

2017 WCCPBA Nominees

Title: The Bear Report

Author and Illustrator: Thyra Heder

Publisher: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015

Synopsis: Sophie is uninterested in writing a research report on polar bears until a polar bear named Olafur swoops her away to the Arctic, where she learns all about the playful bear's habits and habitat, from glacier mice to Northern Lights.

Title: Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas

Author: Lynne Cox

Illustrator: Brian Floca

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2014

Synopsis: Here is the incredible story of Elizabeth, the real-life elephant seal who made her home in the Avon River in the city of Christchurch, New Zealand. When Elizabeth decides to stretch out across a two-lane road, the citizens worry she might get hurt or cause traffic accidents, so a group of volunteers tows her out to sea. But Elizabeth swims all the way back to Christchurch. The volunteers catch her again and again--each time towing her father, even hundreds of miles away--but, still, Elizabeth finds her way back home.

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

Author: Lindsay Mattick

Illustrator: Sophie Blackall

Publisher: Little Brown and Company, 2015

Synopsis: A Fictionalized account of Captain Harry Coleburn's relationship with a bear cub in 1914, which he rescued while on his way to care for soldiers' horses during World War I and became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.

Title: Grandma in Blue with Red Hat

Author: Scott Menchin

Illustrator: Harry Bliss

Publisher: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015

Synopsis: After his teacher says that anything can be in an art exhibition and his fellow students give many reasons why something might belong in a museum, a child offers his special grandmother as an exhibit but when the curator cites a rule against accepting grandmas, the child has a better idea.

Title: Hippos are HUGE!

Author: Jonathan London

Illustrator: Matthew Trueman

Publisher: Candlewick Press, 2015

Synopsis: Hippos may make you laugh, but watch out! An acclaimed naturalist takes an exuberant look at these massive, swift, and super dangerous animals.

Title: Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise

Author: Sean Taylor

Illustrator: Jean Jullien

Publisher: Candlewick Press, 2015

Synopsis: Hoot Owl, a master of disguise, tries to camouflage himself so he can catch his dinner, but when his prey keeps escaping, he disguises himself as a waiter and catches a pizza instead.

Title: I Don't Want to Be a Frog

Author: Dev Petty

Illustrator: Mike Boldt

Publisher: Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2015

Synopsis: A frog who yearns to be any animal that is cute and warm discovers that being wet, slimy, and full of bugs has its advantages.

Title: I Fly: The Buzz About Flies and How Awesome They Are

Author: Bridget Heos

Illustrator: Jennifer Plecas

Publisher: Henry Holt and Company, 2015

Synopsis: Fly is fed up with everyone studying butterflies. Flies are so much cooler! In an unforgettably fun, fact-filled presentation, this lovable (and highly partisan) narrator promotes his species to a sometimes engrossed, sometimes grossed-out, class of kids.

Title: If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don't!

Author and Illustrator: Elise Parsley

Publisher: Little Brown and Company, 2015

Synopsis: If your teacher tells you to bring something from nature for show-and-tell, she does not want you to bring an alligator! But nothing will stop Magnolia, who's determined to have the best show-and-tell of all--until her reptilian rascal starts getting her into some major trouble. Now it's up to Magnolia to find a way to send this troublemaker home--but what could possibly scare an alligator away?

Title: I'm New Here

Author and Illustrator: Anne Sibley O'Brien

Publisher: Charlesbridge, 2015

Synopsis: Maria is from Guatemala, Jin is from Korea, and Fatima is from Somalia. All three are new to their American elementary school, and each has trouble speaking, writing, and sharing ideas in English. Through self-determination and with encouragement from their peers and teachers, the students learn to feel confident and comfortable in their new school without losing a sense of their home country, language, and identity.

Title: I'm Trying to Love Spiders

Author and Illustrator: Bethany Barton

Publisher: Viking, 2015

Synopsis: I'm Trying to Love Spiders will help you see these amazing arachnids in a whole new light, from their awesomely excessive eight eyes, to the seventy-five pounds of bugs a spider can eat in a single year! And you're sure to feel better knowing you have a better chance of being struck by lightning than being fatally bit by a spider. Comforting, right? No? Either way, there's heaps more information in here to help you forget your fears. . . or at least laugh a lot!

Title: Job Wanted

Author: Teresa Bateman

Illustrator: Chris Sheban

Publisher: Holiday House, 2015

Synopsis: A sorry-looking hound plods up to a farmer to ask for a job. Dogs just eat and don't give anything back, the farmer gripes. Most animals would be on their way, but this old dog dreams up new tricks to get his way.

Title: Mother Bruce

Author and Illustrator: Ryan T. Higgins

Publisher: Disney/Hyperion, 2015

Synopsis: Bruce the bear likes to keep to himself. That, and eat eggs. But when his hard-boiled goose eggs turn out to be real, live goslings, he starts to lose his appetite. And even worse, the goslings are convinced he's their mother. Bruce tries to get the geese to go south, but he can't seem to rid himself of his new companions. What's a bear to do?

Title: Mummy Cat

Author: Marcus Ewert

Illustrator: Lisa Brown

Publisher: Clarion Books, 2015

Synopsis: Mummy Cat prowls his pyramid home, longing for his beloved owner. As he roams the tomb, lavish murals above his head display scenes of a cat with his young Egyptian queen. Hidden hieroglyphs deepen the tale and are explained in an author's note.

Title: Nerdy Birdy

Author: Aaron Reynolds

Illustrator: Matt Davies

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press, 2015

Synopsis: Nerdy Birdy likes reading, video games, and reading about video games which immediately disqualifies him for membership in the cool crowd. One thing is clear: being a nerdy birdy is a lonely lifestyle. When he's at his lowest point, Nerdy Birdy meets a flock just like him. He has friends and discovers that there are far more nerdy birdies than cool birdies in the sky.

Title: A Perfectly Messed-Up Story

Author and Illustrator: Patrick McDonnell

Publisher: Little Brown and Company, 2014

Synopsis: Louie becomes angry when the story in which he appears is ruined by messes from jelly, peanut butter, and other things that do not belong in books.

Title: Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook

Author and Illustrator: Anne Vittur Kennedy

Publisher: Candlewick Press, 2015

Synopsis: This Tongue-in-cheek primer on how to be a good farm dog--and how ignoring the rules may results in a biscuit--is a guaranteed treat.

Title: There Was an Old Dragon Who Swallowed a Knight

Author: Penny Klostermann

Illustrator: Ben Mantle

Publisher: Random House, 2015

Synopsis: We all know that "there was an old lady" who swallowed lots of things. Now meet the old dragon who swallows pretty much an entire kingdom! Will he ever learn a little moderation?

Title: What the Dinosaurs Did Last Night: A Very Messy Adventure

Author: Refe Tuma

Illustrator: Susan Tuma

Publisher: Little Brown and Company, 2015

Synopsis: You might have noticed weird things happening in your house. Unexplainable messes. Food all over the kitchen floor. Who could the culprits be? Dinosaurs!

Title: Who Wants a Hug?

Author and Illustrator: Jeff Mack

Publisher: Harper, 2015

Synopsis: Everyone likes Bear except grouch Skunk, who devises a plan to make Bear stop being happy and hugging others.