



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



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2014 Newbery and Caldecott Winners

Meet Illustrator Brian Floca

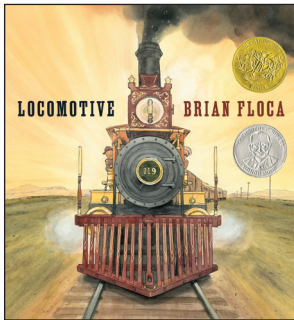
National Library Week is April 13-19. This year's theme is "Lives change @ your library."

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



Brian Floca won the 2014 Caldecott Medal for "Locomotive." He has written and illustrated several books. He has also illustrated many books by other children's book authors, including the Poppy books by Avi.

In "Locomotive," two kids and their mom take one of the first train trips from Omaha, Neb., to Sacramento, Calif., in 1869. The railroad changed history.



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

The fun of drawing

Brian said he has always loved to draw. Parents and teachers gave him a lot of encouragement in elementary school.

He studied history and art in college. He met many artists from a nearby college and got a job illustrating a graphic novel by Avi.



photo courtesy Simon & Schuster

Brian Floca, 45, lives in the Brooklyn area of New York City.

His work

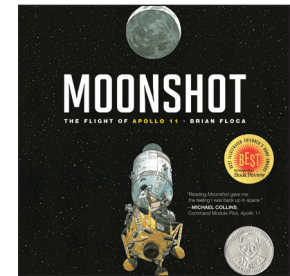
Brian shares studio space with four other artists. He goes to the studio every day. Having friends there, he said, "makes it more fun and less lonely. It can be isolating to sit and write all day." The artists often take breaks and eat lunch together.

Brian said he loves his job. "I like to sketch. My work is my hobby; my hobby is my work."

Investigating his ideas

Brian researches for his books in many ways. For example, for "Moonshot," he read books and visited the Johnson Space Center in Houston and the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

He said: "Locomotive' started with a simple idea, steam locomotion. I didn't know about that period, so I started researching, reading books. I went to the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore and got interested in the transcontinental railroad." He drove the route from Omaha to Sacramento to get a feel for the journey.

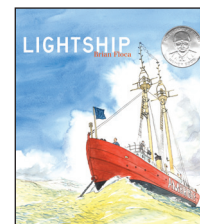


jacket art © 2009 by Brian Floca, published by Atheneum/Simon & Schuster

"Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11" is the story of the machines and astronauts in the first trip moon landing in 1969.

Advice to kids

"Draw what you enjoy, and keep drawing, and don't stop," Brian said.



jacket art © 2007 by Brian Floca, published by Atheneum/Simon & Schuster

"Lightship" tells about the ships that worked as lighthouses where no buildings could be built. Sailors faced many dangers on these lightships at sea.

Coretta Scott King Awards

Author award

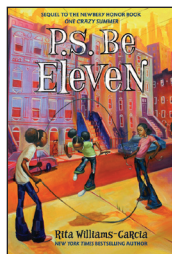
Rita Williams-Garcia won this year's Coretta Scott King Author Award for "P.S. Be Eleven."

She has written several books for kids, including the 2011 Newbery Honor Book "One Crazy Summer." "P.S. Be Eleven" is the sequel to "One Crazy Summer." Delphine has to try to care for her sisters in spite of family and society turmoil.



Rita Williams-Garcia

photo by Jason Berger

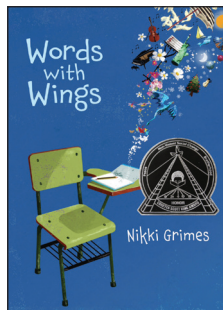


jacket art (c) 2013 by Frank Morrison

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



Nikki Grimes is a poet, singer, dancer, photographer and **textile**, or fabric, artist.

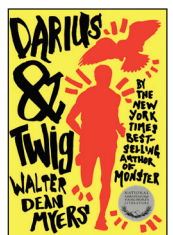


jacket art © by Eva Vazquez, published by Wordsong

"Words With Wings" is a novel written in poetry. A young girl has always daydreamed, but now her dreams are an escape from trouble. Is she daydreaming too much?

John Lewis is a civil rights leader and congressman. Andrew Aydin is an aide to Rep. Lewis.

"March" is the first in a trilogy of graphic novels about the life of Rep. Lewis and the civil rights movement.



jacket art © 2013 by Jennifer Heuer, published by HarperCollins

Author Honor Books

Walter Dean Myers has written more than 50 books, including two Newbery Honor Book award-winners.

"Darius & Twig" is about two best friends growing up in Harlem. Darius is a writer and Twig is a runner. They each must learn how to realize their dreams.

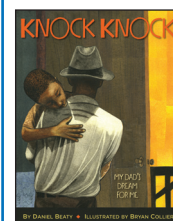
Illustrator award

Bryan Collier won the King Illustrator Award for "Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me." Bryan has illustrated many kids' books.

He directed a project in Harlem to help beginning artists.



Bryan Collier



jacket art © 2013 by Bryan Collier, published by Little Brown and Company

In "Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me" by Daniel Beaty, a boy's dad wakes him each morning with a loving game. But one day, his dad is gone.

Illustrator Honor Book

Kadir Nelson creates art for many types of media, including kids' books.



jacket art © Kadir Nelson, published by HarperCollins

"Nelson Mandela" tells of the boyhood of Nelson Mandela, who fought against racism in South Africa. He later became president of that country.

Ready Resources

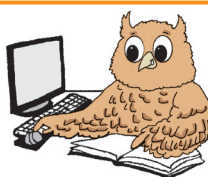
The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- brianfloc.com
- katedicamillo.com
- ritawg.com
- bryancollier.com

At the library

- "Secrets of the Book" by Erin Fry
- "Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library" by Chris Grabenstein



Try
'n'
Find

Library Week

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

Words that remind us of things you can gain from books are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: ADVENTURE, ANSWERS, ART, EXCITEMENT, FACTS, FUN, HISTORY, IDEAS, INSPIRATION, JOKES, JOY, KNOWLEDGE, LAUGHTER, MYSTERY, PUZZLES, ROMANCE, SURPRISES, UNDERSTANDING.



Mini Spy

Mini Spy and her friends love to visit the library!

- See if you can find:
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> heart | <input type="checkbox"/> pumpkin | <input type="checkbox"/> letter H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> banana | <input type="checkbox"/> number 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> word MINI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter B | <input type="checkbox"/> ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> sock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> number 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> letter M |
| <input type="checkbox"/> butterfly | <input type="checkbox"/> bandage | <input type="checkbox"/> tin can |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter A | <input type="checkbox"/> kite | <input type="checkbox"/> mitten |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pocket knife | | |



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Easter Egg Coconut Cake

You'll need:

- 1 (18.25-ounce) package white cake mix, plus ingredients to make
- 1 (14-ounce) can fat-free sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (15-ounce) can cream of coconut (not coconut milk)
- 1 (8-ounce) container light whipped topping
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 5 to 7 drops green food dye
- 15 to 20 large jelly beans (can vary)

What to do:

1. Prepare and bake white cake mix in a greased 9-by-13-inch pan. Use whole eggs.
2. When cake is done but still hot, prick the cake with a fork, making many small holes.
3. Combine condensed milk and cream of coconut. Pour mixture over cake to soak in. Let cool for 45 minutes.
4. Spread whipped topping over cooled cake.
5. Mix green food dye in flaked coconut until desired color of green.
6. Sprinkle green flakes on top of cake and arrange jelly beans to look like hidden eggs.
7. Keep refrigerated until serving. Serves 16.

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

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Meet Andres Salguero

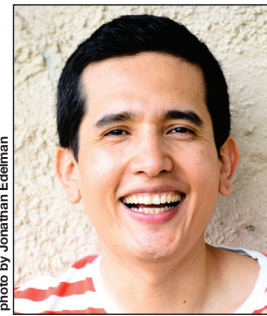


photo by Jonathan Edelman

Andres Salguero is a musician and composer of Latin American-style music, or music from South and Central America. His first CD for kids and families is "Uno, Dos, Tres con Andres!" The words are sung in both Spanish and English.

Andres is from Colombia. His father is a guitar player and his mom is a singer. When Andres was 6, he joined a Colombian folk music and dance group. That group made a record when he was 8.

His dad taught Andres to play the guitar. When he was in college in Colombia, he learned to play the clarinet and started playing classical music. He went to the United States to earn advanced degrees in music.

When he was in graduate school in Kansas City, Mo., he began playing with Latin-music bands. He then put together a show for kids and took it on the road.

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The Mini Page®

Standards Spotlight: Meet Illustrator Brian Floca

Mini Page activities meet many state and national educational standards. Each week we identify standards that relate to The Mini Page's content and offer activities that will help your students reach them.

This week's standard:

- Students comprehend and respond to a variety of images and texts. (Language Arts: Reading)

Activities:

1. Design a story and book cover about a comic strip character. Paste the character on the book cover. Write several sentences describing the story.
2. Select a news story that would make a good topic for Brian Floca's next book. Explain your choice.
3. Write a paragraph describing how Kate DiCamillo and Brian Floca are similar and how they are different.
4. Find three stories in your newspaper that show the importance of family and friends.
5. Select a photo in the newspaper. Pretend that it shows the end of a story. Write a story about what happened before the photo was taken.

(standards by Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)

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Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes

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

Lisa: What are marshmallows filed under in a library?

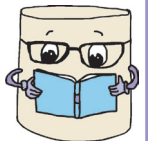
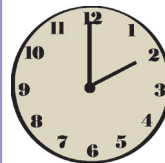
Larry: The Dewey Goopy Decimal System!

Lester: Why was the clock banned from the library?

Lynn: It tocked too much!

Lonnie: What do librarians use for bait when they are fishing?

Lilly: Bookworms!



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Meet Author Kate DiCamillo

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



Kate DiCamillo won the 2014 Newbery Medal for "Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures." She has written several books, including the 2004 Newbery Medal winner, "The Tale of Despereaux." Her first novel, "Because of Winn-Dixie," won a 2001 Newbery Honor Book award. Both were made into movies.

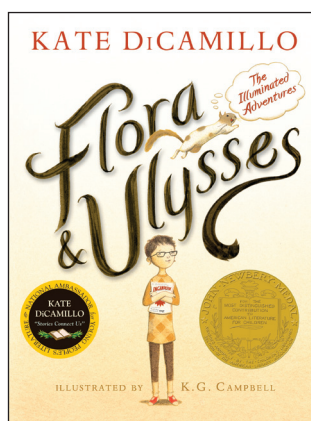
Childhood

"As a kid, I lived to read," Kate said. "As an adult, I live to read. But I never thought of being a writer (when I was a kid).

"I loved books so much, it never even occurred to me that writing was something a human being did."

When she was in elementary school, kids did not learn how to write creatively. They wrote only **essays**, or papers about facts. "Things have changed," she said.

In "Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures," when a squirrel is sucked into a vacuum cleaner, he comes out with superpowers and a desire to write poetry. He is befriended by Flora, who loves superhero comics.



jacket art (c) 2013 by K.G. Campbell



photo © Catherine Smith Photography

Kate DiCamillo, 50, lives in Minneapolis. She and a friend share a dog.

Becoming a writer

Kate considered becoming a writer when she was in college, but she did not start writing until 10 years later. In the meantime, she did odd jobs, such as selling tickets at amusement parks and working in a greenhouse and at a campground.

When she was about 30, she realized: "I could go for the rest of my life saying, 'I think I could do this thing or want to do this thing,' and not do it.

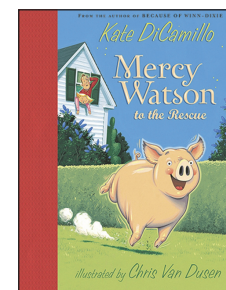
"The fear of not being able to do something or making a fool out of myself — that fear was lesser than the fear that I could spend my whole life thinking this is what I should do and not doing it."

Her writing

When Kate began writing, she was working in a book warehouse in Minneapolis. She set her alarm for 4:30 every morning so she could write for a couple of hours before going to work.

Now that she is a full-time writer, she writes two pages a day, five days each week, unless she is traveling.

In "Mercy Watson to the Rescue," a sweet pig crawls into bed with her adopted humans. When the bed breaks under the extra weight, Mercy runs for toast — and help.



jacket art © 2009 by Chris Van Dusen, published by Candlewick Press

Some favorites

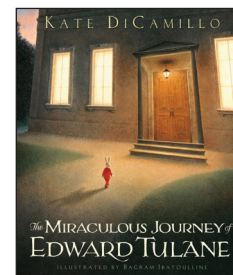
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Favorite children's books:

"Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White and "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio

Advice for kids

"Read a lot and keep everything open, your heart and your eyes and your ears and your brain."



jacket art © 2009 by Bagram Ibatouline, published by Candlewick Press

In "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane," a girl drops her china rabbit into the sea. The rabbit goes from owner to owner, learning something new with each one.

Look through your newspaper for stories that would make good books.

Next week, The Mini Page celebrates the 450th birthday of William Shakespeare.

The Mini Page Staff

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