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Quercus

sharing the best in children's literature



Bucket List

Author [Nikki Grimes](#) recently spent some time getting in touch with the natural world of the Florida Everglades.



Hootlet

Our fans say:

"*Quercus* does what it states...'sharing the best in children's literature.' *Quercus* not only brings me the latest and most current news on books, authors, illustrators, and reading trends, it also has photos, quotes and so much, much more. In one newsletter, I feel connected and knowledgeable about what's happening in the children's literary world."

—Paula Huddy,
teacher librarian

"Thanks for making at least ONE THING in my inbox worth reading all the way through each week!"

—[Jen Bryant](#), author

"*Quercus* keeps me updated with fun, useful, interesting, thoughtful, thought-provoking, and silly news about the subject on which I'm most passionate: children's books. It always leads me to fascinating articles which I would not have found otherwise. That's why I subscribe."

—[David LaRoche](#), author

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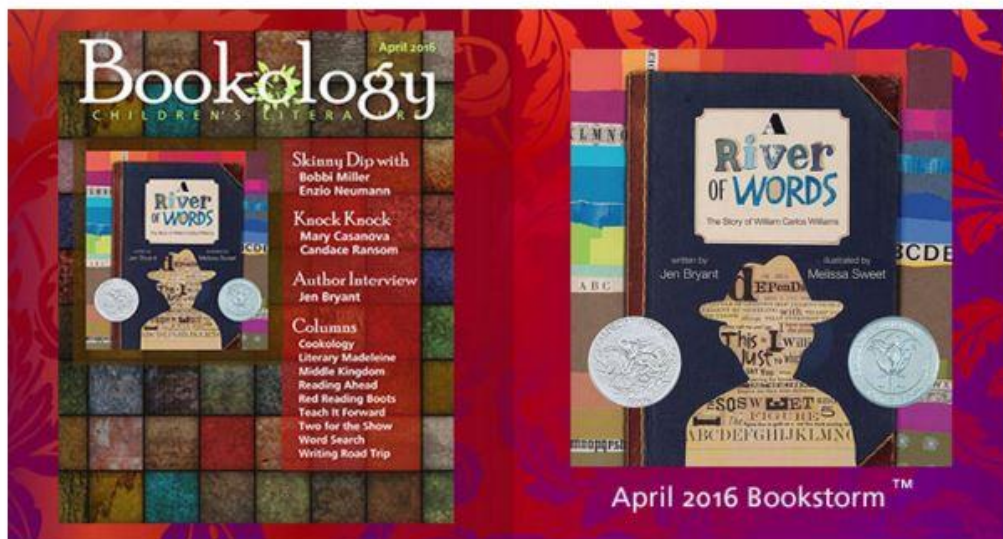
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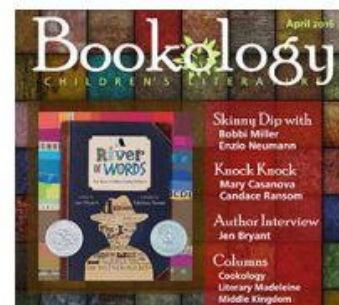


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Bookstorm™: *Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall*

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NOVEMBER 2015



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representative books • accompanying bibliography

Jane Goodall and Her Research

Jane Goodall: 50 Years at Gombe, by Jane Goodall



Untamed: the Wild Life of Jane Goodall

by Anita Silvey

World-Changing Women and Women Scientists
Girls Think of Everything by Catherine Thimmesh
illus by Melissa Sweet



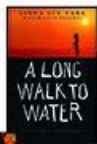
Animal Friendships

A Mama for Owen by Marion Dane Bauer
illus by John Butler



Fiction

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park



Primate Research

Gorilla Doctors by Pamela S. Turner



Africa

Next Stop—Zanzibar Road! by Niki Daly



Teaching Science
Perfect Pairs, Using Fiction & Nonfiction Picture Books to Teach Life Science K-2 by Melissa Stewart and Nancy Chesley



Animals in Danger of Extinction
Counting Lions by Katie Cotton,



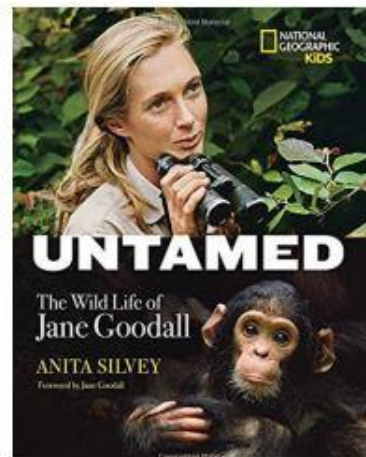
Chimpanzees
Termites on a Stick, Michele Colon



Bookstorm™

***Untamed: the Wild Life of Jane Goodall* written by Anita Silvey, National Geographic, 2015**

Highly readable biography of Dr. Jane Goodall, from her childhood in England observing chickens and earthworms, to her travel to Gombe, Tanzania to stay with a school chum's family, through her days of observing chimpanzees in the rainforest, patiently watching and recording her findings, to her most recent work with the conservation organizations she directs, this is an excellent book to ignite imaginations and inspire further hunting for adjacent information.



In addition, the book is so well designed that photographs and captions, charts, sidebars, a timeline, and pull-outs are seamlessly integrated in the storytelling. Readers will pore over features including short biographies of "Leakey's Angels," "Jane's Observations About Chimpanzee Behavior," "The Lives She Touches," and extensive field notes. An index, maps, end notes, and incredible photographs round out the reading experience.

COMPLEMENTARY BOOKS, WEBSITES, and VIDEOS

Jane Goodall and Her Research

Jane Goodall: 50 Years at Gombe, by Jane Goodall, Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2010. A compelling pictorial tribute to Dr. Goodall's life, her studies of chimpanzee behavior, and her unflagging efforts to motivate people to make this world a better place. Includes recent endeavors with landmark research related to AIDS progression; establishing programs to improve sanitation, health care, and education in neighboring Tanzanian communities; partnering with local people to pursue reforestation initiatives.

Jane Goodall: The Woman Who Redefined Man. Dale Peterson. Mariner Books, 2008. Peterson writes this biography for adult readers about Jane Goodall's childhood, studies, the work that revolutionized primate studies, as well as her personal life. Ages 16 and up.

Me ... Jane, by Patrick McDonnell, Little Brown, 2011. Written for young readers, this is a biography that expresses the behaviors and dreams that formed the most famous woman scientist of our time. Picture book. Ages 3 to 8.

Bookology is for educators, librarians, and parents

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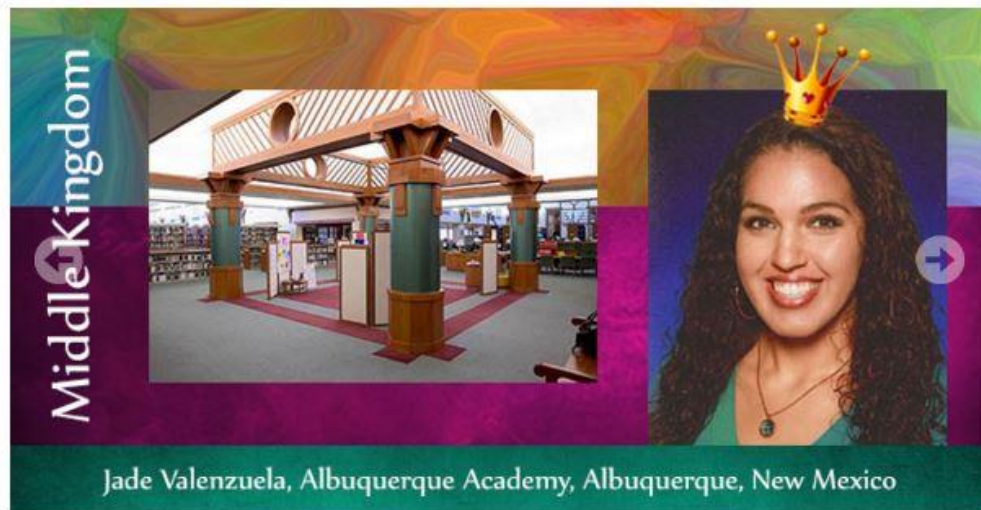
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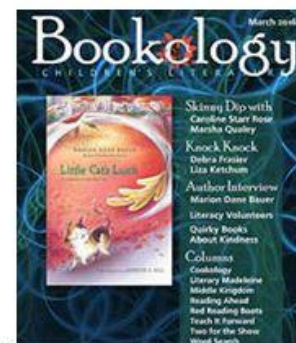


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MARCH 2016



Bookstorm™ Little Cat's Luck

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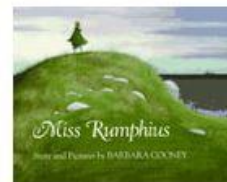
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Cooney, Barbara

Born August 6, 1917, Barbara Cooney and her twin brother were delivered in a hotel room in New York City. The twins grew up there, the children of a stockbroker father and an artist mother, who encouraged Barbara's artistic interest. She attended Smith College, where she obtained a degree in art history. A self-described "greedy reader," Barbara knew she wanted to illustrate books. She made the portfolio pilgrimage through the publishing houses of New York City and eventually found a job at Farrar and Rinehart. Although her portfolio was filled with vivid color images she had done at Smith, the editor told her she would be working in black-and-white. In 1940, at the time she was

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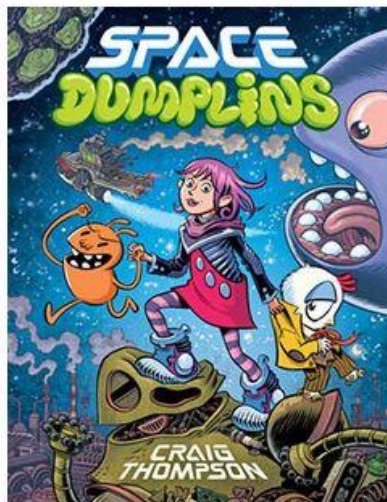
Telling a Story the Hard Way

READING AHEAD

by Vicki Palmquist

I've just finished reading the graphic novel *Space Dumplins* by Craig Thompson, with color by Dave Stewart (Graphix, 2015). I am overwhelmed by the work that went into this book. First off, it's an engrossing, turn-the-page story with an appealing cast of characters. As readers, we care about what will happen. That's a good start.

Now, imagine that you are sitting down with a pencil to sketch one of the spreads in this book. Perhaps you've picked the pages where Violet, our heroine, first gets a look at SHELL-TAR, the interior of the space station. You start by drawing the intricacies of the gleaming steampunk time clock and then you draw all of the activity going on inside the transparent transport tubes, large



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JANUARY 2016



Behind the scenes with authors and illustrators

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Interview: Eric Rohmann

INTERVIEWS

Bulldozer's Big Day

written by Candace Fleming

illustrated by Eric Rohmann

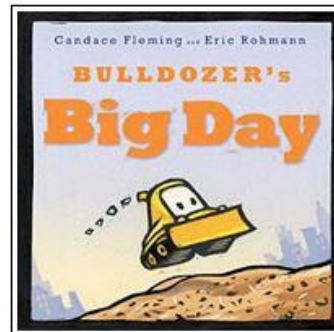
Atheneum, 2015

interview by Vicki Palmquist

Q. What's the illustration tool you turn to more than any other?

A. Graphite pencil. Simple, efficient, erasable, feels good in the hand, makes a lovely line with infinite possibilities for line variation. Did I mention that it's erasable? Always forgiving!

Q. What illustration technique haven't you tried that keeps calling out to you?



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Eric's studio

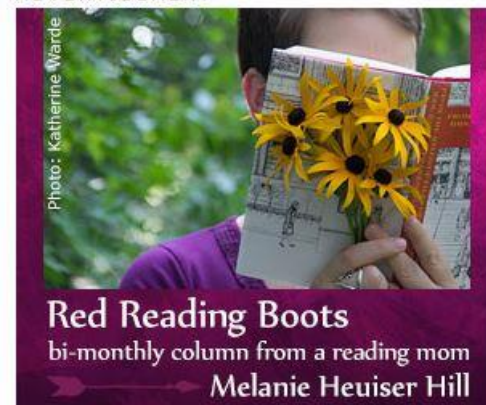
Q. Who is your favorite illustrator who is no longer with us? And it could be more than one person.

A. William Stieg...and Helen Sewell, Wanda Gag, Maurice Sendak, Crockett Johnson, Robert McCloskey, Virginia Lee Burton, James Marshall...just to name a few.

Q. Did winning the Caldecott (medal and honors) change how you think about your work?



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WORD SEARCH

End Cap: Little Cat's Luck

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Celebrating Ezra Jack Keats

WRITING ROAD TRIP

Time Travel

Skinny Dip! Karen Blumenthal, who would you invite to dinner?

Q. What do you wish you could tell your 10-year-old self?

A. Hmmmm. I enjoyed writing at that age, but was becoming self-conscious about it, and I had classmates—including another Karen—who were more skilled. Probably I would tell her that passion and persistence are about as important as anything and to keep at it.

Q. What 3 children's book authors or illustrators or editors would you like to invite to dinner?

A. One of the really great things about being an author is that you get to meet other authors, and even have a meal with them. So I've gotten to meet some of my heroes, like Russell Freedman, Steve Sheinkin, and Susan Bartoletti.



Oh, this is so hard! Beverly Cleary, for sure, because she was one of my early favorites and still is. J.K. Rowling, because that would be amazing. And maybe John Green, because he's so cool.

Q. Where's your favorite place to read?

A. Anywhere! Really! I'll read just about anywhere, though I prefer a chair. I read a lot at my breakfast table, but also in a comfortable chair in our den, on the bike at the gym, on planes, and when I'm waiting for an appointment.

Family-centric recommendations

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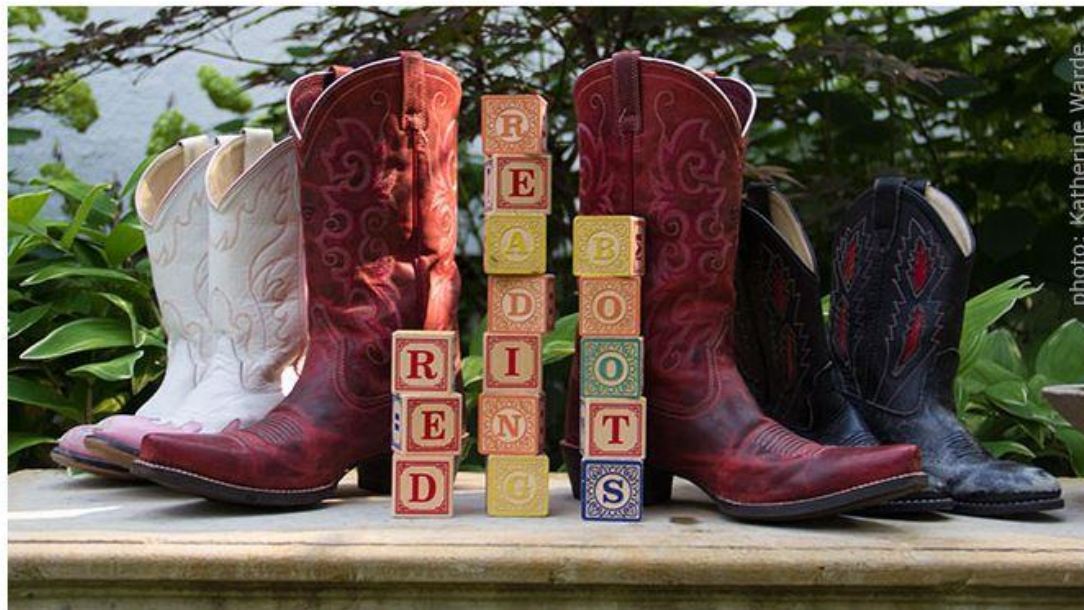
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Tales from Shakespeare

RED READING BOOTS

by Melanie Heuiser Hill

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JANUARY 2016



Jacqueline Briggs Martin and Phyllis Root recommending ...

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Celebrating Ezra Jack Keats

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Jackie: This is the time of year when I read the Travel Section of the Sunday paper. I just want to go away from gritty snow, brown yards and come back to Spring. Well, there are no tickets on the shelf this year so Phyllis and I are taking a trip to the city created by Ezra Jack Keats. And why not? This month, this year marks his one-hundredth birthday.

As our travel guide we're taking *The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats* (Yale University Press, 2011), written by Claudia Nahsen to coincide with *The Snowy Day's* 50th anniversary and the showing of many of his works at the Jewish Museum, New York

I've been thinking of Keats since I read *Last Stop on Market Street*, this year's Newbery Award winner, written



The Snowy Day
and the Art of
Ezra Jack Keats

[LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET](#)



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MARCH 2016



Elementary educator shares classroom experiences



Creating a Curriculum and Culture of Kindness in the Classroom

TEACH IT FORWARD

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by Maurna Rome "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind." — R.J. Palacio, *Wonder* Wouldn't our classrooms be grand if students were given opportunities to learn about and experience what being kind looks like, sounds like and feels like on a daily basis? Wouldn't life be grand if we could all simply choose [...]



The Book That Saved My Students and Me

TEACH IT FORWARD

4

by Maurna Rome A rough start to a new school year can be unsettling for rookie teachers. It can produce feelings of self-doubt and immense stress. Inexperienced educators may question everything from the quality of their undergrad teacher training to whether or not education was a wise career choice. The lack of preparation for managing [...]



Creating a Classroom Community with 31 Letters

TEACH IT FORWARD

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by Maurna Rome Long gone are the days of "Don't do this or that or the other thing" lists of classroom rules. At least I hope they are long gone... The influence of "responsive classroom," greater awareness of the power of being positive and much research on effective classroom management have ushered in a new [...]



Summer School

TEACH IT FORWARD

4

by Maurna Rome The bumper sticker reads: "Three reasons to be a teacher; June, July and August." This may be true for some, but it was never my mantra, at least until this summer. This summer I decided to participate in summer school and what a good decision that was! My class of "summer kids" [...]



Cardboard L.I.T. Club: Linking Imagination & Text

TEACH IT FORWARD

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by Maurna Rome Each year I introduce my students to a young man named Cain. This

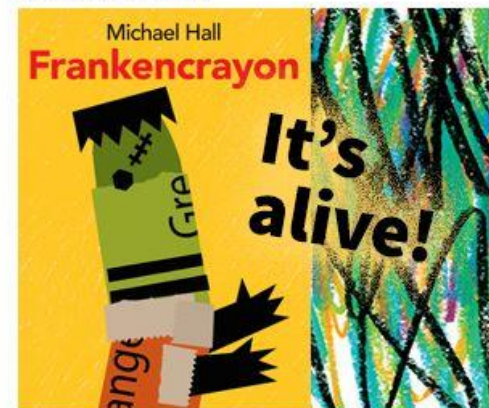


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Red Reading Boots

bi-monthly column from a reading mom
Melanie Heuiser Hill

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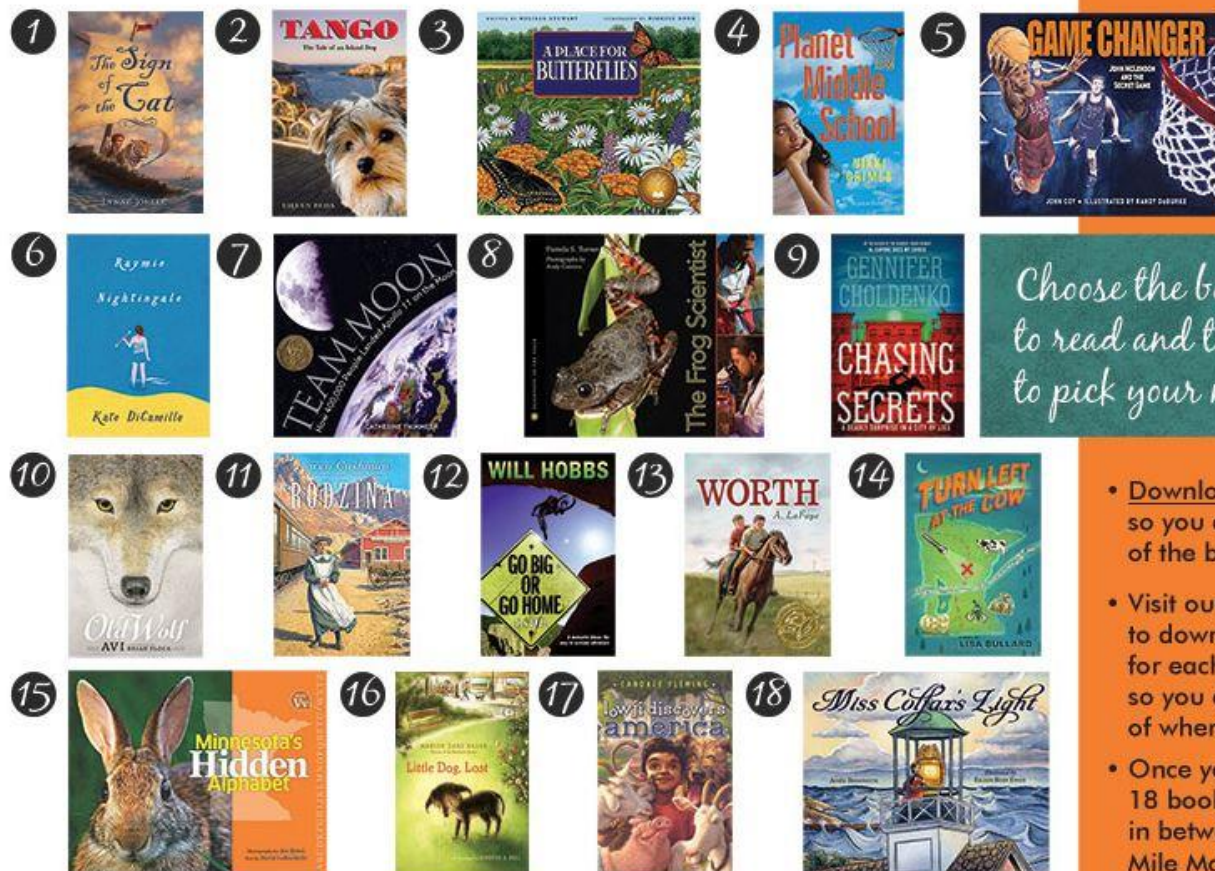


Summer Reading ROAD TRIP

Vacation or staycation
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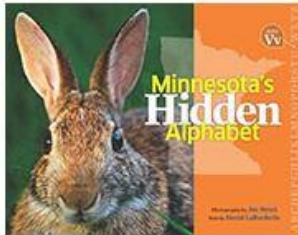
Choose the book you'd like to read and then come back to pick your next book!

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- Visit our [Souvenirs page](#) to download a bookmark for each of the books so you can keep track of where you are.
- Once you've read 1, 12 or 18 books and any number in between, visit our [Mile Markers page](#).

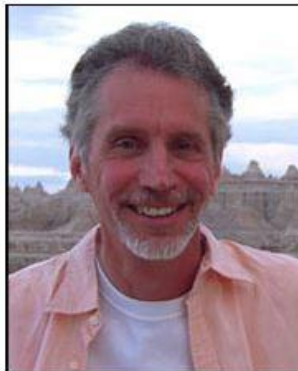


Summer Reading Road Trip

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author, David LaRochelle

[author's website](#)

photographer, [Joe Rossi](#)

**publisher,
Minnesota Historical
Society Press**

Minnesota

Minnesota's Hidden Alphabet



Look at the natural world around you. Closer now. Can you find the letter "A" in a jumble of tree roots, the letter "I" in a cattail, the letter "O" in a bird's nest? Joe Rossi traveled the state in search of all the letters of the alphabet, photographing scenes from Granite Falls to Chippewa National Forest, from Bemidji to St. Paul. Turn these pages and see what he found: does his imagination match yours?

The plants and animals and rocks in Joe's pictures can teach us a lot about Minnesota's natural world: Did you know that Native Americans used the fluffy down from cattails to pad diapers and moccasins (here, the letter "I")? Or that the American white pelican (letter "J") teams up to herd fish—its dinner— into shallow water? Or that the name Minnesota means "sky-colored water" (letter "H")?

Family, friends, and travel book club

1. Here's a fun idea for your trip around the country or your trip around the back yard: find objects or animals in nature that resemble letters of the alphabet, just like in *Minnesota's Hidden Alphabet*. You can find these anywhere! Take photos. Can you find enough letters to spell your name? Or maybe even the entire alphabet? Photographer Joe Rossi said the toughest letter he had to find was a "q." Can you find a "q" hidden somewhere in nature? Put your photos together to create your own hidden letter book.
2. David LaRochelle uses many descriptive words in his text. If you read attentively, you'll find phrases such as "quietly these letters lie" and "velvet soft beyond belief." He's including sound and touch. Whether you're enjoying a vacation or staycation, notice the things around you. Feel them, hear them, taste them (when that makes sense), smell them, and particularly notice their details. Which descriptive words would you use to help another person understand what your senses have noticed?
3. You can play a game with the alphabet! Make a list of each alphabet letter so you can write a word next to it. As a group, decide on a category. If you're in the car, it might be "buildings" or "car words" or "scenery." If you're on a trip in your hometown, or in your backyard, you might choose "landmarks" or "things that grow." Take turns finding a word in your category that matches each letter of the alphabet.
4. Fifty States: In each state you visit, make a list of people, places, and things that are unique to that location. What do you see or smell or hear that is different from where you live? Try writing a poem with your list of items. Remember, poems don't have to rhyme.
5. From your own state, choose a city name and write the letters vertically on a piece of paper. Now find one thing in your state that begins with each letter of the city's name. When you can, take a photo of each of those things and arrange them (either on paper or digitally) alongside your list. What a great piece of art!

When your child has finished reading *Minnesota's Hidden Alphabet*, be sure to check off this book on your [booklist](#), moving towards reading 12 books or 18 books this summer. You can register for a [mile marker](#), our random drawing for several levels of giveaways.



Summer Reading Road Trip

*books are
a great way
to travel*

Mile Markers



There are three Mile Markers you can achieve as you travel on your Summer Reading Road Trip. We have giveaways for signed books, a letter signed by the author, and a 30-minute Skype visit to your classroom or book club. Please read the instructions below each Mile Marker sign below, then click on the sign to enter your information. **Note:** All entries must be made by someone 14 years of age or older. No purchase necessary to win.

Mile Marker Signed Books Giveaway

When you've traveled to at least one stop on the map and read that book, you are welcome to register for the Signed Book Giveaway.

On Saturday, August 27th, we will draw one name at random to receive all 18 books in the Summer Reading Road Trip, each one signed by its author.

We will then draw 18 more names, each of which will receive one book

Mile Marker Letter Signed by the Author

When you've read 12 or more books, you may sign up to receive a letter from the author of your choice.

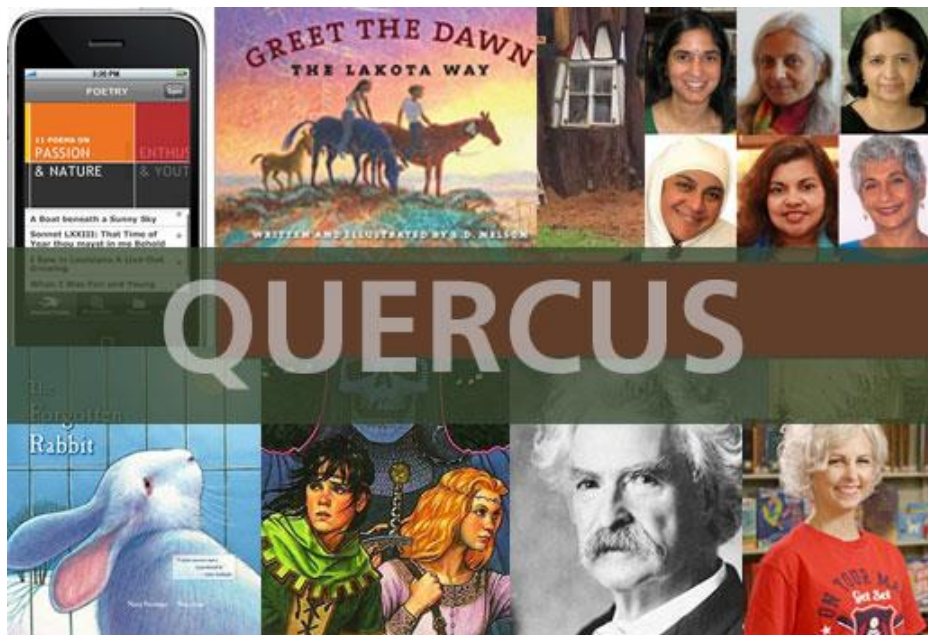
Please sign up for this option only once.

Requesting a letter will be open until August 27th, at which time we will no longer accept requests.

Mile Marker 30-minute Skype Visit

Once you've read all 18 books, you may register for a 30-minute Skype visit to your classroom (30 students maximum) or book club (no more than 30 participants) from the author you indicate on the dropdown list. We will choose 13 names at random from everyone who enters this giveaway, matching one reader with one author.

Each author will make a maximum of one Skype visit. Please enter this



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CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Because we're all
traveling together
on this path to
keep kids excited
about reading.

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