

# **NORTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD ACTIVITY BOOKLET**

**2016-17**



**A Program Designed for the Children of North Carolina**  
sponsored by  
**The Youth Services Section**  
of the **North Carolina Library Association**  
and  
**The North Carolina School Library Media Association**

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# NCCBA GENERAL INFORMATION

**Website:** [nccba.blogspot.com](http://nccba.blogspot.com)

See additional web postings at NCSLMA website: <http://www.ncslma.org/nccba>

## Where to send vote tally totals (Deadline March 31)

- [nccba.blogspot.com](http://nccba.blogspot.com)
- **Lisa England**  
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools  
Frank Morgan Elementary  
3210 Village Point Drive  
Clemmons, NC 27102  
336-703-4148 (w)  
e-mail: [lengland@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:lengland@wsfcs.k12.nc.us)

## Where to send nominations\* (November 1 - March 31)

- [nccba.blogspot.com](http://nccba.blogspot.com)
- **Janet West**  
Wake County Public Libraries  
East Regional Library  
946 Steeple Square Drive  
Knightdale, NC 27545  
919-217-5300 (w)  
e-mail: [janet.west@wakegov.com](mailto:janet.west@wakegov.com)

**Format for nominations:** *\*Books suggested by the CHILDREN in your school or library must have a copyright of 2014 or later. All nominations are due by **March 31, 2017**.*

*Please include*

- *Category (Picture or Junior)*
- *Title*
- *Author*
- *Publisher*
- *Publication Year (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)*

## **Gold Seals:**

Seals to place on the front of winning books are available from Lisa England at a cost of \$.25 each. Please make checks out to NCSLMA and mail to the address above. Purchase orders or e-mail requests are also accepted.

## **Copyright Alert:**

The NCCBA program does not have any copyright permission from any of the publishers of the nominated books to use pictures and/or covers of the books in any way. Any use of pictures of book covers or pages of nominated books on the NCCBA lists is covered by copyright owned by the publishers. The NCCBA program does not have the right to grant the use of graphics, web files (such as on Titlewave or Amazon.com), or photocopies of the book covers for PowerPoint presentations, bulletin boards, displays, or on web pages. You must ask for copyright permission from the original book publishers.

## 2015-16 NCCBA COMMITTEE

Thank you to the many school librarians, teachers, and public librarians from across the state who make the work of the North Carolina Children's Book Award program possible. Public and school librarians work together gathering nominations, promoting the program, reading the books to children, sharing related activities with children, and sponsoring the voting for the North Carolina Children's Book Award program each year. Each of you encourages students to read the nominated books and to participate in the Book Award Program. It is your support and involvement in the program that guarantees its continuation and success.

### NCCBA Co-Chair Information:

Lisa England  
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools  
Frank Morgan Elementary School  
3210 Village Point Drive  
Clemmons, NC 27102  
336-703-4148 (w)  
[lengland@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:lengland@wsfcs.k12.nc.us)

Janet West  
Wake County Public Libraries  
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946 Steeple Square Court  
Knightdale, NC 27545  
919-217-5300 (w)  
[janet.west@wakegov.com](mailto:janet.west@wakegov.com)

**Author Contact and Award Coordinator:** Vicki Stanfield - [vickistanfield@earthlink.net](mailto:vickistanfield@earthlink.net)

Special thanks to the following librarians for your efforts during the 2015-2016 year by attending the selection meeting, managing the year-long business of the committee, and/or writing activities for this booklet. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Pamela Brillisour (Retired School Librarian, Asheville)  
Rachel Brillisour (North Windy Ridge Elementary School, Asheville)  
Julie Criser (New Hanover County Public Library, Wilmington)  
Jane Deacle (Retired Public Librarian, Raleigh)  
Lisa Denning (North Harnett Primary School, Angier)  
Shana Dols (Waddell Language Academy, Charlotte)  
Deb Fidali (Brunson Elementary School, Winston-Salem)  
Tammy Hill (Walnut Cove Elementary School, Walnut Cove)  
Susie Holland (Middle Creek Elementary School, Raleigh)  
Stephanie Howell (Carolina Day School, Asheville)  
Susan Inabinet (Blythe Elementary School, Huntersville)  
Lara Luck (Forsyth County Public Library, Winston-Salem)  
Melissa Mann (Hillcrest Elementary School, Burlington)  
Megan Marshall (Wake County Public Libraries, Raleigh)  
Larisa Martin (Morrison Regional Library, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Charlotte)  
Lea McDaniel (Retired School Librarian, Charlotte)  
Jacky Miller (Rockingham Public Library, Eden)  
Wendy Moorehead (Boone Trial Elementary School, Holly Springs)  
Lauren Nicholson (Wake County Public Libraries, Raleigh)  
Wendy Shoaf (Walkertown Elementary, Walkertown)  
Meg Smith (Cumberland County Public Library, Hope Mills)  
Vicki Stanfield, (Retired School Librarian, Winston-Salem)  
Lauren White (Wake County Public Libraries, Raleigh)

## 2016-2017 Picture Book Nominees

**Barton, Bethany.** *I'm Trying to Love Spiders: (it isn't easy).* New York: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2015.

Shares lots of fascinating facts about spiders in an entirely captivating way and helps cure your spider phobia.

**Beck, W.H.** *Glow: Animals with Their Own Night-Lights.* New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, 2015.

In this fun and fascinating nonfiction picture book, join world-renowned photographers and biologists on their close encounters with the curious creatures that make their own light.

**Bell, Cece.** *I Yam a Donkey.* Boston: Clarion Books, 2015.

Confusion abounds when a poorly spoken donkey says to a grammarian yam, "I Yam a Donkey!" This is a humorous introduction the different tenses of the auxiliary verb "to be."

**Dyckman, Ame.** *Wolfie the Bunny.* Illus. Zachariah OHora. New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2015.

When her parents find a baby wolf on their doorstep and decide to raise him as their own, Dot is certain he will eat them all up until a surprising encounter with a bear brings them closer together.

**Higgins, Ryan T.** *Mother Bruce.* New York: Disney-Hyperion, 2015.

Bruce is a grumpy bear who likes no one and nothing but cooked eggs, but when some eggs he was planning to boil hatch and the goslings believe he is their mother, he must try to make the best of the situation.

**Mattick, Lindsay.** *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear.* Illus. Sophie Blackall. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 2015.

A woman tells her young son the true story of how his great-great-grandfather, Captain Harry Colebourn, rescued and learned to love a bear cub in 1914 as he was on his way to take care of soldiers' horses during World War I, and the bear became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.

**Miller, Pat Zietlow.** *The Quickest Kid in Clarksville.* Illus. Frank Morrison. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2016.

Growing up in the segregated town of Clarksville, Tennessee, in the 1960s, Alta's family cannot afford to buy her new sneakers--but she still plans to attend the parade celebrating her hero Wilma Rudolph's three Olympic gold medals.

**Rabinowitz, Alan.** *A Boy and a Jaguar.* Illus. Catia Chien. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, 2014.

The renowned cat conservationist reflects on his early childhood struggles with a speech disorder, describing how he only spoke fluently when he was communicating with animals and how he resolved at a young age to find his voice to be their advocate.

**Reynolds, Aaron.** *Nerdy Birdy.* Illus. Matt Davies. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2015.

A picture book about a nerdy birdy who just wants to hang out with the cool birds.

**Winter, Jeanette.** *Henri's Scissors.* New York: Beach Lane Books, 2013.

Step into the colorful world of Henri Matisse and his magnificent paper cutouts!

## ***I'm Trying to Love Spiders: (it isn't easy)***

**Author/Illustrator:** Bethany Barton

### **Related Books:**

*Diary of a Spider* by Doreen Cronin

*The Itsy Bitsy Spider* by Iza Trapani

*Spiders* by Gail Gibbons

*The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle

*Are You a Spider?* by Judy Allen & Tudor Humphries

### **Related Websites:**

Author/Illustrator Website: [www.bethanybarton.com](http://www.bethanybarton.com)

Spider Fact Index: [www.kidzone.ws/lw/spiders/facts.htm](http://www.kidzone.ws/lw/spiders/facts.htm)

### **Activities:**

#### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- Create a 3 column chart (search “Can, Have, Are”) about spiders. Add details from the story to describe spiders.
- Use the Mini Pages Archive as a digital primary source to learn about spiders (<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/minipage/id/4871/rec/1>). Discuss article features and learn how to navigate through a newspaper.

#### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Take a survey to find out if students are afraid of spiders. Tally the responses and create a graph to share the data.
- Compare *Diary of a Spider* by Doreen Cronin (fiction selection) with *I'm Trying to Love Spiders* (nonfiction selection).
- Create a Venn diagram comparing facts about spiders and cockroaches.

#### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Listen to an Anansi story and discuss the cultural differences of people’s reactions to spiders.
- Research which spiders are indigenous to your area. Find out more about these spiders on NCWiseOwl ([www.ncwiseowl.org](http://www.ncwiseowl.org)) through “Amazing Animals of the World.”

#### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- Use the *Itsy Bitsy Spider* by Iza Trapani to sing and dramatize the song.
- Create a handprint spider (place painted hands with wrists together onto paper) and embellish.

#### ***Enrichment Express***

- Visit the San Diego Zoo Kids website (<http://kids.sandiegozoo.org>) and learn more about spiders.
- Watch the All Things Animals video clip on spiders (<http://safeshare.tv/v/ss5752e71b8ea7d>)

## ***Glow: Animals with Their Own Night-Lights***

**Author/Illustrator:** W. H. Beck

### **Related Books:**

*The Very Lonely Firefly* by Eric Carle

*Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea* by Steve Jenkins

*Way to Glow! Amazing Creatures that Light Up in the Dark* by Lisa Regan

*Glow-in-the-Dark Animals* by Natalie Lunis

### **Related Websites:**

Author's website: <http://www.whbeck.com/>

PBS Nova - Creatures of Light: <https://safeshare.tv/x/rzhi6USIZI>

National Geographic Bioluminescence on Camera:

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/videos/bioluminescence-on-camera/>

Monterey Bay Aquarium: Explore the Deep Sea: <http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals-and-experiences/exhibits/mission-to-the-deep>

### **Activities:**

#### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- Have children select a sea creature they would like to be then write about themselves as this creature. Begin with the writing prompt "I live in the sea. I am..."
- Create a collaborative "K-W-L" chart before reading *Glow*, listing what they know and want to know about deep sea animals. After reading, complete the chart with new vocabulary and facts learned.

#### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Share Dr. Widder's Bioluminescence Exploration Dive at <http://www.teamorca.org/cfiles/bioluminescence.cfm>

#### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Discuss fun facts about the earth's five oceans (<http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/ocean-facts-for-kids.html>) and use a map (<http://www.itsybitsyfun.com/uploads/9/8/7/6/9876061/blank-continents-map.pdf>) to locate and label them.
- Learn about New Zealand's Waitomo glowworm caves (<http://safeshare.tv/v/ss5752eb53e0f79>). Locate New Zealand on the map.

#### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- Draw a bioluminescent underwater scene using black construction paper and neon crayons and markers.
- Sing the song *Glow Little Glow Worm* (The Mills Brothers <http://bussongs.com/songs/glow-little-glow-worm.php>).

#### ***Enrichment Express***

- Create your own or color a firefly bookmark - [http://www.teachwithme.com/images/stories/firefly\\_bookmark.pdf](http://www.teachwithme.com/images/stories/firefly_bookmark.pdf)

# *I Yam a Donkey*

Author/Illustrator: Cece Bell

## **Related Books:**

*Who's on First?* by Bud Abbott and Lou Costello  
*More Parts* by Tedd Arnold  
*Mom and Dad are Palindromes* by Mark Shulman  
*Punctuation Takes a Vacation* by Robin Pulver  
*Dear Deer: A Book of Homophones* by Gene Barretta  
*Creepy Carrots!* by Aaron Reynolds

## **Related Websites:**

Author Website: <https://cecebell.wordpress.com/>  
Reader's Theater: <http://safeshare.tv/v/BjnHI3JtamE>  
Facts about donkeys: <http://www.livescience.com/54258-donkeys.html>

## **Activities:**

### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- Conjugate the verb “to be” on picture cards. Sort them into correct columns: I am, you are, she is, he is, they are. Write your own sentences.
- Watch [Abbott and Costello's Who's on First? routine](#). Discuss miscommunication. Why do the characters become so frustrated? What could they do to communicate more effectively?

### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Pick one of the vegetables from the book. Research growing season, nutrients, etc.
- Compare donkeys to horses and mules.
- Discuss what it means for an animal to be domestic and sort animal cards on a chart with the headings “Wild” and “Tame.”
- Suspend a yam in water and observe changes over time.

### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Read *How are You Peeling? Foods with Moods* by Saxton Freymann. Compare the facial expressions of the produce to the ones in *I Yam a Donkey*. Discuss how students would feel in various situations, as well as how to express these emotions.
- Meet Benny the Donkey from Australia. Locate Australia on a map or globe. (<http://www.abc.net.au/creaturefeatures/facts/bennydonkey.htm>)
- Learn about Biblioburro: the donkey library (<http://safeshare.tv/v/ss5752f20cb2d88>). Share the book *Biblioburro: a true story from Colombia* by Jeanette Winter.

### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- Print out [stickers](#). Attach to craft sticks and create a reader's theatre.
- Use *I Yam a Donkey*, along with Mo Willems' *Elephant and Piggie* series to teach students about using speech bubbles to create dialogue. Have students draw a comic strip using speech bubbles.
- Bring in small, clean yams for students to personify with markers.

### ***Enrichment Express***

- Create artwork using potato stamps.
- Visit the [North Carolina Sweet Potatoes website](#) to learn more about our state vegetable.



## ***Wolfie the Bunny***

**Author:** Ame Dyckman

**Illustrator:** Zachariah OHora

### **Related Books:**

*Julius, the Baby of the World* by Kevin Henkes

*Peter's Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats

*My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother* by Patricia Polacco

*The New Small Person* by Lauren Child

### **Related Websites:**

Author Read Out Loud: <http://kidlit.tv/2015/09/read-out-loud-ame-dyckman-reads-wolfie-the-bunny/>

### **Activities:**

#### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- Retell the story from Wolfie's point of view.
- Pretend it is five years in the future. Write a follow-up story of how the relationship between Wolfie and Dot has changed.
- Even though Dot is much smaller than the bear, she stands up to him to protect Wolfie. Write a story about an unlikely superhero.

#### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Research rabbits and wolves. Create a graphic organizer to compare them.
- Choose rabbits and two other "conventional" pet animals. Write an opinion piece about which of these animals would be the best pet for you.
- Create a digital book review for *Wolfie the Bunny*.

#### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Research the natural habitat of rabbits and wolves. Create a diorama of their natural habitat.
- Research food chains and explain where rabbits and wolves belong in the food chain.
- Research biomes of the world. In which biomes do rabbits and wolves live and why would it be difficult for them to survive in different biomes?

#### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- Share a sibling poem by Shel Silverstein or Jack Prelutsky, then write a poem or song about how it feels to be the older or younger sibling.
- Write a haiku about rabbits or wolves.
- Make puppets of the book characters. Assign puppets to students to read the lines of those characters.

#### ***Enrichment Express***

- Invite a veterinarian or community member to bring a pet rabbit to show the class. Discuss the care and feeding of rabbits.

## ***Mother Bruce***

**Author/Illustrator:** Ryan T. Higgins

### **Related Books:**

*The Goose Man: The Story of Konrad Lorenz* by Elaine Greenstein

*The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland

*Goodnight Already!* by Jory John

*The Perfect Nest* by Catherine Friend

### **Related Websites:**

Author's Website: [ryanhiggins.com](http://ryanhiggins.com)

National Geographic Kids Canada Goose: <http://bit.ly/24jdAg9>

### **Activities:**

#### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- Read and discuss books and articles about unlikely animal friendships. Write about an unlikely friendship in your life, celebrating the differences between you and your friend. Visit these sites:  
[Owen and Mzee](#), [Koko's Kittens](#), [Animal Odd Couples](#)
- Write an alternate ending to the book. Do the goslings stay with Bruce or go on their own adventure?

#### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Search your library databases for information on imprinting. Research the scientist Konrad Lorenz, who discovered the principle of imprinting.
- Learn about the endangered Whooping Crane and efforts to help save the species with aircraft guided bird migration: <http://www.operationmigration.org/>
- Create a measurement lab. Use rice to explore various units of measurement.

#### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Research animal migration, then create a map that shows animal migration routes.
- Research and discuss fun tourist destinations and historic sites in Florida. Create an itinerary for Bruce and the goslings for their next trip to Florida. Include a [map](#) to locate and label each destination.

#### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- Where do animals go in winter? Read *Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner, then create animal winter habitat posters.
- Act out a bird migration. Arrange yourselves in a V-shaped formation, and work together to see if you can stay in formation as you move around the room, hallway, or playground.
- Listen and dance to the cultural music of Miami, such as Conga and Rumba.

#### ***Enrichment Express***

- Draw alternative covers for the book.

## ***Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear***

**Author:** Lindsay Mattick

**Illustrator:** Sophie Blackall

### **Related Books:**

*Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh* by Sally M. Walker

*Animal Heroes* by Jane Bingham

### **Related Websites:**

Photographs and drawings of Winnie and Henry: <http://safeshare.tv/v/ss5752fe1b1cbc9>

The real Winnie: <http://therealwinnie.ryerson.ca/>

Illustrator: <http://sophieblackall.blogspot.com/2015/11/the-making-of-finding-winnie-part-4.html>

First Winnie-the-Pooh stuffed bear: <http://exhibitions.nypl.org/treasures/items/show/28>

### **Activities:**

#### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- The author told the story of her great grandfather as a bedtime tale. Invite students to tell a family story or invite parents/grandparents for a family story day.
- Brainstorm a list of books with bears as characters. Are the characters depicted more like bears or humans?
- Pick a bear story at the [Appalachian bear rescue website](http://www.appalachianbearrescue.com/) to share orally with others.

#### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Both Henry and Winnie traveled by rail, ship, and car. Use an online mapping tool with satellite imagery (such as Google Earth) to follow individual and shared journeys. Add up the miles traveled. Create a map/timeline that includes locations, key events for Winnie & Henry at each location and the dates and distances of their travels.
- Research different types of bears and their habitats, noting Winnie's classification.

#### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Invite a librarian to discuss the basics of starting a family tree.
- Research and compare the different kinds of veterinarians, including educational/licensing requirements.
- Research how the London Zoo has changed since Winnie's stay, especially concerning the public's interactions with animals.

#### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- Scrapbooking is depicted in the back of the book. Start a personal or classroom scrapbook. Discuss how to choose "important" items that will help tell the story.
- Following Sophie Blackall's process on her blogspot, students can try drawing historical illustrations. See pictures of toys Christopher Robin might have played with 100 years ago using [BBC](http://www.bbc.com/1/health/2015/10/151020_christopher_robin_toys) and [Schwartz toy](http://www.schwartztoy.com/) websites.

#### ***Enrichment Express:***

- Read the introduction and first chapter from the novel *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A.A. Milne.
- Read a nonfiction book on bears, then pretend to be bears.

## *The Quickest Kid in Clarksville*

**Author:** Pat Zietlow Miller

**Illustrator:** Frank Morrison

### **Related Books:**

*Freedom Summer* by Deborah Wiles

*New Shoes* by Susan Lynn Meyer

*The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson

*Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper* by Ann Malaspina

*Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman* by Kathleen Krull

### **Related Websites:**

Author's website: <http://www.patzietlowmiller.com/>

Wilma Rudolph's...Olympic Records: <https://youtu.be/JqI8NyZtCmo>

Running Start: <http://www.nyrr.org/youth-and-schools>

### **Activities:**

#### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- Discuss or write about talents, perseverance, teamwork, sportsmanship, role models/heroes, etc.
- Listen for and list words and phrases in Alta's narration that express her feelings and personality.
- Discuss which parts of the story are fictional and which are facts.
- Retell the story as Alta and again from Charmaine's point of view.

#### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Use <http://www.math-salamanders.com/metric-to-standard-conversion-chart.html> to understand the distance of a 100 meter sprint.
- Warm-up before running 11 second sprints. Measure the distance traveled. Compare to Wilma's winning 100 meter time.
- Find the distance from your school to Clarksville, TN.

#### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Share the Author's Note. Discuss the importance of Wilma Rudolph's decision about the parade.
- Share other stories about segregation and the 1960s.
- Research other athletes and create trading cards using [http://www.chroniclebooks.com/landing-pages/pdfs/QuickestKidInClarksville\\_TradingCards.pdf](http://www.chroniclebooks.com/landing-pages/pdfs/QuickestKidInClarksville_TradingCards.pdf).
- Use maps and globes to locate Rome, Rio, and other Olympic cities.

#### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- Create self-portrait book covers featuring students' talents and hometown.
- Draw a pair of "winning" sneakers or make a banner to honor an event or a friend.
- Create a chant for a favorite athlete or team or perform an original victory dance.
- Refer to the illustrations to act out words including sashay, strut, crouch, puff up, be-bop, etc.

#### ***Enrichment Express***

- Play simple running games found at <http://www.jumpintoabook.com/2016/02/how-quick-are-you/>.
- Watch the "Fastest Kid on the Block" at <http://safeshare.tv/v/Ji4ELhWdh-4>.
- Explore Olympic Games, sports, athletes and more at <http://www.olympic.org>.

## ***A Boy and a Jaguar***

**Author:** Alan Rabinowitz

**Illustrator:** Catia Chien

### **Related Books:**

*An Indomitable Beast: the Remarkable Journey of the Jaguar* by Alan Rabinowitz

*The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest* by Lynne Cherry

*Journey of the Nightly Jaguar* by Burton Albert

*Rosa Raposa* by F. Isabel Campoy

### **Related Websites:**

Amazing Animals on NC Wise Owl: [www.ncwiseowl.com](http://www.ncwiseowl.com)

Author Interview: <http://safeshare.tv/v/ss5753a57e26b52>

NPR interview: <http://ow.ly/z2Da300nLXH>

Author's scientific website: [www.Panthera.org](http://www.Panthera.org)

### **Activities:**

#### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- Retell the story from the jaguar's point of view.
- Read *Rosa Raposa* and compare to other trickster tales.
- Read a nonfiction book about jaguars and create a book trailer.
- Write a poem about how it feels to be different or excluded.

#### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Research the size of an adult jaguar. Draw a life size model. Record average length and weight. Ask students to measure themselves and compare their size to that of the jaguar.
- Locate and pin the places that jaguars are found in Central and South America using digital maps.

#### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Construct a timeline of Alan's life.
- Draw a map showing Alan's journey from studying bears in the Great Smoky Mountains to the jungles of Belize. How many miles did he travel?

#### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- View jaguar depictions in Mayan and Aztec art and draw a jaguar or create a jaguar mask.
- Write and perform a reader's theater of the book.

#### ***Enrichment Express***

- After reading the book and researching Alan Rabinowitz, write a six word memoir of his life (<http://www.sixwordmemoirs.com/schools/>).

## *Nerdy Birdy*

**Author:** Aaron Reynolds

**Illustrator:** Matt Davies

### **Related Books:**

*Telephone* by Mac Barnett

*Sylvie* by Jennifer Sattler

*Chicken Big* by Keith Graves

*Say Something* by Peggy Moss

### **Related Websites:**

Pixar's Birds on a Wire: <http://safeshare.tv/v/ss5753a9697674a>

All About Birds: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

Bully Prevention Center: <http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/kab/what-is-bullying/>

### **Activities:**

#### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- Create a field guide of characters for the book.
- Write a journal entry from Nerdy Birdy's perspective (or any of the other character's perspectives).
- Role play how Nerdy Birdy might have handled story events differently.
- Invite the guidance counselor to do a lesson on how to avoid bullying/bully prevention.

#### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Research the real bird species from the book.
- Go birdwatching. Log and identify the species you view using the [All About Birds](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/) site.
- Create a chart to identify and track birds commonly seen during the course of the school year.
- Research making homemade bird feeder stations and place them around the school grounds.

#### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Plot the path of migratory birds.
- Research the socialization of birds and bird colonies.
- Research and plot any, or all, of the habitats for the identifiable bird species in the book.
- Research the history of bird watching/bird identification.

#### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- Create a reader's theater for *Nerdy Birdy* and act it out.
- Create a "new" friend for Nerdy (drawing or multimedia).
- Using the pattern song "One of These Things" from Sesame Street (<http://safeshare.tv/v/eh-rlQ8j44E>) create your own song to compare characteristics of classmates or other things in school; celebrate how being different is a positive.

#### ***Enrichment Express***

- Pretend to be Nerdy Birdy and role play various plot situations.
- Read nonfiction articles, or books, about birds.

## *Henri's Scissors*

**Author/Illustrator:** Jeanette Winter

### **Related Books:**

*The Iridescence of Birds: A Book about Henri Matisse* by Patricia MacLachlan

*The Noisy Paint Box* by Barb Rosenstock

*Just Behave, Pablo Picasso* by Jonah Winter

*Frida* by Jonah Winter

*Henri Matisse* by Mike Venezia

### **Related Websites:**

Matisse for Kids: [https://artbma.org/flash/F\\_conekids.swf](https://artbma.org/flash/F_conekids.swf)

Who is Henri Matisse?: <http://kids1.tate.org.uk/blog/who-is-matisse/>

Henri Matisse: [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mati/hd\\_mati.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mati/hd_mati.htm)

### **Activities:**

#### ***Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills***

- Observe and describe different famous works by Matisse using descriptive language.
- Choose one of Matisse's paintings and use it as a writing prompt for a short story.

#### ***Math/Science/Technology***

- Find and list the shapes found in Henri's cut paper works and paintings. Works to use: *The Snail*, *La Négresse*, *The Moroccans*, and *The Goldfish*.
- Observe how colors change over time by covering parts of construction paper with various objects and placed in the sun.
- Use paint software (Publisher, Paint, or Photoshop) to create a Matisse-like piece of art. Compare it to the process of using traditional techniques - paper, scissors, and glue.

#### ***Social Studies/History/Geography***

- Research and find the places on a map where Matisse lived, visited or painted.
- Read the myth of Icarus and examine Matisse's famous painting entitled *Icarus*. What do the shapes represent? Why do you think Matisse used the colors in the piece?

#### ***Art/Music/Drama***

- Draw a picture using chalk or pencils attached to long dowel rods.
- Draw pictures in sand.

#### ***Enrichment Express***

- Build a mural using cut paper shapes after discussing Henri's collage technique, 'painting with scissors.'
- Create tissue paper collages using cut paper. Explore shapes and experiment with color.



### Picture Book Ballot



Read 5 of the books listed below. Then mark an "X" in the box next to the book you think should win the 2017 book award.

Choose only one (1) title.

- 1. *I'm Trying to Love Spiders*
- 2. *Glow: Animals with their own Night-Lights*
- 3. *I Yam a Donkey*
- 4. *Wolfie the Bunny*
- 5. *Mother Bruce*
- 6. *Finding Winnie: the true story of the world's most famous bear*
- 7. *The Quickest Kid in Clarksville*
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**NORTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD  
2017 Picture Book Election Tally Sheet**

*\*Please send the total number of votes for each title.*

*Due: March 31, 2017*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *I'm Trying to Love Spiders* (Barton, Bethany)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ *Glow: Animals with their own Night-Lights* (Beck, W.H.)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ *I Yam a Donkey* (Bell, Cece)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ *Wolfie the Bunny* (Dyckman, Ame)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ *Mother Bruce* (Higgins, Ryan T.)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ *Finding Winnie: the true story of the world's most famous bear*  
(Mattick, Lindsay)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ *The Quickest Kid in Clarksville* (Miller, Pat Zietlow)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ *A Boy and a Jaguar* (Rabinowitz, Alan)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ *Nerdy Birdy* (Reynolds, Aaron)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ *Henri's Scissors* (Winter, Jeanette)

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Library** \_\_\_\_\_

**Record your votes**

- online at [ncba.blogspot.com](http://ncba.blogspot.com)
- or send vote totals to:  
**Lisa England**  
Frank Morgan Elementary  
3210 Village Point Drive  
Clemmons, NC 27102  
Email: lengland@wsfcs.k12.nc.us

## 2016-2017 Junior Book Nominees

**Applegate, Katherine.** *Crenshaw*. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2015.

Katherine Applegate's beautiful novel is a story of friendship and family, of facing adversity and figuring out how to be honest with those you love most. It's also a tale filled with familiar elements of 21st century American life: hunger and homelessness.

**Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker.** *The War That Saved My Life*. New York, NY: Dial Books, 2015.

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

**Draper, Sharon.** *Stella by Starlight*. New York: Atheneum Books, 2015.

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

**Engle, Margarita.** *Mountain Dog*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2013.

When his mother is sent to jail in Los Angeles, eleven-year-old Tony goes to live with his forest ranger great-uncle in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where Tony develops a friendship with his great-uncle's rescue dog.

**Hunt, Lynda Mullaly.** *Fish in a Tree*. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2015.

The author of the beloved *One for the Murphys* gives readers an emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who's ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in.

**Jamieson, Victoria.** *Roller Girl*. New York: Dial Books, 2015.

A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart.

**Jones, Kelly.** *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2015.

Through a series of letters, Sophie Brown, age twelve, tells of her family's move to her Great Uncle Jim's farm, where she begins taking care of some unusual chickens with help from neighbors and friends.

**Marino, Nan.** *Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2013.

When musical prodigy, Elvis Ruby, completely freezes up on television, he is forced to hide out in the Pinelands of New Jersey and try to find his way back to the music once again with the help of a new friend.

**Pennypacker, Sara.** *Pax*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2016.

After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back.

**Pizzoli, Greg.** *Tricky Vic: the Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower*. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2015.

Recounts the life of Victor Lustig, an international con man who had swindled thousands of people, including Al Capone, and was best known for "selling" the Eiffel Tower.

**Sachar, Louis.** *Fuzzy Mud*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2015.

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

## ***Crenshaw***

**Author:** Katherine Applegate

### **Related Books:**

*How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O'Connor

*Hold Fast* by Blue Balliett

*Yard Sale* by Eve Bunting

### **Websites:**

Author's Website: <http://www.mackidsbooks.com/crenshaw/>

National Center on Family Homelessness::

<http://www.air.org/center/national-center-family-homelessness>

**Book Trailer:** <http://safeshare.tv/v/ss5754f056752ce>

**Book Talk:** Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again.

Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?

(Source: <http://www.mackidsbooks.com/crenshaw/>)

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

Study Guide: <http://images.macmillan.com/folio-assets/teachers-guides/9781250043238TG.pdf>

- Discuss Jackson's statement: "Stories are lies, when you get right down to it. And I don't like being lied to." (p. 9) Why doesn't Jackson like made-up stories? Why is it so important for him to have a logical explanation for everything that happens?
- When are the times in Jackson's life that Crenshaw appears? Which events occur that create a need for Jackson to have Crenshaw in his life? Discuss Jackson's comment about the name Crenshaw: "It felt like a blank piece of paper before you draw on it." (p. 27)
- Why does Jackson feel different from the other members of his family? Describe scenes in the story where Jackson feels separate from them. Identify times in the story when Jackson realizes how important his family is to him.

**Enrichment Activity:** Organize a school or community food drive. Donate food to a local food pantry.

## ***The War That Saved My Life***

**Author:** Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

### **Related Books:**

*The Road to Paris* by Nikki Grimes

*The Children of the King* by Sonya Hartnett

*Good Night, Mr. Tom* by Michelle Magorian

*Echo* by Pamela Muñoz Ryan

### **Websites:**

Information on World War II evacuation of children::

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/evacuation/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/evacuation/)

Video of children being evacuated from London: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voUe1WFBD9Q>

**Book Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/to0dScB3VBA>

**Book Talk:** Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.

So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

(Source: <http://bit.ly/1U2z4ep>)

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

Study Guide: [http://www.penguin.com/wp-](http://www.penguin.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/WarThatSavedMyLife_Guide_15_4p_LR.pdf)

[content/uploads/2015/03/WarThatSavedMyLife\\_Guide\\_15\\_4p\\_LR.pdf](http://www.penguin.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/WarThatSavedMyLife_Guide_15_4p_LR.pdf)

- How was learning new things frustrating for Ada? How did learning new things give her freedom?
- When Ada, Jamie, and Miss Smith witness a plane crash at the airfield, “Jamie leaned into Miss Smith’s arms. She held him tight, rocking him softly back and forth” (p. 116). How is this moment significant for Jamie and Miss Smith? How is it significant for Ada?

**Enrichment Activity:** Compare the London evacuation with the evacuation of Japanese-Americans to internment camps in the United States during WWII.

## *Stella by Starlight*

**Author:** Sharon M. Draper

### **Related Books:**

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

*Freedom on the Menu: the Greensboro Sit-Ins* by Carole Boston Weatherford

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis

*Bird in a Box* by Andrea Davis Pinkney

### **Websites:**

Author's Website: <http://sharondraper.com/>

**Book Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/zbfLI3dzVBg>

**Book Talk:** Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.

(Source: <http://bit.ly/1TK20Fp>)

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

Study Guide: <http://sharondraper.com/bookdetail.asp?id=74>

- Describe Stella's parents. How would you describe the relationship between the parents and the children?
- Discuss Stella's love of newspapers. How does her father inspire her to be interested in the news? How does the room decoration affect Stella's connection to newspapers?
- Why is a visit from Spoon Man a reason for excitement in the town? Describe Spoon Man and his wagon and his effect on the community.

**Enrichment Activity:** Introduce students to the realities of Stella's life by watching the *Signs of Jim Crow* featuring photographs of the era from the Library of Congress.

<https://cbweatherford.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/jim-crow-powerpoint.pdf>

## ***Mountain Dog***

**Author:** Margarita Engle

### **Related Books:**

*Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech

*Ellie's Story: A Dog's Purpose Novel* by W. Bruce Cameron

*White Fur Flying* by Patricia MacLachlan

*Woof: a Bowser and Birdie novel* by Spencer Quinn

### **Websites:**

Author's website: <http://www.margaritaengle.com/index.html>

PBS Dogs Sense of Smell: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/nature/dogs-sense-of-smell.html>

American Rescue Dog Association: <http://www.ardainc.org/>

**Book Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/0QSVa7SJAEs>

**Book Talk:** *“In my other life there were pit bulls. / The puppies weren't born vicious, / but Mom taught them how to bite, / turning meanness into money, / until she got caught.”*

When Tony's mother goes to jail for being cruel to animals, he is sent to live with a great-uncle he has never met in the Sierra Nevada mountains. It is a big move for Tony and very different from his life in Los Angeles. Uncle Tio is a forest ranger and owns Gabe, a search-and-rescue dog. With the friendship of Gabe and the support from his uncle, Tony opens himself to a life and a future he never could have imagined.

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Tony thinks, 'Even the angriest pit bulls are friendlier than my future'. Why does he feel like this? Explain.
- Tony's mom and great uncle both came to America on a raft. How bad would conditions have to be for you to abandon your family and country and set out on a raft? How would you feel? Compare this to the kids today who are fleeing their homes in Central and South America to come to The United States..

**Enrichment Activity:** Reader's Theater

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/188siMZ6TnZb4Lp5uM8JDtf1UWSfHNZq0ep3VAeWESaE/edit>

## ***Fish in a Tree***

**Author:** Lynda Mullaly Hunt

### **Related Books:**

*Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff

*Thank You, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco

*Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea

*Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin

### **Websites:**

Author's website: <http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/>

Lynda Mullaly Hunt's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/kidswriter>

Fun Games for Dyslexics: <http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/tools/fun-games-for-dyslexics>

**Book Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/FVhWzVsVVIY>

**Book Talk:** “Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid.”

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

(Source: <http://www.penguin.com/book/fish-in-a-tree-by-lynda-mullaly-hunt/9780399162596>)

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

Study Guide: [http://www.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/FishInATree\\_lessonplans\\_Final\\_LR.pdf](http://www.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/FishInATree_lessonplans_Final_LR.pdf)

- Why does Ally feel like a “waste of space”? What are Ally's strengths?
- What is the significance of the mystery object lesson? In what way does this experience empower Ally?
- How does the friendship bond among Ally, Albert, and Keisha inspire each of them to believe in themselves? In what ways do they accept each other for who they are?

### **Enrichment Activity:**

Create a Sketchbook of Impossible Things. Kids can create their own fantastical drawings of impossible things on paper or with Google Drawings.

## ***Roller Girl***

**Author:** Victoria Jamieson

### **Related Books:**

*Sisters* by Raina Telgemeier

*Sunny Side Up* by Jennifer Holm

*Chiggers* by Hope Larson

### **Websites:**

Author's website: <http://www.victoriajamieson.com/>

Roller derby rules and terms defined: <http://www.rosecityrollers.com/about/faq/>

Rose City Rollers: <https://youtu.be/Vj-UHrSHC3E>

**Book Trailer:** [https://youtu.be/z\\_KZTAIbZKM](https://youtu.be/z_KZTAIbZKM)

**Book Talk:** For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she *is* strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school... in short, strong enough to be a roller girl.

(Source: <http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/313687/roller-girl-by-victoria-jamieson/9780525429678>)

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

From Unleashing Readers blog : <http://www.unleashingreaders.com/?p=6150>

- How should Astrid have dealt with Nicole not going to derby camp? Have you had a friend like Nicole?
- Astrid really wants to learn roller derby; Nicole wants to get better at ballet—what is your passion?
- How did Rainbow Brite help Astrid?

**Enrichment Activity:** Come up with your own roller derby name and logo.

Readers' Theater: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_DzeeDPY\\_meTakhE-nAxtQDZy2BHN1VN7LPyl2BAw7s/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_DzeeDPY_meTakhE-nAxtQDZy2BHN1VN7LPyl2BAw7s/edit)

<https://texasbluebonnetaward2017.wordpress.com/roller-girl/>



## *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*

**Author:** Kelly Jones

### **Related Books:**

*Prairie Evers* by Ellen Airgood

*The Great Chicken Debacle* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

*The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* by Daniel Pinkwater

*Chicken Feathers* by Joy Cowley

### **Websites:**

Author website: <http://curiosityjones.net/>

Author Interview: <https://youtu.be/NkVO9FrFLs>

**Book Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/EJQKd4Bc9zw>

**Book Talk:** Twelve-year-old Sophie Brown feels like a fish out of water when she and her parents move from Los Angeles to the farm they've inherited from a great-uncle. But farm life gets more interesting when a cranky chicken appears and Sophie discovers the hen can move objects with the power of her little chicken brain: jam jars, the latch to her henhouse, the *entire* henhouse.... And then more of her great-uncle's unusual chickens come home to roost. Determined, resourceful Sophie learns to care for her flock, earning money for chicken feed and collecting eggs. But when a respected local farmer tries to steal them, Sophie must find a way to keep them (and their superpowers) safe.

(Source: <http://bit.ly/1OCw6sJ>)

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

Study Guide: <https://texasbluebonnetaward2017.wordpress.com/unusual-chickens-for-the-exceptional-poultry-farmer/>

- Sophie writes to her dead uncle and grandmother. If you were to write to a dead relative, who would you choose and what would you say or ask them?
- Sophie says she thought they were moving to a farm but it's more like a big boring garden. What's the difference between a farm and a garden?
- Sophie is from a mixed race family. What problems might she face?

**Enrichment Activity:** Reader's Theater:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jkcIEBID0wPNWPWPU0t5dPSui8VP0bbkF6oSn5A6sIY/edit>

<https://texasbluebonnetaward2017.wordpress.com/unusual-chickens-for-the-exceptional-poultry-farmer/>

## ***Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace***

**Author:** Nan Marino

### **Related Books:**

*Everything on a Waffle* by Polly Horvath

*Three Times Lucky* by Sheila Turnage

*Jacky Ha-Ha* by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein

*The Absolute Value of Mike* by Kathryn Erskine

### **Websites:**

Author's website: <http://www.nanmarino.com/>

**Book Trailer:** [https://youtu.be/v7bocdjG4L0?list=PL0\\_TshQZi2TS5OXUB4vBq3qhT3dl\\_cx3J](https://youtu.be/v7bocdjG4L0?list=PL0_TshQZi2TS5OXUB4vBq3qhT3dl_cx3J)

**Book Talk:** Eleven-year-old musical prodigy, Elvis Ruby, was supposed to win the most coveted reality show on television, *Tween Star*. None of the other contestants even came close to his talents. But in the middle of the biggest night, with millions of people watching, Elvis panicked. He forgot the words to the song. He forgot the tune. He forgot how to play every single instrument he'd ever known and froze on national TV. So Elvis must run from the paparazzi camped outside his door and spend the summer working with his aunt and cousin at Piney Pete's Pancake Palace in the remote wilds of New Jersey. It's the perfect place to be anonymous, that is until Elvis meets Cecilia, a girl who can't seem to help blurting out whatever's on her mind.

(Source: <http://us.macmillan.com/hidingoutatthepancakepalace/NanMarino>)

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- What is the price of fame? Is Elvis really happy being a star?
- This book is about secrets. What happens when you can't keep a secret? Are the consequences always bad? How hard was it for Elvis to pretend to be someone else?
- Why does Cecilia have a hard time making friends? Would you be her friend?

**Enrichment Activity:** "I write fiction but real things seem to creep into my stories" Nan Marino writes on her website. Check out the "[What's Real](#)" section of the author's website to find out what parts of the story are fact-based and what's fiction.

## *Pax*

**Author:** Sara Pennypacker

### **Related Books:**

*Wild Life* by Cynthia DeFelice

*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

*A Dog's Life: the autobiography of a stray* by Ann M. Martin

*A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron

*The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford

### **Websites:**

Author's website: <http://www.sarapennypacker.com/>

Foxes - Facts & Pictures: <http://www.livescience.com/27168-foxes.html>

**Book Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/E8ErVnRt40I>

**Book Talk:** Pax was just a kit when he was rescued by a human, Peter. They become inseparable. However, things are changing for Peter and Pax. War is approaching and Peter's father has enlisted. Peter must go and live with his Grandfather, leaving Pax behind. Peter quickly realizes he can't leave his fox behind and runs away to reunite with Pax.

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

Discussion Guide: <http://www.sarapennypacker.com/paxdiscussionguide.pdf>

- Why do you think the author started the book with the release of Pax back into the wild?
- Why has Peter had the sensation that he and Pax have merged? Describe their bond.
- Throughout the centuries and in many cultures, people have told stories, tales, and fables about foxes. What stories can you remember or can you find that have a fox as a main character? How would you compare some of these fictional characters to Pax and the other foxes in this novel?

**Enrichment Activity:** Invite a wildlife specialist to talk about foxes and other local wildlife.

## ***Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower***

**Author:** Greg Pizzoli

### **Related Books:**

*The Giant and How He Humbugged America* by Jim Murphy

*Duped!: True Stories of the World's Best Swindlers* by Andreas Schroeder

*The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordecai Gerstein

### **Websites:**

Author blog: <http://gregpizzoli.blogspot.co.uk/>

The Making of Tricky Vic: <http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=3684>

“The Smoothest Con Man that Ever Lived”: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-smoothest-con-man-that-ever-lived-29861908/?no-ist>

**Book Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/gbbGZmpZEzM> or <https://youtu.be/yGJ2KxJjO4U>

**Book Talk:** In the early 1900s, Robert Miller, a.k.a. “Count Victor Lustig,” moved to Paris hoping to be an artist. A *con* artist, that is. He used his ingenious scams on unsuspecting marks all over the world, from the Czech Republic, to Atlantic ocean liners, and across America. Tricky Vic pulled off his most daring con in 1925, when he managed to “sell” the Eiffel Tower to one of the city’s most successful scrap metal dealers! Six weeks later, he tried to sell the Eiffel Tower all over again. Vic was never caught. For that particular scam, anyway. . . .

(Source: <http://bit.ly/25cNTnp>)

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Why do you think Greg Pizzoli always represents Tricky Vic’s face with a thumb print? What else did he use to illustrate the action in the story?
- Victor Lustig relied on gullible people to pull off his cons. What cons were most successful and why do you think they were successful?
- Throughout the book, there are sidebars with additional information about topics like prohibition, the Hotel de Crillon, counterfeiting, and Alcatraz. Why do you think the author included these? How did they affect your reading and understanding of the story?

**Enrichment Activity:** Create thumbprint art similar to the pictures from *Tricky Vic*.

## ***Fuzzy Mud***

**Author:** Louis Sachar

### **Related Books:**

*Holes* by Louis Sachar

*Go Big or Go Home* by Will Hobbs

*The Big Dark* by W. Rodman Philbrick

*Scat* by Carl Hiaasen

### **Websites:**

Author website: <http://www.louissachar.com/>

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences: <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/>

**Book Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/vYsoXICXfEk>

**Book Talk:** *Be careful. Your next step might be your last.*

Fifth grader Tamaya Dhilwaddi and seventh grader Marshall Walsh have been walking to and from Woodridge Academy together since elementary school. But their routine is disrupted when bully Chad Hilligas challenges Marshall to a fight. To avoid the conflict, Marshall takes a shortcut home through the off-limits woods. Tamaya, unaware of the reason for the detour, reluctantly follows. They soon get lost. And then they find trouble. Bigger trouble than anyone could ever have imagined.

In the days and weeks that follow, the authorities and the U.S. Senate become involved, and what they uncover might affect the future of the world.

(Source: <http://www.louissachar.com/featured.html>)

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

Author Guide:

[https://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/LouisSachar\\_AuthorGuide\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/LouisSachar_AuthorGuide_WEB.pdf)

- How does the setting of Woodridge Academy and its surroundings near the woods play an important role in the story?
- Why does Sachar thread the testimony of the Senate's secret hearings throughout the story? What purpose does it serve in the telling of this story, and how does it affect the reader?
- Tamaya wonders, "When did it become bad to be good?" (p. 5). Discuss.

**Enrichment Activity:** Set out petri dishes with mold spores and observe over time.

### Junior Book Ballot



Read 3 of the books listed below. Then mark an "X" in the box next to the book you think should win the 2017 book award.

Choose only one (1) title.

- 1. *Crenshaw*
- 2. *The War That Saved My Life*
- 3. *Stella by Starlight*
- 4. *Mountain Dog*
- 5. *Fish in a Tree*
- 6. *Roller Girl*
- 7. *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*
- 8. *Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace*
- 9. *Pax*
- 10. *Tricky Vic: the impossibly true story of the man who sold the Eiffel Tower*
- 11. *Fuzzy Mud*

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**NORTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD**  
**2017 Junior Book Election Tally Sheet**

*\*Please send the total number of votes for each title.*

*Due: March 31, 2017*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *Crenshaw* (Applegate, Katherine)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ *The War That Saved My Life* (Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ *Stella by Starlight* (Draper, Sharon)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ *Mountain Dog* (Engle, Margarita)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ *Fish in a Tree* (Hunt, Lynda Mullaly)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ *Roller Girl* (Jamieson, Victoria)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer* (Jones, Kelly)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ *Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace* (Marino, Nan)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ *Pax* (Pennypacker, Sara)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ *Tricky Vic: the impossibly true story of the man who sold the Eiffel Tower*  
(Pizzoli, Greg)
11. \_\_\_\_\_ *Fuzzy Mud* (Sachar, Louis)

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Library** \_\_\_\_\_

**Record your votes**

- online at [nccba.blogspot.com](http://nccba.blogspot.com)
- or send vote totals to:  
**Lisa England**  
Frank Morgan Elementary  
3210 Village Point Drive  
Clemmons, NC 27102  
Email: lengland@wsfcs.k12.nc.us