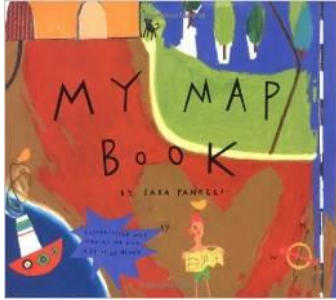


2015 Phoenix Picture Book Award

Sara Fanelli for *My Map Book* (HarperCollins, 1995)



Playing with elements of collage as well as child-like art, Sara Fanelli's *My Map Book* embraces maps as an art form of demarcations, celebrations, and ownership. Yet, *My Map Book* simultaneously challenges left to right and top to bottom reading principles, the finality of mapmaking, and the idea of "mapping." This celebratory and ludic challenge is achieved through various presentations: different orientations, perspectives, formats; universally familiar concepts (treasure map, color); personal yet publically recognizable features ("map of my family," "map of my face"); and entirely abstract and personal notions ("map of my heart"). All of these presentations explore ways in which words and pictures combine to record and communicate aspects of our daily lives and the spaces/places we inhabit.

An important work because it opens a space between the categories of fiction and non-fiction, this book provides all the elements of story without the sort of coherent verbal narrative a picture book might lead one to expect. Fanelli encourages the making of art and the discovery of self, an appreciation of art, and the value of artistic representation as part of our need for story and as a means for understanding ourselves and our world.