

# Scribbles

SPRING 2020 Issue

scbwi Kansas/Missouri Newsletter

## Is Time Slipping Away?

BY ERIN MOS, KS/MO CO-REGIONAL ADVISOR

This is an article on time management. I've been planning to get to it all week.

But important things (children, post-holiday stuff, naps) keep getting in the way. I should start with a line from that song. You know the one—"time keeps on slipping, slipping, slipping." Let me look it up.

Turns out the song is "Fly Like an Eagle" by The Steve Miller Band. Did you know they also did "The Joker?" That's the song with the line "I'm a mid-night toker." I thought they did "Blinded by the Light" since it also has weird lyrics, but that was Manfred Mann. Oh, wait.

Jokes about the internet-rabbit-hole aside, the world is full of distractions. Some of them are immediate and

pressing (finals, physicals, *The Witcher* on Netflix). Some are more optional. ("What do you mean, kid-o-mine, that you don't like orange juice on cereal? You won't be so picky in college.") No matter your rating system, there are a million reasons not to sit and write.

How do you find/make/scavenge the time?

Full disclosure—I'm two-weeks late on this article and the only reason I'm not currently in tears is that I know how gracious and forgiving my editor is. This is in no way kissing up, but only about the brilliant Sue Bradford Edward's kind and generous nature.

That said, I have stretches where I make it work. I've tried almost every strategy ever suggested in the history of, well, ever. Here are a few Erin-tested tips that, to quote *Anchorman*, "60% of the time...works every time."

### DO THE HARDEST THING FIRST.

While I'm sure you've heard some version of *do the hardest thing first*, trust me on this one. A mental weight comes with carrying around dread. Get it done. You'll feel lighter. This literally means, write early(er) in the day. I don't love this. I'm a horror writer. All my favorite monsters play at night! I love the quiet after 11pm when it's just me and the nightmares. Late nights worked great. Until I got a life. And kids. Now, if I wait until the end of the day, the buckets with my creative and physical energy are empty. If I want to write reasonably well,

night is not an option. At least not until I learn to say 'no' and kick my kids out of the house.

While it pains me to write during the morning (a time for chirping birds, singing Disney princesses, and joggers), on days *when* I get to my creative work, it is by 11. This wasn't an easy transition. My muses hide in the dark. When I moved my creative time to morning, I had trouble rousing them from bed. Which leads me to...

### TRAIN YOUR BRAIN.

I'm serious. I thought this was a joke until I tried it. Really tried it. Not half-assed it. You've got to use the full-ass.

I needed a way to utilize the shorter blocks of time my life (read, kids) would give. This meant delivering a wake-up call to my muses. This meant finding a very fragrant type of tea. I ONLY make, drink, or even smell this tea when I'm creating. It took several weeks for this to work but now just a whiff and my brain turns on the technicolor. I may only have 20 minutes, but with my tea, I have 20 *good* minutes.

I'm far from alone in utilizing external cues. One author I spoke with told me he has a collection of action figures on a shelf next to his desk. When he wants to write, he faces them away. Not as moveable as a box of tea leaves, but it works for him. Another author talks about his "sweater of invisibility." When he's wearing it, his family

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pretends he's invisible—and his creative juices know to flow when the sweater comes on. The possibilities are endless, so find something that works for you and go with it—I won't judge.

### Mute the binary.

How many times have you opened your word document, warmed up Scrivener, or even grabbed a notepad only to have your phone chirp? Email, texts, social media, even phone calls are constant. Sometimes researching 14th century Swiss lemon cake recipes IS a part of your WIP. But most of the time, it probably isn't. Turn off the phone. Step away from the browser.

Not now. First finish reading this article!

All types of phones have a Do Not Disturb function. The great thing about this function is that the truly important people can still reach you. A *quick* online search will show you how to do it. For me, it's taken away the worry that for the 45 minutes my phone is off, both of my children's schools will be hit by meteorites.

Muting your phone is one thing, but ones and zeros can still find you. Mute the notifications on your computer to make your creating time about creating. If you struggle, set a timer. Or...

### KEEP SCORE.

Do you like metrics? Do you miss grade cards? I do. One of the biggest bummers as an adult is how rarely I get to see concrete feedback. One way I've found to keep a running score is by logging my writing time. I purchased a volunteer log book off Amazon and now I chart my start and stop times. Almost nothing can bring about the immediate endorphin rush of a page full of logged writing time. This ties into muting distractions. If I check my email, I log out. It keeps me honest.

### GET A BIGGER BUCKET.

A few paragraphs ago I mentioned how my mental and physical energy buckets run dry by the end of the day. Sometimes I don't have enough juice but there are ways to change that.

I work out. Mostly because I eat, drink, and would like to be able to climb my stairs without having to stop and rest. The biggest bonus (besides buttoning my pants) is that the more I work out, the more energy I have. Working out = a bigger bucket.

The same holds for creative energy. The more I write, the more I *can* write. But it isn't just writing that grows the bucket. I've discovered that all forms of creativity increase my creative fitness. I've started coloring, drawing, journaling, and baking. I don't write every day. Sometimes I've gone weeks without finding time. That's painful to admit, but it's the truth. What I've learned is that for my mental health as well my creative bucket, I can't go weeks without creating. It could be 10 minutes of coloring, or working on a bullet journal, or even a few minutes of knitting, but I need to do something most days. Checking in with my creative self makes for a happier, healthier life. And a bigger bucket.

It doesn't always have to be "productive" creation—which brings me to my last point.

### CUT YOURSELF SOME SLACK.

There will be times when it is impossible to write. As creators we often put a pressure on ourselves and bring on the guilt. I've asked around, I'm not the only one with this problem.

But it's not healthy. Or so my therapists says. So, here's a little advice from her to me to you: cut yourself some slack.

Writing (or illustrating, or creating anything) is something we do to fulfill ourselves.

Even if we are lucky enough to make a living at it, we still do it to support our lives—not in place of our lives. Remember that your kids will only be young once. Your father will only be in the nursing home once. Your best friend will only be going through this problem once. Okay, that last one might be a regular cycle, but you get the point. LIVE.

And then, when life calms down, pour a cup of tea and use what you lived to fuel the next great work that **ONLY** you can produce.

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ERIN MOS, CO-REGIONAL ADVISOR



Erin Mos wears many hats (and several names) – not the least of which is regional co-advisor for the Kansas-Missouri SCBWI. Under the name E. Lillith McDermott she writes dark fiction from her home in Kansas City where she collects apothecary bottles, spell books, and the tears of her enemies. She periodically geeks out at GeekMom.

com and her other work can be found at [elillithmcdermott.com](http://elillithmcdermott.com)

# Why?

BY JESS TOWNES, KS/MO CO-REGIONAL ADVISOR

Why?

It's the ultimate question of every four-year old, an audience many of us are quite familiar with, isn't it? Such a tiny question, yet so audacious.

It's a new year, a new decade even, and maybe you made some resolutions. Jotted down some writing goals. Maybe they are actionable or quantifiable or achievable, all those things good goals are supposed to be. Maybe you've already started knocking them off the list, one-by-one. And if you're reading this newsletter, those goals probably include some that have to do with writing for children, and more likely, getting that writing out into the world.

At just a month or so into this new year, I want to address you with the boldness of a four-year-old and ask you one question.

*Why?*

*Why do you write for children?*

There's no right answer. There's only your answer. But if you don't know the answer, the journey ahead of you is going to be much more difficult. Because the truth is, this industry can be daunting. It can feel impossible to break into, and once you're on the other side of whatever you've painted in your mind as the barrier to making it ("*If I can just find an agent...*" or "*Once I sell that first book...*" or "*After two books I'll know it's real...*") a new barrier will present itself. The floor will shift from under you. The rules will change. You'll have to adapt and learn and, in some ways, start again.

This is not meant to discourage you, but rather to urge you to dig a little deeper when you think about your publishing goals. If you can manage to not lose sight of your *why*, it will help you keep going in the moments when rejections are piling up, or your book doesn't make any end-of-the-year lists, or revisions are keeping you awake at night.

So take a moment right now and jot down your *why's* on a piece of paper. Go on. I'll wait.

Did you do it? Are you holding them in front of you?

Now I want you to do one more thing.

I want you to write down on the same piece of paper all the ways you can achieve your *why* that have nothing to do with writing for children. Consider this an exercise in brainstorming.

I'll go first.

I have several reasons that I write for children, but one of them is that I want to be a voice for children who sometimes feel that their voice doesn't matter. As I once heard Sara Pennypacker describe it, I don't want to write for children as a gift for them, but I want to write *for* them, as a helper in putting the totality of their lives and voices out into the world for other kids, and even adults, to fully see.

What are some other ways I can achieve this *why*? Here's my quick list:

- I can listen to the kids I work with in schools and advocate on their behalf to other teachers, administrators, and the school board.
- I can help kids find their own words, through writing or speaking or acting or singing, and help them learn how to tell their own stories.
- I can contact my legislators and make sure they are considering the perspectives of youth.
- I can amplify youth voices through my own platforms.
- I can support non-profits that create space for kids to lead.
- I can insist on the full dignity of the lives of children anytime I am in a space where their worth is diminished.

The reason I think it is important to keep such a list is that there are a lot of things in publishing that are outside your control. In fact, I think it can be argued that the only thing inside your control is your writing, and the attention you give your craft. Its reception and its publication are on a totally different timeline, and one that you have only so much leverage to guide. When the wait becomes longer than you like (the wait to sell a book, the wait for the book to get through edits, to hit the shelves, etc.), I think it helps to remember there are other ways to achieve your *why*. And it helps even more to actively pursue those other ways in the meantime.

Maybe your *why* is that you want to write for children because you love reading picture books aloud to kids. Have you considered volunteering for a program like Ready Readers that sends volunteers into preschools to read aloud? You don't have to have your own books to promote to achieve that *why*.

Maybe your *why* is that you want to impact the lives of children in a specific way, like help engender a love of nature. While you are working on your writing, you could also lead nature hikes in your local town or start a community garden for children.

*cont'd on pg. 4*

Why? ... *cont'd from pg. 3*

I think a lot about that famous quote from Stephen King, about his writing desk, and its placement in his room:

*"It starts with this: put your desk in the corner, and every time you sit down there to write, remind yourself why it isn't in the middle of the room. Life isn't a support system for art. It's the other way around."*

Your writing, your art, it can be support system for life, and for achieving your *why*. But it's not the only way to get there. And when you broaden your experiences in life, and maybe take a different or parallel path toward that end goal,

you might just find it ends up enriching the art anyway.

I hope that you meet each and every one of your writing and publishing goals this year, but more than that, I hope you find joy and meaning in the journey.

JESS TOWNES, CO-REGIONAL ADVISOR



Jess Townes currently serves as regional co-advisor for the Kansas-Missouri SCBWI. She is a children's writer and a regular contributor at All the Wonders. She lives in Wentzville, Missouri with her ukulele-strumming husband, two insatiably curious boys, a shoe-stealing dog, and two cats. [jesstownes.com](http://jesstownes.com).

## New Year, New Inspiration

BY NICKI JACOBSMEYER, KS/MO ASSISTANT REGIONAL ADVISOR

Happy New Year! We're already two months into 2020, can you believe it? With a new year comes new goals. Don't worry, this article isn't about new goals. Not that I think goals aren't beneficial, because I do. In fact, I think goals for different parts of your life are important, including your creative goals. The writing critique group I'm in has a yearly goal contest. At the beginning of the year, our fearless group leader has us each bring three writing goals to our January meeting. We all share and the cheerleading begins. At the beginning of the following year we see how many we've achieved. For each accomplished goal we get one entry into the drawing for a gift card to a local bookstore. The stakes are high!

Although the twelve months in the year usually fly by, there are moments that feel stagnant. For these I-must-work-on-this-but-it's-so-painful moments, an inspiring quote can be the spark that starts the fire. I hope one of these quotes fuels your fire in 2020!

**"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."**

– Maya Angelou

**"A writer who waits for ideal conditions under which to work will die without putting a word to paper."**

– E. B. White

**"Whatever it takes to finish things, finish. You will learn more from a glorious failure than you ever will from something you never finished."**

– Neil Gaiman

**"The scariest moment is always just before you start."**

– Stephen King

**"Don't forget—no one else sees the world the way you do, so no one else can tell the stories that you have to tell."**

– Charles de Lint

**"Prose is architecture, not interior decoration."**

– Ernest Hemingway

**"It is perfectly okay to write garbage—as long as you edit brilliantly."**

– C. J. Cherryh

**"To learn to draw is to draw and draw and draw."**

– Andrew Loomis

**"If you have other things in your life—family, friends, good productive day work—these can interact with your writing and the sum will be all the richer."**

– David Brin

**"Writing a novel is like driving a car at night. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way."**

– E. L. Doctorow

**"Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it's the only way you can do anything really good."**

– William Faulkner

**"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."**

– Toni Morrison

**"The secret to so many artists living so long is that every painting is a new adventure. So, you see, they're always looking ahead to something new and exciting. The secret is not to look back."**

– Norman Rockwell

*cont'd on pg. 5*

New Year, New Inspiration ... *cont'd from pg. 4*

**"You can make anything by writing."** – C.S. Lewis

**"A word after a word after a word is power."**  
– Margaret Atwood

**"Tears are words that need to be written."**  
– Paulo Coelho

**"My life will be the best illustration of all my work."**  
– Hans Christian Andersen

**"You might not write well every day, but you can always edit a bad page. You can't edit a blank page."**  
– Jodi Picoult

**"The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do."** – Thomas Jefferson

**"Art is the reflection of pure emotion and mind, the nature of sensation. An artist illustrates that."**  
– Unarine Ramaru

**"When I write I pretend I'm telling a story to someone in the room and I don't want them to get up until I'm finished."**  
– James Patterson

**"Always have a vivid imagination, for you never know when you might need it."**  
– J. K. Rowling

NICKI JACOBSMEYER, ASSISTANT RA



Nicki Jacobsmeyer writes fiction and non-fiction for children and adults. She has a middle grade book, *Surviving the Iditarod, You Choose: Surviving Extreme Sports* (Capstone Press, 2017) and a historical non-fiction book, *Images Of America, Chesterfield* (Arcadia Publishing, 2016).

Her short stories and poetry are published in several anthologies. Besides reading and writing she loves to travel, knit, sunsets, family barbecues and watching a storm come in from her front porch. Visit her at [nickijacobsmeyer.com](http://nickijacobsmeyer.com).

## ILLUSTRATOR'S CORNER

# For Our Illustrators

BY ROBIN SCHUBERTH, KS/MO ILLUSTRATOR COORDINATOR

### Illustrator Day: THE PORTFOLIO

Saturday, April 18th, 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

SCBWI KS/MO's Annual Illustrator Day IS BACK!



Claudia Zoe Bedrick



Zoey Abbott

This day-long workshop will include a look at what to include in your portfolio, an artist demonstration and process analysis, along with an opportunity for attendees to receive feedback on portfolios from the art director from Enchanted Lion Books, Claudia Zoe Bedrick and illustrator Zoey Abbott. Portfolio critiques run all day.

Are you ready for some inspiration? This is a great opportunity for hands-on creative work and true portfolio

building! Let Zoey Abbott take you on a creative journey with her visual prompts in an art activity and allow Claudia Zoe Bedrick to share her vision of what makes a great picture book.

We would love to share a wonderful day of illustration for inspiration to celebrate the coming of spring!

Look for **Illustrator Day: THE PORTFOLIO** on our SCBWI website and register for this April 18th event.

ROBIN SCHUBERTH, ILLUSTRATOR COORDINATOR



Robin Schubert lives in a treehouse home on stilts in the Kansas City area. Her illustrations are inspired by objects, architecture, and landscapes. Her favorite medium is watercolors, but she is comfortable in all areas of illustration, having taught visual arts and design at the secondary level for thirteen years.

Please feel free to contact her by email at [robinschubert@gmail.com](mailto:robinschubert@gmail.com).

Check out our featured illustrator of the month at  
[ksmo.scbwi.org/featured-illustrator](http://ksmo.scbwi.org/featured-illustrator)

# Look Back Before You Leap Forward

BY PEGGY ARCHER, KS/MO PAL COORDINATOR

As I'm writing this it's the first day of 2020. By the time you read this we'll be well into the new year! How's it going so far? One day in and I'm already behind.

I've been looking back at photos and events of the past year and thinking about how to improve my daily schedule to fit everything in. It's easy to make a list and say how I plan to do things. But I am reminded that there are unexpected things that will get in the way of my 'plan.' I'm trying to be realistic, so I'll look to the past year to guide me.

Things that I want to focus on or improve *besides* writing include—

- Family time
- Friend time
- Exercise
- Volunteer activities
- Downtime, including reading

Things that I want to focus on or improve *within* writing include—

- Actual writing
- Submissions
- Author visits
- Critique meetings
- Volunteer activities
- Posting on social media
- Webinars, a retreat and a conference

It looks overwhelming! Realistically, I know that I won't be able to keep up with everything all the time. Maybe not even *most* of the time! But it won't stop me from trying. And if I have a less productive day or week or month, I'll start over.

So, I'm looking back to see where I can change what slowed me down last year to help me this year. Some things are beyond my control, and others I can plan ahead. If I exercise early or later in the day, it won't interrupt my writing time. Downtime works best for me later in the day or on the week-ends or when my husband watches sports on TV—I am not a sports person. Other things are on a schedule, so I can plan around them. My writing activities could be more organized to save time. Some things that might help me personally—

- 'Scheduling' an hour or two 3 or 4 days a week to read on the internet or watch a webinar or podcast instead of it being random. And setting a timer so I know when to stop!
- Reading newsletters as soon as I get them.
- Organizing my PowerPoint presentations so that takes less tweaking to make them personal.
- Scheduling writing time at the same time each day, but also being flexible.

**Look back before you leap forward!** Make a list of

*your accomplishments* in 2019. Give yourself credit for even the smallest things! Your focus on writing or non-writing activities will be different depending on a number of things including—

- Your family
- Your age
- Your job
- The place where you are in your writing career

Once you've looked back, it will be easier to find places where you can make changes to move forward even more. Perhaps it will be finding more writing time, or learning more about writing or illustrating for children. Some things to think about might include—

- Scheduling time to write. When my kids were younger and I worked, I set aside two days a week to write. Sometimes I did less, but often it was more, because it was on my calendar!
- Looking for free programs or inexpensive webinars within SCBWI—local programs, meet-and-greet gatherings, webinars, podcasts. Possibly budget in a bigger conference or writing event that includes your particular writing genre.
- Joining a critique group or becoming more active in the group that you belong to now. For me, knowing that a meeting is coming up pushes me to have something ready to critique.
- Volunteering—to gain more personal input on writing, to meet more people who write or illustrate, or possibly to get more face-time with editors and agents.

Think of your past year as a learning experience and use it to punch up your writing this year. If your new year's goals didn't work out in January, use the past to start over in February! Every day is a new day, and another chance to start over, so don't worry if you fall short. Just get up, dust off your computer, and leap forward! Wishing you all much success in your writing in 2020!

PEGGY ARCHER, PAL COORDINATOR



Peggy Archer's newest picture book, *A Hippy-Hoppy Toad* (Schwartz & Wade/Random House 2018), just won the SCBWI Mid South Division Crystal Kite Award, and is a Junior Library Guild Selection. Her other recent picture books include *Name That Dog!* (Dial) and *From Dawn to Dreams* (Candlewick Press). Originally from northwest Indiana, Peggy and her husband now live in O'Fallon, MO. [peggyarcher.com](http://peggyarcher.com)

Check out our latest PAL Author of the Month at  
[ksmo.scbwi.org/featured-author](http://ksmo.scbwi.org/featured-author)

# 10 Reasons I Love Writing for the Education Market

BY AMY HOUTS

I started writing in the 1980s when I was a young mom staying home with my baby girl. I wrote nonfiction for a parenting newsletter (full disclosure, the newsletter was published by my parents, so I had an in) submitted poetry, fiction, and nonfiction to magazines, and hoped for a picture book contract. I didn't know about the education market. I didn't know that publishers offered assignments. In the mid-2000s, I met an amazing editor, Cindy Kane, formerly of Pearson (the largest education publisher in the world) and she took a chance on me. Besides Pearson, I have written for: Learning Horizons, Compass Media, Six Red Marbles, Bill Smith Group (currently QBS), Korea Hemingway, Rosen, and Stone Arch. I just completed writing 15 books for "Read with Highlights," one of the book divisions of the famous magazine. Following are ten reasons I love to write for the education market.

**1. Write on interesting topics:** From how animals communicate to a biography of Chopin, writing for the education market has assigned me topics that I would have otherwise never tackled on my own. And each new topic becomes my favorite. The world is a fascinating place!

**2. Research to your heart's content:** As a former librarian, I love research! Getting lost in the many ways (primary sources, internet, books, articles, and more) to find out about something is fun, motivating, and satisfying.

**3. Work with a talented team of editors:** I've enjoyed working with editors who give me insight, support, and answer my questions. A few have become my dear friends.

**4. Short-term time commitment:** The projects run from a week to a few months and then they are over. Intense? Yes. Then on to the next new thing.

**5. Author multiple books:** Often editors ask for a series of four or more books on a certain topic for nonfiction or a certain character for fiction. I wrote my "Sarah Series" books for Korea Hermannhese because I named the main character the same name as my daughter. Seven books in the series taught good character traits.

**6. Teach young children:** I studied early childhood at Northwest Missouri State University. After teaching preschool at Head Start, I realized that the classroom was not the best place for me, but I still had the desire to teach young children. Writing books for preschool and early grades satisfies that hunger.

**7. Detailed guidelines:** Before the extraordinary editors answer questions, they first send detailed information: topic, word count, content, grade level, and more. I refer to these written documents again and again.

**8. Community support:** Working on assignment, I am in touch (online) with other writers working for the same publisher. Often, we ask each other questions or clarification, share what we've learned from an editor, and report when we've received a check.

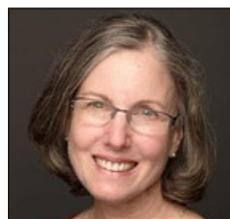
**9. Payment is guaranteed:** You will earn money, although it's a one-time payment, a flat fee (usually). Usually the terms are 30-60 days after the final manuscript is submitted. Of course, you need to complete the assignment as listed in the contract, which might include not only a manuscript, but discussion questions, a bibliography, sidebars, and a glossary.

**10. No Promo:** I spent over a year preparing for my freelance book, *God's Protection Covers Me*, to be released by progressive Christian publisher, Beaming Books, from my blog tour, webinar, activity packet, to social media posts and a book signing. But there's no need to promote your book when you write for an educational publisher. No royalties involved. The publisher takes care of advertising and sales.

So, how do you break in? Submit your resume and cover letter to the educational publishers listed in the SCBWI resource: THE BOOK. Meet editors of educational publishers at conferences. And/or network with other writers to recommend you. I still submit my freelance work, but have had so much more success writing for the education market. Maybe you will, too.

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AMY HOUTS



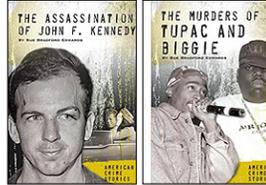
Amy Houts is an author of over 70 children's books, cookbooks, and board games that feature early learning concepts, family themes of love and friendship, and holiday celebrations. Amy's numerous short stories, articles, and poems have appeared in *Ladybug Magazine*, *Highlights Hello*, and *Pockets Magazine*. Her books include: *God's Protection Covers Me* (Beaming Books); *Think Like a Scientist* (Pearson Learning Group); and *Dora the Explorer Safety* (Learning Horizons).

## MEMBER NEWS

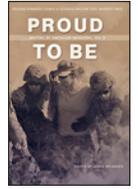
Writing as Leviticus James, **Levi Costello** has published his first young adult novel, *Numbered*, on Amazon.



**Sue Bradford Edwards** has two new books out from Abdo. *The Assassination of John F. Kennedy* and *The Murders of Tupac and Biggie* are both part of the American Crime Stories Series.



**Billie Holladay Skelley** received the First Place Award in the Interview Category for her interview, “Keith Eugene Fiscus—A Life of Service,” in *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* published by the Southeast Missouri State University Press. The award was presented by the Missouri Humanities Council.



**Jody Jensen Shaffer's** picture book *Emergency Kittens!* (Doubleday/RH), illustrated by Dave Mottram, flew onto shelves January 7, 2020.



## The Market Place

BY RITA RUSSELL

“For the fifth year in a row, NPD reports a year-over-year increase in children’s board book sales, and data for 2019 shows they are on track to surpass last year’s numbers. . . Although the last decade saw the closing of many standalone bookstores, more retailers are stocking children’s books than ever, and board books, with their small size and lower price points, offer a unique opportunity for consumers and retailers alike.”

*Jim Harbison – “The Benefits of the Board Book Boom,” Publishers Weekly 11/14/19*

## BOOK MARKETS

New Zealand and San Francisco-based **BLUE DOT KIDS PRESS** is unveiling five titles for its spring 2020 inaugural list. All books are geared toward young readers aged 3-8. “I was looking for authors and illustrators who had a passion for nature and its stewardship,” said founder and publisher Heidi Hill. Hill is open to unsolicited manuscripts and hopes to include a few debut authors “with a unique voice” on her 2021 list. Most interested in work that reflects an appreciation for the environment, global citizenship, or being a change maker. Will also consider graphic novels, narrative nonfiction with back matter, and arts and crafts and activity books. See website for submission details for authors and illustrators. (*Publishers Weekly (PW) 10/10/19 and BlueDotKidsPress.com*)

**CHARLESBRIDGE** publishes fiction and nonfiction board books through young adult. Seeking fiction that features engaging, plot-driven stories with strong, distinctive characters. Nonfiction should showcase nature, math/science, social studies, the arts, and diversity/multicultural topics. Before submitting, study Charlesbridge’s current list for Spring 2020, to make sure your work is a good fit. <https://charlesbridge.myshopify.com/pages/download-the-catalog>. Current submission needs and complete submission guidelines are posted on website. (Children’s Book Insider (CBI) 11/2019 and Charlesbridge.com)

**CLAVIS BOOKS**, with offices in Belgium, Holland, and the US, publishes board books and picture books only for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Currently seeking manuscripts and/or artwork. Specific submission details are posted on website. (*Clavis-Publishing.com and ICL eNews 10/31/19*)

Minnesota-based **CREATIVE EDITIONS**, an imprint of The Creative Company, is open to unsolicited picture book submissions for ages 4-6. Also accepts board books for ages 2-5 and illustrated nonfiction for middle school readers. Current picture book titles include *Yusra Swims* by Julie Abery, *Always Jackie* by J. Patrick Lewis, and *My Mastodon* by Barbara Lowell. Board books include *In the Garden* by Kate Riggs, *Egg* by Amy Sky Koster, and *Dream Song* by Walter de la Mare. All Creative Editions titles are distributed by Chronicle Books. Visit the website for submission information. Submissions may be emailed or sent via postal mail. (*Institute of Children’s Learning (ICL) eNews 1/2/20 and TheCreativeCompany.US*)

Independent publisher **Sourcebooks** has acquired **DAWN PUBLICATIONS**, a Nevada City, Calif., press that’s

*cont’d on pg. 9*

been a standout in the school and library market for forty years, publishing picture books about nature and the environment. As of January 1st, all Dawn operations were transferred to Sourcebooks's headquarters in Naperville, Ill. Dawn's co-publishers, **Bruce and Carol Malnor**, will remain involved as consultants. "Adding Dawn's authors and illustrators to our current list elevates us on a literary level," said Sourcebooks editorial director **Kelly Barrales-Saylor**. "Dawn is so highly respected; it has such a vast and prestigious list. These books are not your basic nonfiction: they're creative nonfiction; it's a great match for us." As part of the deal, Sourcebooks has acquired 88 Dawn titles in print, including two of its evergreen bestsellers, *A Drop Around the World* by Barbara Shaw McKinney and *The Dandelion Seed* by Joseph Anthony. Dawn was founded in 1979 with the publication of *Sharing Nature with Children* by Joseph Bharat Cornell and expanded into children's books in 1992 with *A Walk in the Rainforest* by Kristin Joy Pratt. (PW 1/7/20)

**Houghton Mifflin Harcourt** has formed a new children's graphic novel imprint, **ETCH**, which will house all of HMH's graphic novels under a single imprint. Launching in September 2020, the catalog will consist of seven titles, with plans to publish about 15 books per year. Most of the books on the initial list are middle grade, but more young adult titles will be added in the future. Publisher **Catherine Onder** will oversee the imprint, but editors from other HMH imprints (Clarion, Versify, and HMH Books for Young Readers) will also acquire properties for Etch. (PW 11/21/19)

**FREE SPIRIT** publishes self-help books and learning materials for kids and teens, that are practical, positive, pro-kid, and solution focused. Currently seeking fiction and nonfiction proposals in multiple categories, including early childhood, gifted & special education, bullying prevention & conflict resolution, and character education, leadership & service management. Especially interested in submissions related to grief, loss, & trauma; special needs inclusion; social justice & student activism; and peer empathy. More details on the submittable form: <https://freespiritpublishing.submittable.com/submit>. To review a full list of titles, visit the website. (FreeSpirit.com and CBI 11/2019)

**HarperCollins Children's Books** has announced the debut of **HEARTDRUM**, an imprint devoted to publishing books by Native authors and artists that introduce young Native protagonists and showcase the present and future of Indian Country. The Heartdrum name and logo pay tribute to the connection between the drumbeat and the heartbeat it evokes in the Native community. Scheduled to launch in winter 2021, the

Heartdrum list will be curated by acclaimed author **Cynthia Leitich Smith**, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, and helmed by **Rosemary Brosnan**, VP and Editorial Director at HarperCollins.

The idea for Heartdrum grew out of Smith's frustration with the children's publishing industry's lack of representation of Native authors—and the limited scope of the titles that are published in that area. "The books themselves are not reflective of the diversity of Native people – not only the diversity among Nations but also the diversity of individuals in terms of their rural or urban lifestyle and so many other characteristics," she observed. "It is so clear that we need more Native voices represented in every children's book format, from picture books to middle-grade to books for teens. . . . Native kids have not historically seen themselves in children's literature in a way that I am certain they will in the future, and I am very enthusiastic that Heartdrum will help that happen." (PW 11/19/19)

**JOLLY FISH PRESS**, an imprint of Minnesota-based **North Star Editions, Inc.**, is currently seeking middle grade and YA fiction, especially books showcasing strong voices, unique stories, and diverse characters. To see recent titles, go to <https://www.jollyfishpress.com/new-releases/> Submission guidelines on website, under the submissions tab. Jolly Fish also welcomes applications from authors interested in producing fiction manuscripts on a work-for-hire basis. (CBI 10/2019 and JollyFishPress.com)

Boston-based **PAGE STREET PUBLISHING** publishes young adult fiction in all genres for ages 12 and up, and picture books for ages 4-8. They also publish biographies for ages 8-12, and, more rarely, board books for ages 0-3. See submissions guidelines on website for specifics needed in the query. Page Street books are distributed by Macmillan. (ICL eNews 10/31/19 and PageStreetPublishing.com)

**PELICAN PUBLISHING**, an imprint of **Arcadia Publishing**, is an independent company that publishes children's and young adult fiction and nonfiction that often have a regional or historical focus. Currently seeking YA fiction and nonfiction (history, biography, African American, regional); middle grade (History, biography, cooking, African American, regional, STEM); and picture books (holiday, history, biography, African American, regional, STEM) for ages 5-8. Requires exclusive submissions for up to three months for picture books and one month for MG and YA manuscripts. See very detailed guidelines on [website. https://pelicanpub.com/viewer.php?region=92](https://pelicanpub.com/viewer.php?region=92) (CBI 12/2019 and PelicanPub.com)

*cont'd on pg. 10*

In addition to the previously mentioned Heartdrum, **HarperCollins Children's Books** is expanding with another new imprint for young readers, **QUILL TREE BOOKS**. Launching in fall 2020, Quill Tree will focus on publishing authors with a strong point of view, as well as those who are often underrepresented. And like Heartdrum, Quill Tree will be helmed by v-p and editorial director **Rosemary Brosnan**. The Quill Tree inaugural list will feature two picture books, a graphic novel, a middle grade novel, and several young adult novels from noted storytellers like Jerry Craft and Michael Chabon. (*PW 1/16/20*)

**SCHWARTZ & WADE**, a Penguin imprint, publishes about 15 to 20 books a year, mostly picture books, as well as middle grade and young adult fiction, non-traditional nonfiction, and graphic novels. Currently accepting unsolicited picture book manuscripts and proposals for longer books. Before submitting, review titles currently published under the Schwartz & Wade imprint, using this [link](#). Submissions may be sent via postal mail only to: Schwartz & Wade Books, Submissions Editor, 1745 Broadway, 10-4, New York, New York 10019. (*ICL eNews 12/12/19 and PenguinRandomHouse.com/faq*)

**SWOON READS**, an entity operated by **Macmillan's Feiwel & Friends**, and is now accepting all YA fiction genres, including fantasy, contemporary, historical, paranormal, mystery, horror, and romance. "We're looking for irresistible, unforgettable, original young adult novels that have never been published before. From heroic epics, to alien adventures, to all-the-feels romance: if our community and editors fall in love with your book, you could land a publishing deal with Macmillan." Novels ideally feature protagonists between the ages of 14 and 23. Preferred word count is between 50,000-70,000 words. All submissions will be exclusive to Swoon Reads for 6 months, and manuscripts must never have been available for sale. (*ICL eNews 10/17/19 and SwoonReads.com*)

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"Don't worry too much about following whatever rules you've learned about how things should or shouldn't be done, as long as your work is fresh and inventive and full of imagination. Be creative and show us something new. The rest will fall into place."

*Frances Gilbert – Children's Book Editor and Author*

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## PUBLISHING PERSONNEL NEWS

**Brenda Angelilli** has joined **ABRAMS** as Associate Art Director of Children's Books and ComicArts. She was senior designer at HarperCollins Children's Books. (*Publishers Weekly Children's Bookshelf 11/5/19*)

**Claire Stetzer** is an Associate Editor at **BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS**, moving up from assistant editor. (*PWCB 11/5/19*)

In January, **Nancy Brennan** joined **CANDLEWICK** as Executive Art Director, coming from Viking Children's Books where she worked for 18 years, most recently as art director. (*PWCB 1/9/20*)

**Stephanie Pitts** has been promoted from editor to Senior Editor at **G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS BFYR**. (*PWCB 10/17/19*)

## HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- **Alyson Day** is now Executive Editor, up from senior editor. (*PWCB 12/19/19*)
- **Audrey Steuerwald** has joined as Art Director, coming from Random House where she was assistant art director marketing. **Xander Hollenbeck** has been promoted to Senior Designer. (*Publishers Weekly 1/13/20*)
- **Della Farrell** is Assistant Editor at **HOLIDAY HOUSE**, promoted from editorial assistant. (*PWCB 12/5/19*)

## MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S

- Welcomed **Camille Kellogg** to **Imprint** as Assistant Editor; previously she was an editorial assistant at HarperCollins. (*PWCB 12/12/19*)
- **Erin Siu** has been promoted to Associate Editor at **Square Fish**, from assistant editor. (*PWCB 12/5/19*)
- And **Tiffany Liao** is now Senior Editor at **Henry Holt BFYR**, up from editor. (*PWCB 11/7/19*)

**Christina Quintero** is the new Creative Director at **ODD DOT**, after exiting Little Brown where she was executive art director. (*PWCB 1/9/20*)

## PENGUIN YOUNG READERS

As of January 13, **Zareen Jaffery** is Executive Editor of the **Kokila** imprint, where she will acquire and edit books across age groups. Previously, she was executive editor at Simon & Schuster BFYR, and co-founder of the Salaam Reads imprint. Also at Kokila, **Jasmin Rubero** has been promoted to Art Director; she was previously associate art director at Kokila and Dial. (*PWCB 1/9/20*)

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## RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- A round of promotions in the art department: **Roberta Ludlow** has been promoted to Executive Art Director. **April Ward** is now Senior Art Director. **Nicole de las Heras** moves up to Senior Art Director. **Jinna Shin** has been promoted to Assistant Art Director, and **Bob Bianchini** is now Senior Designer. (PWCB 1/23/20)
- **Rotem Moscovich** has joined **Knopf BFYR** as Editorial Director, Picture Books, coming from Disney-Hyperion where she was executive editor. **Tricia Lin** has joined **Random House BFYR** as Associate Editor, coming from Simon & Schuster where she was assistant editor. (PWCB 12/12/19)
- **Polo Orozco** has been promoted to Assistant Editor, from editorial assistant. (PWCB 11/7/19)
- **Lydia Gregovic** and **Ali Romig** have joined **Delacorte Press** as Editorial Assistants. Romig was previously a publishing assistant at RHCBC. (PWCB 11/19/19 & 11/7/19)

## Promotions at SCHOLASTIC

- **Cassandra Pelham Fulton** has been promoted to Editorial Director at **Graphix**. **Emily Nguyen** has joined as Editorial Assistant. (PW 12/19/19 and PWCB 12/10/19)
- **Vanessa Han** has been promoted to Associate Art Director at **Klutznick**, from senior designer. (PWCB 12/10/19)
- **Zachary Clark** has been promoted to Senior Editor, from editor. **Rachel Matson** and **Olivia Valcarce** moved up to Associate Editor, from assistant editor. **Jonah Newman**, **Shelly Romero**, and **Talia Seidenfeld** have been promoted to Assistant Editor, from editorial assistant. (PWCB 12/10/19)

## SIMON & SCHUSTER CHILDREN'S promotions

- **Jessi Smith** moves up to Associate Editor for **Simon Pulse** and **Aladdin**, from assistant editor. **Anna Parsons** is now Assistant Editor for **Aladdin**, from editorial assistant. (PWCB 1/16/20)
- **Reka Simonsen** has been promoted to Editorial Director, from executive editor, at **Atheneum**. **Chloe Foglia** has been promoted to Art Director, from associate art director, for **S&S Books for Young Readers** and **Paula Wiseman Books**. **Greg Stadnyk** has been promoted to Associate Art Director, from senior designer, for **S&S Books for Young Readers**, **Atheneum**, and **McElderry Books**. **Alex Borbolla** has been promoted to Associate Editor, from assistant editor, for **Atheneum** and **Caitlyn Dlouhy Books**. (PWCB 10/24/19)

- **Nicole Ellul** has been promoted to Senior Editor, from editor, and **Sarah McCabe** has been promoted to Editor, from associate editor, at **Simon Pulse**. (PWCB 10/22/19)
- **Lisa Rao** is now Executive Editor at **Simon Spotlight**, up from senior editor. **Beth Barton** fills her former position as Senior Editor, from editor. (PWCB 10/17/19)

**Jenny Bak** has joined **VIKING CHILDREN'S BOOKS** as Executive Editor, coming from Jimmy Patterson Books at Little, Brown, where she was editorial director. (PWCB 11/5/19)

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“It took me five years of submitting eighteen different stories a total of 180 times before I made my first sale. That number isn’t meant to be discouraging but encouraging. Persistence is the name of the game. Those who give up will never succeed. Those who keep trying will either succeed, or at the very least, have a wonderful journey along the way.”

*Ann Whitford Paul – Children's Book Author*

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## AGENT NEWS

**Kortney Price**, Associate Agent at **CORVISIERO LITERARY AGENCY**, is building her list with picture book, early reader/chapter book, middle grade, and young adult authors. See her current wish list on the agency website. Price is drawn to stories that are humorous, mysterious, magical, and/or help readers deal with difficult issues. Follow her on [Twitter @Kortney Price](#) and read more about her tastes on ManuscriptWishList.com. Also at Corvisiero, **Hannah VanVels** has joined as Agent Apprentice, coming from HarperCollins/Blink YA Books where she was an editor. VanVels is excited to rep fresh voices in MG, YA, New Adult/Adult, and Children's Graphic Novels. Her preferences are posted on the agency website.

*(CorvisieroAgency.com and Harold Underdown 11/2019)*

Veteran lit agent **Miriam Altshuler** with **DEFIORE & COMPANY** is open to submissions, representing adult literary and book club fiction, narrative nonfiction, and MG and YA books for children. She connects to stories that have heart, standout voice, and are character driven. Include in query a brief description of your book, with one or two sentences that identify the “heart” of the story or nonfiction topic. Full submission guidelines on website.

*(DeFiore.com and CBI 11/2019)*

*cont'd on pg. 12*

**Janna Morishima** has opened the **JANNA CO.**, a literary and illustration agency specializing in representing children's and YA artists, graphic novelists, visual storytellers, and production studios. Morishima's launch of her eponymous agency comes after nearly two decades in children's publishing. In 2004, she co-founded the Graphix imprint at Scholastic and brought authors Raina Telgemeier and Jeff Smith to the inaugural list. Other publishing experience includes work with Marvel and Papercutz. (*Publishing Perspectives 1/10/20 and JannaCo.co*).

**Hanna Fergesen** at **KT LITERARY** is currently open to unsolicited queries from marginalized writers only. Use #ownvoices or "Underrepresented Writer" in email subject line to prevent query deletion. Fergesen is attracted to "stories with strong visuals and sharp dialogue, whether presented in edgy speculative or contemporary YA and MG fiction, or dark and lyrical speculative adult fiction." Follow her on [Twitter @HannahFergesen](https://twitter.com/HannahFergesen). (*KTLiterary.com*)

**Maria Vicente** at **P.S. LITERARY** is open to queries for graphic novels, YA, and MG across all genres, and PB submissions from author/illustrators only. See full wish list posted on her website [www.MariaVicente.com/](http://www.MariaVicente.com/) representation Follow submission guidelines on agency website. Follow Vicente on [Twitter: @MSMariaVicente](https://twitter.com/MSMariaVicente) (*PSLiterary.com*)

**Agent Thao Le** at **SANDRA DIJKSTRA LITERARY** expects to open to queries in February 2020. Le represents kid lit across all genres (i.e. picture books and graphic novels by author-illustrators, Middle Grade fiction, and Young Adult) as well as romantic leaning Fantasy and Light Science Fiction for adults. Follow Thao on [Twitter @ThaoLe8](https://twitter.com/ThaoLe8) for updates on her submission needs. (*DijkstraAgency.com*)

**Agent Lynnette Novak** at **THE SEYMOUR AGENCY** is actively building her list with adult suspense/thrillers, horror, contemporary romance, rom-com, & mysteries; YA suspense/ thrillers, horror, sci-fi, fantasy, mysteries, & contemporary; MG horror, sci-fi, fantasy, contemporary, adventure, mysteries, & humor; and picture books (non-rhyming preferred!). Prior to joining Seymour, Lynnette spent seventeen years freelance editing. She was a Pitch Wars mentor in 2015 and 2016. Both of her mentees acquired an agent. Follow Lynnette on [Twitter @Lynnette Novak](https://twitter.com/Lynnette_Novak), and find her up-to-date wish list on [MSWishList.com](http://MSWishList.com). (*TheSeymourAgency.com*)

**Ali Herring**, Assistant Agent at **SPENCERHILL ASSOCIATES**, is seeking middle grade and young adult fiction in all genres, science fiction and fantasy, romance, southern women's fiction, and inspirational fiction, especially romance. If you'd like a better idea of her interests, see her page on [MSWishList.com](http://MSWishList.com), and follow

her on [Twitter @HerringAli](https://twitter.com/HerringAli). (*Children's Book Insider (CBI) 12/2019 and SpencerHillAssociates.com*)

**STONESONG LITERARY** Agent **Melissa Edwards** represents children's books for all ages and adult commercial fiction, as well as select pop culture nonfiction. Melissa is looking for children's literature with heart, especially in picture book and middle grade. "My PB list is small, but I tend to prefer the fun, the funny, and the emotionally evocative." She's looking for books that kids will be excited to read time after time. For young adults, she is interested in commercial fiction in all genres, particularly romance and thriller. In addition to agenting, Melissa operates MLE Consulting, a contracts consultancy firm for authors and agents. Follow her on [Twitter @MelissaLaurenE](https://twitter.com/MelissaLaurenE) and review her wish list on [MSWishList.com](http://MSWishList.com) (*StoneSong.com*)

**Agent Samantha Wekstein** at **THOMPSON LITERARY** is accepting submissions for picture books, middle grade and young adult fiction. Visit her Publishers Marketplace page for background and taste information. <https://www.publishersmarketplace.com/members/SamanthaWekstein/> To submit, follow the guidelines on the agency website. (*ThompsonLiterary.com and CBI 12/2019*)

**Alexandra Levick**, a Junior Agent with **WRITERS HOUSE**, is actively growing her picture book, middle grade, young adult, and adult lists. Looking for picture book author-illustrators, and a wide range of middle grade and YA. She's particularly looking for #OwnVoices stories about historically underrepresented characters, identities, and cultures. Particularly likes a distinctive voice and strong thematic point behind the work. She loves character-driven stories that revolve around BIG topics. Open to contemporary as well as genre fiction. Query only one project at a time. Responds within six weeks if interested. For more details, go to <https://www.alexandralevick.com/> (*CBI 1/2020 and WritersHouse.com*)

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"Wanting to be a writer and not wanting to be rejected is like being a boxer and not wanting to get punched."

*David Barr Kirtley – Short Story Writer*

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## MAGAZINE MARKET

**CLUBHOUSE** magazine, published by **Focus on the Family**, seeks submissions that inspire, entertain and teach Christian values to children ages 8-12. The magazine, which has a circulation of over 80,000, is accepting fiction and nonfiction stories, including short craft or recipe ideas,

*cont'd on pg. 13*

that have excitement, adventure, action, and/or humor, and appeal to both kids and parents. Pays between 15¢ and 25¢ per word. Submit via postal mail only. Details on website. (*Institute of Children's Learning (ICL) eNews 12/26/19 and FocusOnTheFamily.com/clubhouse-magazine*)

**CRAFTBITS.COM** is a website that promotes crafts projects for kids and adults. Accepting submissions of proposal ideas, along with a photo of the finished project. Maximum payment is \$35. Submission guidelines on website: <https://craftbits.com/write-for-us/#write-for-the-money>. (*ICL eNews 11/21/19 and Craftbits.com*)

**FACES**, a world cultures and geography magazine for ages 9-14, is seeking articles utilizing primary resources and up-to-date scholarly research. All material must relate to the theme of a specific up-coming edition. Themes for 2020 with upcoming deadlines are: October 2020 issue: Birds (query deadline March 9, 2020); November/December 2020 issue: New Zealand (query deadline April 13, 2020). Check the website for 2021 query themes and deadlines: <http://cricketmedia.com/faces-submission-guidelines> (*CBI 1/20 and Cricketmedia.com*)

**UNLOCKED** is a daily teen devotional, produced by **Keys for Kids Ministries**. Currently seeking devotional pieces that may be essays, poetry, personal stories, fiction, or other written art form that reflects a connection to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In fiction, preference is for allegorical work (especially sci-fi and fantasy allegory). All submissions must include relevant scripture passages and discussion questions. See website for complete guidelines. Pays \$30 on acceptance. (*ICL eNews 12/19/19 and Unlocked.org*)

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“You have to put in the time. If you are not there, the words will not appear. Simple as that.”

*Colum McCann – Novelist & Writing Professor*

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## WRITING RESOURCES

**GOOGLE EARTH.** Writing about a place where you've never actually visited can strain credibility. But connecting to Google Earth will help ensure your imaginings stay in the realm of possibility. Just type in an address from anywhere around the world and Google Earth will take you there, letting you “walk” down the street via GPS in virtual reality. Read author Charlotte Bennardo's post about this up close and personal travel experience that gives you insight into what it's really like at almost any location around the world. <http://smack-dab-in-the-middle.blogspot.com/2019/08/by-charlotte-bennardo-when-setting.html>.

(*Institute of Children's Learning (ICL) eNews 12/12/19*)

**JOB RELATED.** Choosing a job for your characters is an essential part of story building. Instead of sticking with the tried and true – jobs like doctor, teacher, business owner – consider expanding your characters' horizons by giving them extra ordinary work. Author **April Henry** has compiled a list of offbeat occupations, from 911 dispatcher to logger to tattoo artist to wildlife photographer, that might make your characters and story stand out from the slush pile. <http://www.aprilhenry.com/does-your-character-need-a-job.html>. Other interesting jobs are listed on the BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/home.htm>. (*ICL eNews 12/5/19*)

**LANDING THE RIGHT AGENT.** Getting “the call” from an agent is a dream for most writers. But when the dream comes true, how do you handle the conversation? Not to worry. **Jessica Faust**, owner and president of BookEnds Literary, offers a ton of great advice that will ease your worries and prepare you for making the most of that big day. <http://bookendsliterary.com/2019/08/27/offer-of-representation/>. (*ICL eNews 11/28/19*)

**SO YOU WANT TO BE A WRITER** but you question your ability? In this 2017 essay for the Guardian, acclaimed novelist and creative writing teacher **Colum McCann** offers 13 essential tips to inspire and sustain you on your writing journey. I loved his rationale for not writing what you know, but instead writing towards what you want to know. “The only true way to expand your world is to inhabit an otherness beyond ourselves.” This piece is long but it's well-worth the read. Add it to your bookmarks for writing inspiration on demand. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/may/13/so-you-want-to-be-a-writer-colum-mccanns-tips-for-young-novelists>. (*ICL eNews 10/17/19*)

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“You don't have to land the big book deal, but you must have a message. . .

I will always strive to be as authentic as possible. There are so many kids who have a story to tell, who want the world to see what kind of people they are.

I'm speaking for those children. I'm always going to publish books like [*Crown* and *I Am Every Good Thing*] because they are so needed, even in 2020.”

*Derrick Barnes – 2018 Newbery Medal Honoree*

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## AWARDS

The 2020 American Library Association (ALA) Youth Media Awards were announced on January 27, 2020. For a complete list of winners please visit the ALA website:

[American Library Association announces 2020 youth media award winners](#)

### John Newbery Medal

- *New Kid*, written and illustrated by Jerry Craft

### Newbery Honor Books

- *The Undeclared*, written by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Kadir Nelson
- *Scary Stories for Young Foxes*, written by Christian McKay Heidicker, illustrated by Junyi Wu
- *Other Words for Home*, written by Jasmine Warga
- *Genesis Begins Again*, written by Alicia D. Williams

### Randolph Caldecott Medal

- *The Undeclared*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written by Kwame Alexander

### Caldecott Honor Books

- *Bear Came Along*, illustrated by LeUyen Pham, written by Richard T. Morris
- *Double Bass Blues*, illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez, written by Andrea J. Loney
- *Going Down Home with Daddy*, illustrated by Daniel Minter, written by Kelly Starling Lyons

### Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award

- *New Kid*, written by Jerry Craft

### King Author Honor Books

- *The Stars and the Blackness Between Them*, written by Junauda Petrus
- *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*, written by Kwame Mbalia
- *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks*, written by Jason Reynolds

### Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award:

- *The Undeclared*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written by Kwame Alexander

### King Illustrator Honor Books

- *The Bell Rang*, illustrated and written by James E. Ransome
- *Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace*, illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan
- *Sulwe*, illustrated by Vashti Harrison, written by Lupita Nyong'o

### Michael L. Printz Award

- *Dig*, written by A.S. King

### Printz Honor Books

- *The Beast Player*, written by Nahoko Uehashi, translated by Cathy Hirano
- *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me*, written by Mariko Tamaki, illustrated by Rosemary Valero-O'Connell
- *Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir*, written by Nikki Grimes
- *Where the World Ends*, written by Geraldine McCaughrean

### Schneider Family Book Awards

- Children ages 0 to 10 – *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You*, written by Sonia Sotomayor, illustrated by Rafael López.  
Honor Book: *A Friend for Henry*, written by Jenn Bailey, illustrated by Mika Song
- Kids ages 11 to 13 – *Song for a Whale*, written by Lynne Kelly, published by Delacorte Press.  
Honor book: *Each Tiny Spark*, written by Pablo Cartaya
- Teens ages 13 to 18 – *Cursed*, written by Karol Ruth Silverstein.  
Honor Book: *The Silence Between Us*, written by Alison Gervais

### Pura Belpré Illustrator Award

- *Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln*, illustrated by Rafael López, written by Margarita Engle

### Belpré Illustrator Honor Books

- *Across the Bay*, illustrated and written by Carlos Aponte
- *My Papi Has a Motorcycle*, illustrated by Zeke Peña, written by Isabel Quintero
- *¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market*, illustrated and written by Raúl Gonzalez

### Pura Belpré Author Award

- *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe*, written by Carlos Hernandez

### Belpré Author Honor Books

- *Lety Out Loud*, written by Angela Cervantes
- *The Other Half of Happy*, written by Rebecca Balcárcel
- *Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré*, written by Anika Aldamuy Denise, illustrated by Paola Escobar
- *Soldier for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War*, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh

*cont'd on pg. 15*

### Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award

- *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*, written by Kevin Noble Maillard and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

### Sibert Honor Books

- *All in a Drop: How Antony van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World*, written by Lori Alexander, illustrated by Vivien Mildenerger
- *This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality*, written by Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy

- *Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir*, written by Nikki Grimes
- *Hey, Water!* written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis

RITA D. RUSSELL



Rita D. Russell joined SCBWI in 2009, after hearing Anna Dewdney sing its praises. When not writing picture books and chapter books, the former journalist and television script writer teaches screenwriting at St. Louis Community College.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### STL SHOP TALK: New to SCBWI? We Have Answers!

**When:** 3/5/2020 at 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Where:** St. Louis County Library, Daniel Boone Branch  
300 Clarkson Rd., Ellisville, MO

Are you new to SCBWI or children's publishing? Join Co-RA Jess Townes and ARA Nicki Jacobsmeyer for an introduction to SCBWI and children's publishing.

### WEBINAR: How to Grab an Agent's Attention in the First 10-pages with Agent Savannah Brooks

**When:** 3/31/2020 at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

**Cost:** \$15 for SCBWI members, \$25 for non-members  
Agent Savannah Brooks of The Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency will explain what elements in chapter one grab agents' attention and makes them want to read more. Savannah is also offering a limited number of critiques on the first 10-pages of MG and YA manuscripts. Participants will have the opportunity to submit to Savannah for a 6 months following the event. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Mos at [ksmo-ra@scbwi.org](mailto:ksmo-ra@scbwi.org).

### WICHITA SCBWI – If BBQ is Wrong, I Don't Want to be Write

**When:** 4/16/2020 at 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Where:** Bite Me BBQ, 132 St. Francis N, Wichita, KS

Bring your current manuscript, project, or idea and tell us all about it. We can learn from each other and maybe teach each other a thing or two. Since you have to write and you have to eat, anyway, you may as well do it with friends.

### Illustration Day – THE PORTFOLIO

**When:** 4/18/2020 at 9:00 am - 3:45 pm

**Where:** KU Edwards Campus  
12600 S. Quivira Rd., Overland Park, KS

See story on page 5 for more information.

### STL ILLUSTRATION SHOW AND TELL

**When:** 5/19/2020 at 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Where:** Schlafly Bottleworks  
7260 Southwest Avenue, St. Louis, MO

Bring any current projects you're working on, favorite tools or favorite illustrated books. An optional illustration prompt will be sent out ahead of time if you want to create a piece based on it to show at the event.

### STL SHOP TALK: Building Relationships with Booksellers

**When:** 6/4/2020 at 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Where:** Main Street Books  
307 S. Main Street, St. Charles, MO

Join Main Street Books owner Emily Hall Schroen for a talk on building relationships with local booksellers.

## About Scribbles

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Scribbles is the quarterly newsletter of the Kansas and Missouri Regions of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), the international organization for professionals in children's publishing. Find out more by contacting the SCBWI (8271 Beverly Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90048) or visiting:

SCBWI, [scbwi.org](http://scbwi.org) • Kansas/Missouri, [ksmo.scbwi.org](http://ksmo.scbwi.org)