourt Children's Books

In the picture book “Trout the Magnificent,” a fish asks the animal council for permission to fly. But problems arise that take Trout on great adventures.

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 2013.

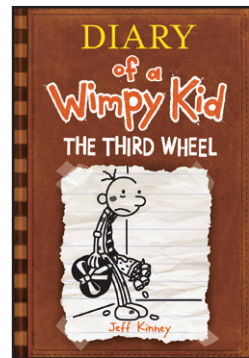
Favorite author

Kids voted for Jeff Kinney as Author of the Year for "Diary of a Wimpy Kid 7: The Third Wheel." Jeff designs games and writes and illustrates books.



Jeff Kinney

photo courtesy Abrams Books for Young Readers



jacket art © 2012 by Jeff Kinney, published by Abrams

In "The Third Wheel," Greg is worried about finding a partner for the middle school Valentine's dance. But as usual, unexpected things happen around Greg.

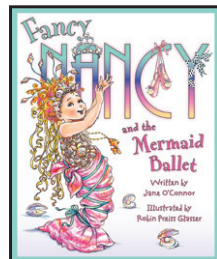
Favorite illustrator

Kids voted for Robin Preiss Glasser as Illustrator of the Year for "Fancy Nancy and the Mermaid Ballet." Robin has illustrated several books for kids.



photo courtesy HarperCollins

Robin Preiss Glasser

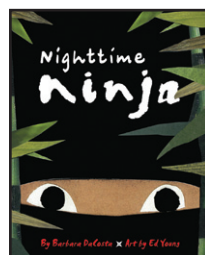


jacket art © 2012 by Robin Preiss Glasser, published by HarperCollins Children's Books

In "Fancy Nancy and the Mermaid Ballet" by Jane O'Connor, Nancy is disappointed when she doesn't land the role of a mermaid. But then disaster strikes at the ballet. How will it all end?

The Children's Choice Book Award winners are:

Kindergarten to Second Grade



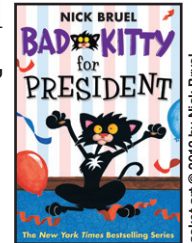
jacket art © 2012 by Ed Young, published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Book of the Year: "Nighttime Ninja" by Barbara DaCosta.

In "Nighttime Ninja," a ninja goes on a treasure-seeking mission.

Third Grade to Fourth Grade Book of the Year: "Bad Kitty for President" by Nick Bruel

In "Bad Kitty for President," the Neighborhood Cat Coalition is holding an election. One vote will decide the winner.



jacket art © 2012 by Nick Bruel, published by Roaring Brook/Macmillan

Fifth Grade to Sixth Grade Book of the Year: "Dork Diaries 4: Tales From a Not-So-Graceful Ice Princess" by Rachel Renee Russell

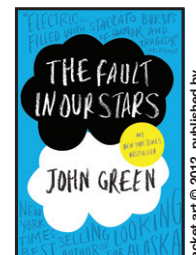


jacket art © 2012 by Rachel Renee Russell, published by Simon & Schuster

In "Dork Diaries 4," Nikki enters an ice-skating contest to raise money to help an animal shelter stay open, but a girl is causing trouble.

Teen Book of the Year: "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green

In "The Fault in Our Stars," a cancer patient falls in love, and her life changes.



jacket art © 2012, published by Dutton/Penguin

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

- wimpykid.com
- ala.org

At the library

- "Little Red Writing" by Joan Holub
- "Look at My Book: How Kids Can Write & Illustrate Terrific Books" by Loreen Leedy



TM Basset Brown The News Hound's

Book Awards TRY 'N' FIND

Words that remind us of Newbery and Caldecott winners are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: APPELATE, AVI, BROWN, CLEARY, CREECH, CUSHMAN, FOX, HENKES, HESSE, LOWRY, MACLACHLAN, MCKINLEY, PARK, PECK, PINKNEY, RASCHKA, SACHAR, SELZNICK, SENDAK, VOIGT, WIESNER.



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

Mini Spy . . .



Mini Spy loves to catch up on some new books at the library. See if you can find:

- owl
- kite
- letter B
- candle
- word MINI
- ruler
- bug
- tin can
- sock
- letter E
- letter D
- zebra
- ice cream cone
- ladder
- number 3
- heart
- man in the moon



from The Mini Page © 2013 Universal Uclick



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Fish Patties

You'll need:

- 1 1/2 cups cooked white fish (any variety)
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon dill weed
- 2 tablespoons Panko bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

What to do:

1. Shred fish, making sure skin is removed first.
2. Combine shredded fish with mayonnaise, dill weed and bread crumbs.
3. Form into 2 patties.
4. Heat oil in a skillet using medium-high setting.
5. Cook patties 2 to 3 minutes on each side.
6. Serve on buns if desired. Serves 2.

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



from The Mini Page © 2013 Universal Uclick

Meet Alex Mitnick



photo courtesy Alex Mitnick

Alex Mitnick is a singer, guitarist, composer and the leader of Alex & the Kaleidoscope Band. The group's newest CD is "I'm So Glad."

Alex directs the music program for children at a school in Princeton, N.J. He teaches kids from 18 months old through the eighth grade. He also teaches college classes to teachers and counselors.

He works with Alan Bell, who writes the lyrics, or words, to their songs. Alex and Alan began writing musicals for kids at the school where Alex teaches. Later, they started creating albums.

Alex sang in his high school choir and played the trumpet in the band. He majored in jazz guitar in college.

He has taught music to kids in many countries. He helped young kids in a Brazilian ghetto by teaching them musical games they could play together to build confidence and trust.

from The Mini Page © 2013 Universal Uclick



Gus Goodsport's Report

Supersport: Kelly Slater



Height: 5-9
Weight: 160

Birthdate: 2-11-72
Hometown: Cocoa Beach, Fla.

For some, the beach is a place to bask in the sun. For Kelly Slater, it's a place to battle the waves.

Slater is a super surfer, one of the all-time best. Where many have fallen, he has twisted, spun,

flipped and maintained his balance in the foaming sea.

Slater won his first world title at age 20 in 1992 and his 11th at age 39 in 2011. He also has done charity work, appeared in a few films, and been honored by the U.S. House of Representatives as an "ambassador for his sport and as a role model."

Talented youngsters keep surfacing in the surfing world, but Slater doesn't shy away from competition. He still answers the call of the roaring ocean and takes on the giant waves.

from The Mini Page © 2013 Universal Uclick



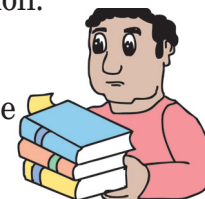
MIGHTY FUNNY'S

Mini Jokes

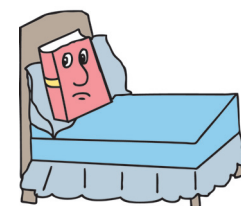
All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Betty: What do you call someone whose books are always overdue?

Brady: A bookkeeper!



Beth: What book is hairy?
Barry: A diction-hairy!



Barra: Why couldn't the book sleep?
Barbara: Because it lost its covers!

from The Mini Page © 2013 Universal Uclick

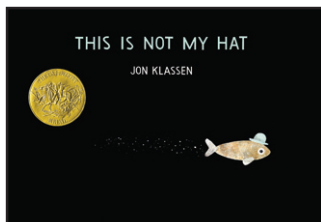
2013 Book Award Winners

Give yourself a gift and read a good book! You can choose from one of this year's award-winning books.

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



Jon Klassen has worked on movie animation and illustrated several books, including the 2013 Caldecott-winning book, "This Is Not My Hat." This year, he also won a Caldecott Honor Book award for "Extra Yarn."

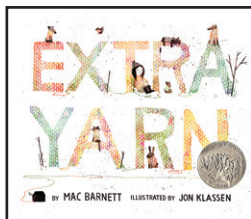


jacket art © 2012 by Jon Klassen, published by Candlewick Press

In "This Is Not My Hat," a little fish steals a hat from a big fish, who is not happy.

Caldecott Honor Books

In "Extra Yarn" by Mac Barnett, everything changes after a girl finds a box of magic yarn.



jacket art © 2012 by Jon Klassen, published by HarperCollins

Peter Brown has written and illustrated several books for kids.

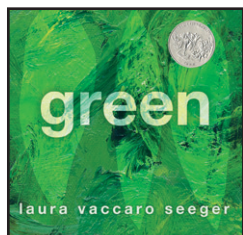
In "Creepy Carrots!" by Aaron Reynolds, a young bunny loves to eat carrots until one night he hears them creeping after him.



jacket art © 2012 by Aaron Reynolds, published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division

Next week, The Mini Page is about students studying in other countries.

Laura Vaccaro Seeger has written and illustrated several books for kids.



jacket art © 2012 by Laura Vaccaro Seeger, published by Roaring Brook Press

"Green" is a celebration of the world's beautiful green things.

David Small has illustrated several books, including the 2001 Caldecott Medal winner, "So You Want To Be President?"

In "One Cool Friend" by Toni Buzzeo, a boy figures out how to care for a penguin in his house.



jacket art © 2012 by David Small, published by Dial Books for Young Readers

Pamela Zagarenski also illustrated past years' Caldecott Honor Books "Song of the Water Boatman" and "Red Sings From Treetops."



jacket art © 2012 by Pamela Zagarenski, published by Houghton Mifflin Books for Children

In "Sleep Like a Tiger" by Mary Logue, a little girl struggles against falling asleep.

The John Newbery Medal is awarded each year to the author of the most outstanding children's book. This year, there were also three Newbery Honor Book winners.



Katherine Applegate's many books include the Animorphs series. Her book "The One and Only Ivan" was awarded the 2013 Newbery Medal.

Look through your newspaper to find an interesting picture. Make up a story about it.



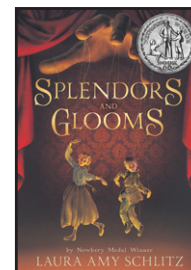
jacket art © 2012 by Castello, published by HarperCollins

"The One and Only Ivan" is based on a true story about a gorilla kept in a little cage for 27 years. He painted pictures and finally was moved to a good zoo.

Newbery Honor Books

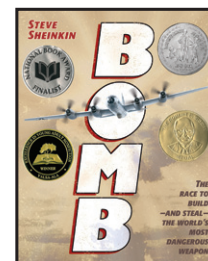
Laura Amy Schlitz's books include the 2008 Newbery Medal-winning "Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices From a Medieval Village."

In "Splendors and Glooms," a girl disappears, and people suspect she was kidnapped by a puppeteer. Two orphans join forces to help find her.



© 2012 by Candlewick Press

Steve Sheinkin has written several books for kids about history.



jacket art © 2012, published by Roaring Brook Press

"Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon" is the true story of the dangers, spying and intelligence that went into the making of the first atomic bomb.

Sheila Turnage has written books for adults and one picture book. This is her first novel for kids.

In "Three Times Lucky," a girl washes ashore during a hurricane. Now, when she's in sixth grade, a murder touches her life.



jacket art © 2012 by Gilbert Ford, published by Dial Books for Young Readers

The Mini Page Staff

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