2018
Notable Children's Books for K-4

Presented by:
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Triangle could not hiss anymore.
He was laughing too hard.

“Triangle!” said Square. “Is that you?”
“Yes!” said Triangle. “I know you are afraid of snakes. I have played a sneaky trick on you!”
Perfect Day by Lane Smith

The warmth of the sun.
The cool of the water.
A belly full of corn and seed.
A flower bed for a nap.
Another window could be dark, with a sleeping plant or two,
or maybe bright and rounded, like the moon.
Accident!
by Andrea Tsurumi

Pennsylvania Author/Illustrator
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Cristofori shows the prince a harpsichord, a keyboard instrument that plucks stiff strings. Ferdinando sits and begins to play. Forte, mezzo forte, piano forte. He plays so well that the prince can hardly wait to give him a job. Cristofori is determined to leave the palace. But the prince makes an offer: Cristofori cannot refuse: a house with all the furnishings he could need, generous pay—12 ducats an hour—and an important position, Master Instrument Maker and Tuner. Best of all, Cristofori would be able to work with the most skilled artisans in Italy—and have the chance to build some beautiful new ones. So Cristofori sets sail for Florence.
The Music of Life

A few years courts but Cristofori's amazing invention, but still the harpsichord reigns as the most popular keyboard in the land. And before he is able to see his instrument embraced widely by musicians, Bartolomeo Cristofori dies in 1732 at the age of 76.

But Bartolomeo Cristofori's invention lives on. As news about his amazing instrument is published in Germany, and no organ maker dare to begin crafting pianofortes. The instrument slowly spreads across Europe.

1725 Germany

Scott Joplin's piano dances.

Cristofori's invention, eventually called simply the piano, becomes a powerful tool in the hands of brilliant composers everywhere.

Ludwig van Beethoven's piano rings out, roaring and full of joy.

Claude Debussy's piano makes moonlight.

And today, all around the world, in the hands of countless musicians, young and old, Bartolomeo Cristofori's piano captures the music of life.

Johannes Brahms's piano soothes to sleep.
Charlie & Mouse
Laurel Snyder & Emily Hughes

2018 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award winner!
The Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse
(another Barnett and Klassen book 😊)
Wolf in the Snow
by Matthew Cordell

Winner of the 2018 Caldecott Medal
Sarabellas’s Thinking Cap
by Judy Schachner

Pennsylvania Author/Illustrator
Right before the bell rang, Mr. F had Sarabella hand out the weekend assignment. They were always something fun.

“What do you think, Sarabella?” asked Mr. F. An otter popped into her mind. But that was just the first thing.

And that’s exactly what Sarabella did when she placed the most spectacular collection of doodles and daydreams right on top of her head.

“So that’s what you’ve been thinking!” said the kids in awe. Lara saw unicorns, and Xavi saw planets. Dylan saw a cat, a snake, and a feather, while Nate reported seeing clouds with a touch of bad weather.

“A penny for your thoughts, Mr. F,” said Sarabella. “I think,” said Mr. F with a smile, “your thoughts are worth more than all the pennies in the world.”
Not So Different: What You REALLY Want to Ask About Having a Disability

By Shane Burcaw

Absolutely nothing is wrong with me. I’m just a little different! I was born with a disease called spinal muscular atrophy, or SMA for short, that makes my muscles very weak. It affects all the muscles that help me move—my arms, legs, neck, and more. I’ve been like this since I was a cute little baby.

Pennsylvania Author

So important!
Life on Mars
by Jon Agee

What an adventure!
I always believed there was life on Mars—and I was right!
Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Stacy Innerst

And now, girls and boys of the jury, we offer into evidence some of the more outrageous nonsense Ruth endured—before, during, and after law school.

Exhibit A: It was her first job out of college, right before law school. Her boss detected her and slashed her wages—because he saw she was pregnant. This was a common practice. What could Ruth do?

Exhibit H: Ruth would speak up at faculty meetings—and the male professors would totally ignore her. A male professor would then say the very same thing that Ruth had said—and get acknowledged for being smart. This kept happening even after Ruth became Columbia’s first tenured female law professor.
Older than Dirt
by Don Brown & Mike Perfit
How to be an Elephant

by Katherine Roy
Mama Africa

by Kathryn Erskine

Illustrated by Charly Palmer
The Youngest Marcher by Cynthia Levinson
Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
You may have noticed by now that the pictures of the Statue of Liberty in this book have her colored brown. You may have thought the illustrator of this book was not so good at his job, because we all know the Statue of Liberty to be a certain greenish-blue. But the Statue of Liberty was made of copper, and copper turns out brown.

Then, very slowly, when left outside for long periods of time, copper will eventually oxidize, and when it does, it turns this blue-green color.
But no one talks about the fact that she is walking!
This 150-foot woman is on the go!

After all, the Statue of Liberty
is an immigrant, too.
And this is why she’s moving.
This is why she’s striding.
The Great Treehouse War
by Lisa Graff

A Map of the Neighborhood
(As drawn by Winnie)

Lisa Graff
Author of the National Book Award Nominee
A Tangle of Knots

Pennsylvania Author
Sea Otter Heroes
by Patricia Newman

For thirty days, cold seawater flowed into each bucket from a hose over the rim. A drain system captured overflow water and sent it back to the ocean. Brent trained a team of college students to examine the mesocosms every day and record their observations. They stuck their hands inside each bucket and gently moved seagrass blades to count sea hares. “It’s okay if the sea hares reproduce or if algae grow,” Brent told them. “It’s mimicking the natural world.”

At the end of the experiment, Brent and his team spent several days harvesting the ingredients in each of the twenty mesocosms. They carefully weighed the seagrass, the clams, the sea hares, and the algae that had grown.

passengers, assigning each one a species of wildlife to count. Every sighting equaled one click. Some passengers counted loons or raptors. Others counted geese, ducks, seals, or sea otters.

As the boat motored up the channel, Captain Gideon and a naturalist who joined each tour told the story of the slough, pointed out wildlife, and shared fascinating facts. Throughout the 10-mile (16 km) round-trip, camera shutters and counters clicked. The naturalist later transferred the counts to data sheets with the date and time of the tour and the high- and low-tide levels.

When Brent took a look at the sea otter data, Elkhorn Slough Safaris had compiled more than twenty binders stuffed with data sheets from as far back as 1996. The huge amount of data allowed Brent to graph a trend line. He compared it to his seagrass data.

A data sheet (above) records how many birds, sea otters, and other animals were counted on one boat trip through the slough in 2015. Passengers on Elkhorn Slough Safari tours have helped count wildlife there since 1996.
Frida Kahlo & Her Animalitos by Monica Brown
Thank you for coming!
Enjoy the conference!

Our presentation will be available at our LibGuide at:
https://library.kutztown.edu/KUchildrensliteratureconference

You can also scan the QR code.