

## Award-Winning Books



### Mini Fact:

National Library Week is April 7-13. Explore your local library!

### Meg Medina

The 2019 winner of the John Newbery Medal, awarded to an author for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children, is “Merci Suárez Changes Gears” by Meg Medina.

Medina’s main character is a sixth-grade girl who’s meeting challenges at school and at home. Her grandfather has changed, somehow, but no one in the family will tell her why. And her school-assigned “buddy,” a new boy, makes her the target of jealousy from another girl.

The Mini Page asked Meg Medina about how she became a writer.

“My family told lots of tales about their lives in Cuba. I loved imagining the palm trees and mangoes. ... It filled my imagination.” She said once she learned to read, she had “a portal to anywhere I want to go.”

Medina grew up in Queens, a borough in New York City, but today she lives in Virginia with her husband and children and their dog, Hugo.

Her advice for kids who want to write? “Really fall in love with stories and experience the many ways we can tell them. Volunteer for your school magazine or newspaper. Fill a private journal.”



Meg Medina

### Sophie Blackall

The 2019 Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children was awarded to Sophie Blackall for “Hello Lighthouse.” This is Blackall’s second Caldecott medal.

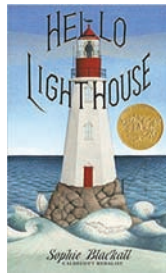
“Hello Lighthouse” takes readers inside the daily routine at a lighthouse, where the waves and weather continue outside and the lighthouse keeper’s family go about their business.

Blackall grew up in south Australia in a country town near the beach. Today she lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her children, Olive and Edward.

Blackall has said that illustrating books was “the thing I always wanted to do.” As a child, she started drawing on butcher paper that the butcher would give her on her walk home from school.

She said, “I’m old-school. I use pencil first. And then I use Chinese ink, which comes like a little stick and a stone, and you grind the stick of ink on the stone with some water and it makes a paste. And I paint with that the black-and-white tone layer. And then when that’s dry, I use watercolor washes over the top.”

Blackall said, “If you want to be an artist, the main thing is to love it. You have to be willing to ... make mistakes ... and to redo it over and over again.”



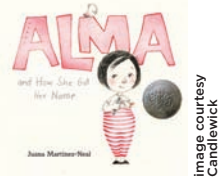
Sophie Blackall

### Honor books

Two Newbery Honor Books were named this year. There are four Caldecott Honor Books as well.

#### Caldecott Honor Books

- “Alma and How She Got Her Name,” illustrated and written by Juana Martinez-Neal



- “A Big Mooncake for Little Star,” illustrated and written by Grace Lin

- “The Rough Patch,” illustrated and written by Brian Lies



- “Thank You, Omu!” illustrated and written by Oge Mora

#### Newbery Honor Books

- “The Book of Boy,” written by Catherine Gilbert Murdock, illustrated by Ian Schoenherr



- “The Night Diary,” by Veera Hiranandani

### Coretta Scott King awards

The Coretta Scott King Author Award went to “A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919,” by Claire Hartfield.

The King Illustrator Award was won by “The Stuff of Stars,” illustrated by Ekua Holmes and written by Marion Dane Bauer.

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of award-winning books are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

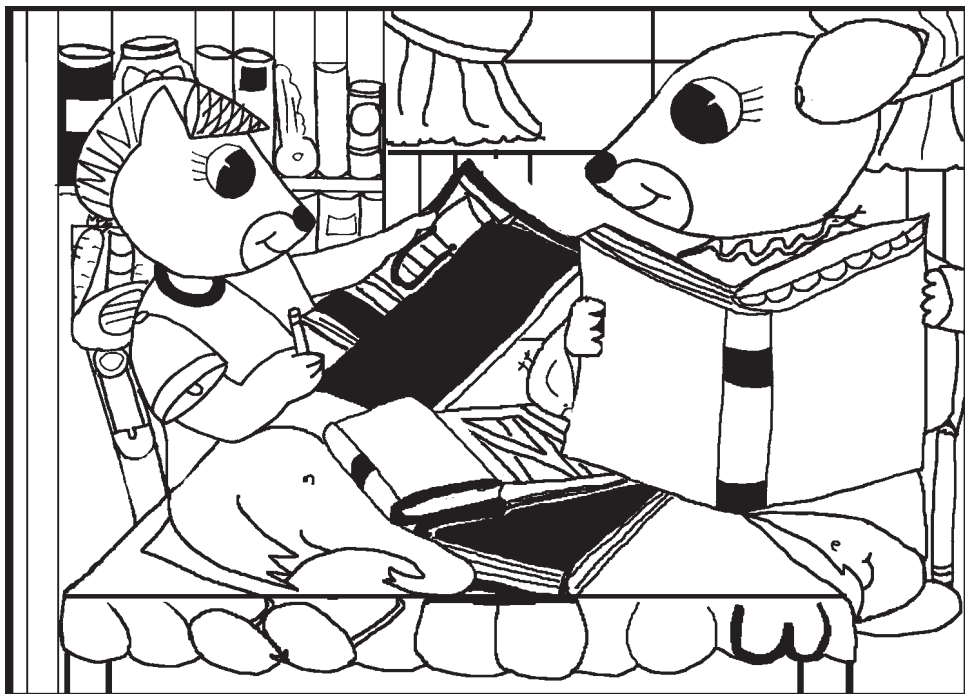


ARTIST, AUTHOR, AWARD, BLACKALL, BOOK, CALDECOTT, CHILDREN, EXPLORE, HONOR, ILLUSTRATOR, KING, LIBRARY, LITERATURE, MEDAL, MEDINA, NEWBERY, PICTURE, STORIES, WRITER.

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

## Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and Basset Brown are enjoying some of their favorite books. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

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- number 3
- bucket
- carrot
- bird
- safety pin
- eyeglasses
- letter Z
- word MINI
- pencil
- tin can
- pea pod
- ice cream cone
- snake
- bell
- letter U
- man in the moon
- elephant head
- olive
- key
- lima bean

## Mini Jokes



**Bina:** What did the queen do when she burped out loud?

**Brian:** She declared a royal pardon!

## Eco Note



Carbon is vital to life. In the atmosphere, it combines with oxygen to form carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This moves constantly between the air, earth and living things. Plants use CO<sub>2</sub> to **photosynthesize** and grow. Animals breathe out CO<sub>2</sub>. When plants die and rot, their carbon forms **fossil fuels**. CO<sub>2</sub> is released when these fuels are burned. CO<sub>2</sub> is also absorbed and released by the oceans.

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### For later:

Make a list of the award-winning books you would like to read. Compare your list with a friend's.

### Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/Everyone\\_content/Teaching\\_Guides/The\\_Mini\\_Page/](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/Everyone_content/Teaching_Guides/The_Mini_Page/)

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