



2026 CONFERENCE

IMAGINED SPACES, REAL DIVIDES:
Neighbors and Neighborhoods in
Children's Literature, Media, and Culture

May 28-30, 2026

**OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**



IMAGINED SPACES, REAL DIVIDES

Pittsburgh is the city of three rivers. It is nestled into the spot where the Allegheny River and the Monongahela River join together and become the Ohio; a point the locals call The Confluence. The work of planning the 2026 conference here

in Pittsburgh is likewise the confluence of effort by a great many people, merging together into what we hope will be a mighty and memorable experience for ChLA members. Many thanks go out to this year's Conference Planning Committee (Team Yinzer) as well the ChLA Board for all of their hard work over the past year. We also want to thank Cate Langley, Audrey Brown, and Samantha Negrete at Association Leadership Partners for their careful management in keeping the trains running on time. So many things had to come together to make this conference happen but many hands made the work seem lighter.

The history of Pittsburgh and the southwestern Pennsylvania region is complex. The original neighbors and caretakers of this region include the Seneca, Adena culture, Hopewell culture, and Monongahela peoples; they were later joined by refugees of other tribes, including the Delaware, Shawnee, Mingo, and Haudenosaunee, who were all forced off their homelands and displaced by European colonists. Violence and upheaval is baked into the city's history, as the British and the French fought over the original Fort Pitt settlement in the 1700s and the region played host to the Whiskey Rebellion and railway strikes in the 1800s. Pittsburgh is best known as the "Steel City" for its role as the largest steel producer in the United States from 1859-1975 until the industry collapsed. Pittsburgh is a city of immigrants, of innovators, of industrialists, of unionists, of philanthropists, and of creative geniuses. As a city seeking to reimagine its place in the 21st century, it seems a fitting host for a group of scholars, teachers, creators, and enthusiasts of children's literature to meet.

In theming this conference around the idea of neighborhoods, we have asked you to explore questions about what it means to be a good neighbor in the 21st century. Pittsburgh proudly celebrates Fred Rogers as a local icon and honors the influence that *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* holds over U.S. children's television and media still today. Through stories, songs, conversations, and educational video segments, Mister Rogers invited children to learn about the world around them as well as the complex universes inside themselves. Dedicated to teaching children about the value of make believe, complex social interactions, emotional intelligence, empathy, and radical acceptance, Mister Rogers modeled neighborly behavior to a generation of young viewers across U.S. public broadcasting airwaves. As members of ChLA who likewise value the stories and messages that are presented to children, we hope this conference provides a space to think, play, learn, explore, and deeply consider the impact children's literature, media, and culture can have in our global community and our collective futures. Whether you are a long time member of the organization or joining us for the first time, we are delighted to welcome you to the 2026 conference. Please, won't you be our neighbor?



Accessibility Guidelines (in-Person)

Please keep in mind that you may not have direct knowledge of accessibility issues among your audience or the people you interact with. Some disabilities or chronic illnesses are invisible; others are dynamic, meaning that the person may not always experience the symptoms the same way, appearing more or less affected depending on the day. For the conference to be as inclusive as possible, all attendees should follow the accessibility guidelines. That being said, we acknowledge that access friction, in which one accommodation creates barriers to one or more other people, will exist when there are this many people gathered in one place. If you are experiencing access friction, we invite you to open dialogues with other members to find a solution that works for everyone. Our Accessibility Liaisons can help facilitate such conversations.

ChLA's Accessibility Liaisons will be available throughout the conference to support our members with disabilities as well as those with chronic illness, mental illness, and/or learning disabilities get their access needs met. They will also be available to help ChLA members follow the accessibility guidelines and/or answer questions that ChLA members have about accessibility at the conference. If you need assistance, look for the people with purple ribbons on their name badges or contact us through the Accessibility thread on the Whova app. More information on Accessibility Liaisons and how to reach them onsite will be provided as we get closer to the Conference.

Throughout these guidelines, we suggest various written and video tutorials. To watch these tutorials, scan the QR code to access our page of resources.



PRESENTER GUIDELINES

As You Prepare for Your Presentation:

Prepare an access copy of your presentation, whether print or digital. An ideal access copy would most simply be your written paper. However, if you do not read from a paper directly, an access copy can also take the form of: copies of your slides, an outline of your talk, and/or any notes you use for reference during your presentation. We understand that, in today's cultural and political climate, some scholars may be worried about their work being shared outside ChLA. To help mitigate these fears, here are some options to protect your work:

This year, we are requesting that everyone shares an electronic access copy through Whova (for more information on how to share your accessibility copy through Whova, please see our resources page). Sharing through Whova will ensure that only conference attendees can access your access copy. On Whova, you can either upload the full document or a link to an online version of your access copy.

If sharing a link, please use a shortened url, rather than the full url itself (for more information on how to create a descriptive link, please see our resources page). You can also include this link at the beginning of your presentation and/or in your slides but do not have to.

Electronic access copies should be hosted on the individual's preferred cloud platform (Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox, etc.) for the duration of the conference. To address concerns about unauthorized distribution of access copies, note that on most cloud platforms, you can restrict viewers' ability to download, print, or copy-and-paste text from your shared file. Please see our resource page for examples and instructions for restricting sharing options.

You are also welcome to distribute printed access copies at the start of your talk. You or any Accessibility Liaisons in attendance can

collect them again at the end to ensure that they are not shared beyond the conference.

Attendees should take note that all access copies are under the sole copyright of their respective owners and should not be shared without the express permission of the presenter.

Access copies can be a great place to share additional links, resources, references, etc. relevant to one's conference presentation!

While Designing Slides:

- Do not use Prezi or other media with motion, zoom, or strobe effects, as these pose accessibility problems. PowerPoint or a similar slide program is recommended. (Templates and built-in accessibility checkers are great!)
- Use a high-contrast color scheme, i.e. black background with white font or the reverse.
- Use a sans-serif font, such as Arial. Maintain a font size of 18-point or larger.
- Provide minimal text on each slide.
- Include image descriptions or alt-text either printed on the slide next to images or embedded within them. Guides on how to generate image descriptions can be found in our resource page.

If Recording Your Presentation:

- If you are a scholar currently living outside the US and taking advantage of 2026's limited emergency remote option, you will need to record your presentation ahead of time.
- For recorded presentations, you are required to do one of the following (though doing both is preferred):
- Create an access copy as described above and put the link and/or QR code

for that access copy in Whova and/or at the beginning of your presentation.

- Ensure your video has captions. See our resources page on how to include them.
- You are not required to show your face in your recording. If you choose not to show your face, please ensure that your video has captions for people who would normally lipread.
- While making the recording, eliminate as many background noises as possible which may interfere with your sound quality. We recommend recording alone in a quiet room and not in public spaces.

During Your Presentation:

- Please use the microphone provided, regardless of room size and the volume of speaking voice. Please ensure that your microphone is close to your mouth when speaking. Presenters have the choice to sit or stand, and microphones will accommodate either option.
- When speaking, always face the audience; this is especially helpful for audience members who are lip readers.
- Speak at a moderate pace, neither too slowly nor too quickly.
- Verbally describe all images, graphs, charts, or video included in your slides. For more information on image descriptions, please see our resources page.
- If you think your presentation may contain potentially sensitive content, consider giving a trigger or content warning. See our resources page for more information.
- During Q & A, either you or the panel moderator should repeat each question from the audience into the microphone before answering.

Accessibility Guidelines, cont.

GUIDELINES FOR MODERATORS

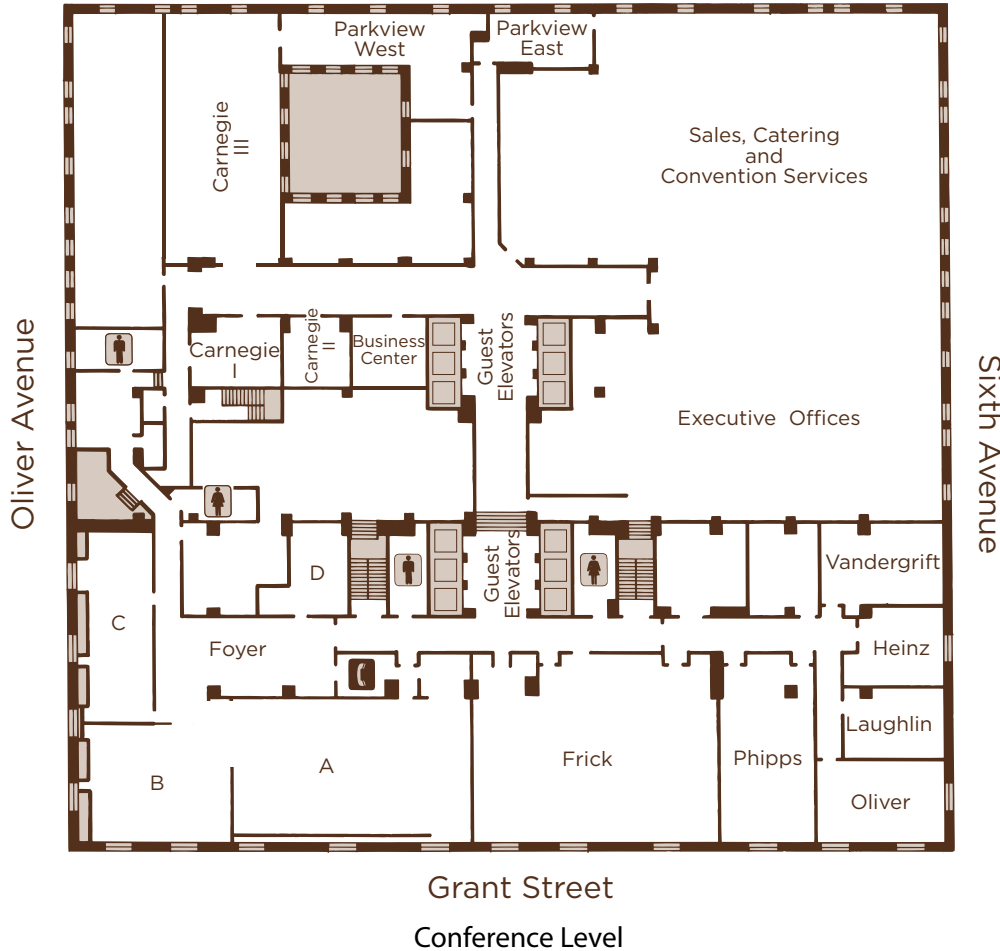
- Before the session, ask panelists if they have any accessibility needs, and check in with panelists about their plans for providing access copies.
- At the beginning of the session, as a part of your introduction, please read the access statement below: "A quick reminder to follow the accessibility guidelines. For presenters, this includes facing the audience, speaking clearly into the mic, and verbally describing all images. Presenters will also be sharing access copies. Please remember that these copies are not available for citation or distribution unless you have received the prior permission of the presenter."
- During the presentations, do your best to address any access barriers and needs as they arise.
- During the Q & A, either you or the presenter should repeat each question from the audience into the microphone to ensure that everyone can hear it.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

- Please avoid using scented products while at the conference.
- Due to members with severe peanut allergies, please avoid bringing any peanut products into the ChLA conference spaces, especially the breakout rooms.
- Individuals attending sessions should feel free to stand, move about, get water, or vocalize as necessary during presentations.
- If a service dog is present, be sure to approach the dog calmly and ask its human partner before addressing or touching the dog.
- Do not touch or otherwise interfere with other attendees' assistive devices such as canes, wheelchairs, walkers, listening devices etc, unless explicitly asked.
- Attendees should take note that all access copies are under the sole copyright of their respective owners and should not be shared without the express permission of the presenter.

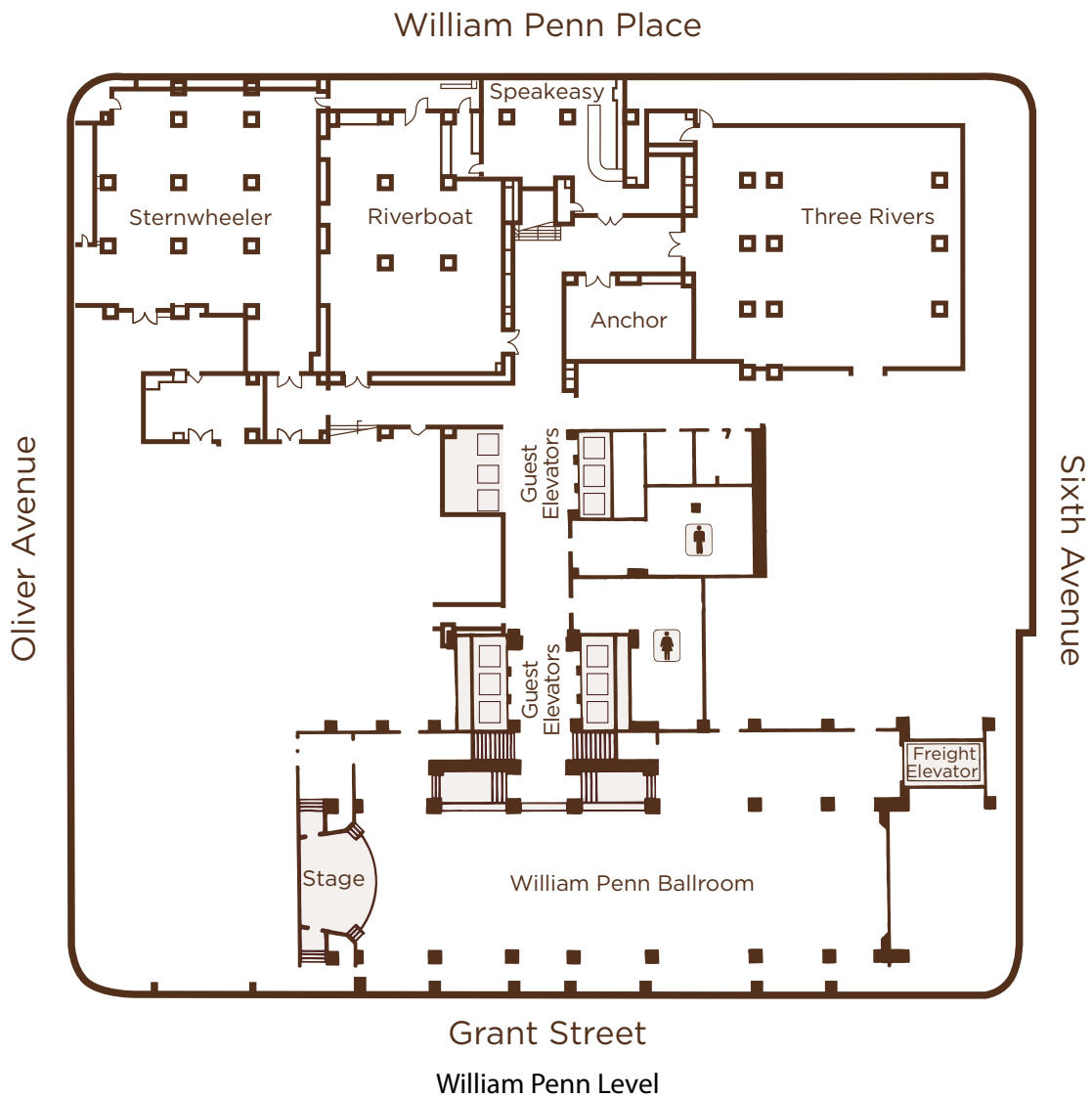
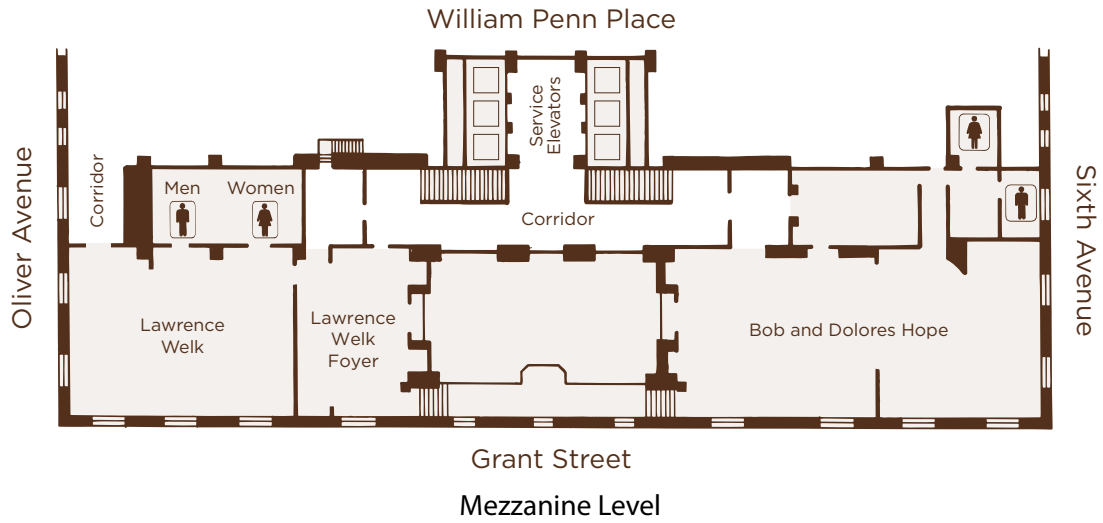
William Penn Hotel

William Penn Place



Mother's Room: Carnegie I - CL Floor
Quiet Room: Parkview West - CL Floor
These rooms will be available for the duration of the conference.

William Penn Hotel



Anti-Harassment and Appropriate Conduct Policy

General Principles

The Children's Literature Association (ChLA) is committed to providing a friendly, welcoming environment in which all participants feel safe and are treated with respect. In order to create such an environment at our conferences, ancillary events, or official and unofficial social gatherings, on ChLA social media pages, other ChLA-sponsored online fora, or in connection with Association business, including the operation of the Association journals (hereafter referred to as "ChLA event"), participants are expected to maintain appropriate standards of behavior by refraining from conduct that may be harmful to themselves, other members and participants (including panelists, vendors, publishers, speakers, and volunteers), ChLA staff, and/or third parties. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

Expected Behavior

ChLA expects participants in all our events, whether face-to-face or virtual, to:

- Exercise consideration and respect in speech and actions
- Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, and/or harassing behavior and speech
- Report violations of this Anti-Harassment policy to a member of the ChLA Ethics Committee

Unacceptable Behavior

Conduct that ChLA considers inappropriate includes, but is not limited to:

- Offensive verbal or written comments related to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, or religion
- Inappropriate physical contact (including unwelcome touching or groping)
- Unwelcome sexual attention
- Deliberate intimidation, stalking, or following
- Unauthorized or unwanted photographing, recording or representation of likeness in any medium
- Sustained disruption of talks or other events
- Public sharing of others' private or sensitive information without explicit consent
- Real or implied threats of physical harm or professional or financial damage or harm

Harassment does not include respectful disagreement or reasonable and respectful critique made in good faith. ChLA firmly believes in the value of civil discourse and the free exploration of competing ideas and concepts, and that such civil discourse can coexist with a fundamental respect for the rights, dignity, and value of all persons.

ChLA encourages members and attendees to hold one another accountable to this policy, and to take the perspectives of others seriously when a disagreement arises.

Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior

This policy applies to both a single instance and patterns of harassment. Violation of this policy may result in appropriate action, such as immediate removal from the ChLA event in which harassment has occurred and exclusion from future ChLA events. Violation of this policy may result in police involvement, if deemed necessary. Reports of inappropriate conduct will be referred to ChLA's Ethics Committee (please see P&P manual, pp. 120-122).

Participants asked to stop engaging in inappropriate behavior by a ChLA officer or association staff member are expected to comply immediately. If a participant continues to engage in unacceptable behavior, ChLA may take appropriate action, including immediate removal from the presentation/conference by a designated member of our Ethics Committee; expulsion from the conference with no refund of conference fees; exclusion from future ChLA events; and/or revoking membership.

If You are Subject to or Witness Unacceptable Behavior:

If you are being harassed, notice someone else is being harassed, or have other questions or concerns about standards of behavior at ChLA events, please contact a member of the Ethics Committee immediately.

If possible, provide the following information:

Identifying information (e.g. name, affiliation, appearance) of the participant violating this policy.

- The behavior that is in violation
- The approximate time of the behavior (if different than the time the report is made)
- The circumstances surrounding the incident
- Other people involved or witnessing the incident

All reports will be held in strictest confidence within the guidelines established by the Ethics and Ombuds committees' charges as established in the Policies & Procedures Manual, pp. 118-122.

Anyone can report harassment.

Required Contact Information

- Phone and email address for ChLA
onsite cell phone: (703) 732-1533
E-mail: info@childlitassn.org
- Phone number for hotel/venue security: Banquet house phones will connect guests to security.
- In guestrooms, there is an emergency button on the phone.
- Local law enforcement: 911 (emergency)
- Local sexual assault hotline: 412-389-1963
- Local emergency and non-emergency medical clinic:
Emergency: UPMC Mercy Hospital, (412) 232-8111, 1400 Locust St, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Non-Emergency: AHN Downtown Medical Center and Express Care, (412) 442-2343, 501 Penn Avenue Place, Suite 2, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
- Local taxi company: ZTrip (412) 777-7777

Addressing Grievances

If you feel you have been falsely or unfairly accused of violating this Anti-Harassment and Appropriate Conduct Policy, you should notify the Ombuds Committee with a concise written description of your grievance.

Conference Schedule

All times are in Eastern Daylight Savings Time (GMT-4)

ONGOING CONFERENCE EXHIBITS

POSTER EXHIBIT

Riverboat - WP Floor

THURSDAY, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

FRIDAY, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

SATURDAY, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

CHLA BOOKSTORE

Riverboat - WP Floor

THURSDAY, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (author signings)

FRIDAY, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (author signings)

SATURDAY, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Thursday, May 28

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

LGBTQIA BREAKFAST

Free to LGBTQIA+ members;
registration required

Lawrence Welk Room -
Mezzanine

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

LIGHT BREAKFAST

ALL ATTENDEES

William Penn Ballroom -
WP Floor

8:30 AM – 9:50 AM OPENING PLENARY SESSION

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: *Rebekah Fitzsimmons*

For decades, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood invited children to learn about the world around them as well as the complex universes inside themselves. Dedicated to teaching children about big feelings, complex social interactions, empathy, and radical acceptance, Mister Rogers championed kindness by entreating his viewers: "Please, won't you be my neighbor?"

Today, Fred Rogers Productions builds on the legacy of Fred Rogers by creating quality children's media and experiences that model kindness, respect, and enthusiasm for learning in a modern media landscape. The panelists will discuss the ways their work extends beyond the screen to meet audiences where they are in their own individual neighborhoods.

Participants:

- Ellen Doherty, Chief Creative Officer and Executive Producer across all series
- Kristin DiQuollo, Co-Executive Producer for Donkey Hodie
- Brandea Turner, Program Director – Writers' Neighborhood program
- Anna Trier, Outreach and Partnerships Manager

10:00 AM – 11:20 AM

CONCURRENT SESSION 1

T1 GEOGRAPHIES OF PEDAGOGY:

Mapping Practices

Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: *Paige Gray*

1. "Can Young Adult Novels about Immigrants still Shift Educators Attitudes and Practice? Comparing Findings from 2011-2015 to 2023-2024"
Scott Beck & Alma Stevenson
2. "Through the Doors of the Wardrobe: Building a Sense of Community During Short-Term Study Abroad Using C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*"
Keely Cline
3. "Placement, Proximity, and Reading *Out of Wonder* by Kwame Alexander (et al.) with my Community College 'Developmental' Students"
Brian Goedde
4. "Won't You Hear Your Learners: Social Literacy, Belonging, and Relevance in Children's Reasoning"
Laronnda Thompson

T2 GROWING UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Children's Roles in Story and Society*

(Sponsored by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh)

Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: *Debbie Coppula*

1. "A Picture's Worth 1,000 Worlds: Exploring 'Neighborhood' through Caldecott"
 - Amber Miller
 - Debbie Coppula
 - Michelle King
 - Cathryn Calhoun
 - Teona Ringgold
 - Mandi Figlioli
 - Liz Kostandinu
 - Simbi Animashau

T3 UN-NEIGHBORHOODS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S FICTION

Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: *Tabitha Lowery*

1. "The Other Neighbors in Neil Gaiman's *Coraline*"
Sabrina Nacci
2. "Incredibly Indecent Acts: Gansey's Camaro as Gothic Manor in *The Raven Cycle*"
Anita Fairbanks
3. "Neighboring Neurodivergence; Or, Simply Existing at Home, (Un)Safe and (Un)Sound" Jennifer Slagus

10:00 AM – 11:20 AM

CONCURRENT SESSION 1, CONT.

T4 THE ORIGINAL NEIGHBORHOOD OF MAKE-BELIEVE: Reflections on a Hundred Years in the Hundred Acre Wood with Winnie-the-Pooh*
Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: Katharine Kittredge

1. "Pre-Pooh Publication in Punch"
Katharine Kittredge
2. "Winnie-the-Pooh as Post-War Narrative Healing"
Sarah Minslow
3. "Winnie-the-Pooh: The Bear and the Critics"
Niall Nance-Carroll
4. "Diverse Pooh: Positioning Pooh and Perspectives on Pooh from Around the Globe"
Jen Harrison
5. "Reflections on Playing Pooh Sticks in the Ashdown Forest"
Mark West

T5 NEIGHBORHOODS ON AND BEYOND THE SCREEN
Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: Kenneth Kidd

1. "Neighborhoods of Feeling: Biographical Picturebooks of Mister Rogers and the Work of Emotional Belonging"
Huan Li
2. "Level Up: The Digital Neighborhoods of the Procedural Bildungsroman"
Derritt Mason
3. "Cruising the Architecture of Normativity: Mapping Queer Cartographies of the Neighborhood"
Angel Daniel Matos

T6 THE ILLUSTRATED SHARED SPACE: Picturesbooks and Social Culture
Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: Fiona Hartley-Kroeger

1. "Black Children at Play – Incorporating Black Joyful Spacemaking into African American Picturebook Narratives"
Ewa Kleczaj-Siara
2. "Walking Home in Two Languages: Bilingualism and Urban Belonging in Ezra Jack Keats"
Tyler Sasser
3. "My Māori Neighbours: The Concept of 'Distant Land' in the Perspective of Māori Picture Books"
Maciej Wróblewski
4. "Inside, Outside, or In Between? Chinese (American) Children within the Space of Chinatown in Picture Books"
Jia Zuo

*denotes a premade panel

T7 IMAGINED NEIGHBORHOODS IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERATURE
Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: Kelly Bjalobok

1. "Beyond Mirrors or Across the Windows: Pakistani English Children's Literature through Postcolonial Lens"
Fahreen Mahmood
2. "A Series of Attentions in Lemony Snicket's *13 Words*"
Ivy Stabell

T8 BUILDING A CAREER: Building a Mentorship Neighborhood*
William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

- Brianna Anderson
- Nichol Brown
- Rebecca Rowe

11:30 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH BREAK

MEMBERSHIP SPONSORED
THEMED LUNCHES: Off Site

- Exploring Academic Neighborhoods: Graduate Students
- Establishing Your Neighborhood: Early Career Scholars
- Moving on Up: What Does Mid-Career Mean?
- Supporting the Neighborhood: Contingent Faculty Solidarity

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM FIELD TRIP

Visit to the University of Pittsburgh Hillman Library's Archives & Collections and the adjoining Hyland Gallery (Sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Library System and the University of Pittsburgh English Department.)

Participants will view rare archival materials from the newly acquired Thecla Spiker Dick and Jane Collection and the Margaret Hodges Papers (showcasing Hodges' early literacy efforts through media that anticipate well-known programs such as *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* and *Reading Rainbow*), and engage in related hands-on activities at the Text and Context Lab, a partnership space between Pitt's Center for Creativity and the University Library System, joined by makers from Open Lab, an experiential learning makerspace connected to the Center for Teaching and Learning. Light refreshments will be served. Transportation to and from the Omni will be provided to conference members; please see the conference registration desk for more details.

1:30 PM – 2:50 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 2

T9 IDENTITY QUESTS AND MODERN MYTHOS IN YOUTH LITERATURE

Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: Katherine Magyarody

1. "Building Inclusive Neighborhoods with Multicultural Muses"
Krishni Burns
2. "Where Have All the Powers Gone? Athena and Her Helpers in Contemporary Young Adult Fiction"
Nava R. Cohen
3. "Houses, Cabins, and Clans: Sorting Systems and Fandom Interaction in Popular Adolescent Literature"
Kira Tjomsland

T10 OUR NEIGHBOR, NANCY DREW: PART 1, Nancy's Impact on 20th-Century Culture*

Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: Alisa Clapp-Itnrye

1. "Re-Visioning Gender and Age in the Nancy Drew 1960s Rewrites"
Alisa Clapp-Itnrye
2. "Overlaps, Gaps and Maps: Nancy Drew's Original Formula for Fiction Wasn't Just for Ghosts"
Tanya Perkinsy
3. "River Heights and the Red Scare: How Nancy Drew's Neighborhood Policed Cold War Belonging"
Billie Jarvis-Freeman
4. "Nancy Drew and the Challenge to Traditional Gender Roles in Postfeminist Culture"
Erin Corrigan-Smith

T11 NARRATING NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: Laura Wasowicz

1. "Cousins, Merry's Museum, and Louisa May Alcott's Commentaries on Affiliation and Gender in 'Cousin Tribulation' Editorial Addresses to Readers"
Lori B. Cohoon
2. "'as unlike Americans as possible' Immigrant Spaces in Nineteenth-Century American Stories for Children"
Roxanne Harde
3. "Neighborhoods as Literary Communities in *Little Women*"
Nashia Karim
4. "Edward Lear and the Neighborhoods of Nonsense"
Victoria Ford Smith

T12 ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MR. ROGER'S FISH BOWL: Accessibility in Neighborhoods*

Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: Rebecca Rowe

T13 BREAKING RULES, BUILDING COMMUNITY

Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: Laureen Tedesco

1. "Lady Elaine in Bubbleland: Exile and Inclusion in Mister Rogers' Neighborhood"
Sara Lindey
2. "Temporary Neighborhoods: Early 20th-century Girls Summer Camps in Fiction and the Archive"
Libby Gruner
3. "Jafar Panahi's Helpful Children: Circumventing Censors and Uncovering Tehran in *The White Balloon and The Mirror*"
Amber Weinstock
4. "Segregating the Human from the Monstrous 'Other' in Disney's *Zombies* (2018)"
Jennifer Wiley

T14 THE TASTE OF BELONGING: Food, Identity, and Culture

Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: Annie Henley

1. "Who Belongs in the Fridge?: Questioning Identity of Anthropomorphized Food in Picturebooks"
Delaney Sullivan
2. "Food, Picture Books, and Cultural Identity"
Yawen Zhou
3. "The Sensual Neighborhood: Jason Reynolds' Brooklyn and the Performance of Place"
Laura Nicosia

T15 THE PANOPTICON AND YOUTH LITERATURE

Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: Lissi Athanasiou-Krikelis

1. "Children Past Curfew: Surveillance, Authority, and Childhood in Philippine Martial Law Children's Literature"
Krisna Balolong
2. "What Does It Mean to Protect Children?: Using Won't You Be My Neighbor to Introduce Students to Ideologies of Childhood and Issues of Censorship"
Alyssa Chrisman
3. "Remembering Was Important': Undoing a New Era of Community Silence and Censorship in Akwaeke Emezi's *Pet*"
Michaela Maxey
4. "Mid-Century American Conformity and L'Engle's Suburban Dystopia"
Irelyn Thomson

T16 (UN)MAKING BOUNDARIES: Mapping the Physical, Moral, and Political Spaces of Belonging*

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: Kenneth Kidd

1. "Coalescing Myths and Morality: Exploring Neighborhood, Exclusion and Ethics in the Indian Cartoon Series *Chhota Bheem*"
Annesha Palit
2. "Reimagining Indigenous–Settler Neighborhoods in Jen Ferguson's *The Summer of Bitter and Sweet*"
Shuya Su
3. "'We are still always learning, not only words, but also about each other:' Community and Belonging in Jasmine Warga's *Other Words for Home*"
Natalie Liptak

3:00 PM – 4:20 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 3

T17 DISABLING TIME/SPACE CONTINUUMS

Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: Leah Phillips

1. "(Some) Children are Our Future: Disabled Youth at the End of the World"
Saffyre Falkenberg
2. "Do the Wolves and Trees Need to Read?: Posthuman Tensions Between Literacy, Society, and Nature in Sally Green's Half Bad Series"
Elizabeth Leach-Leung
3. "Fat Bodies in Speculative YA Fiction: Is There Room in the Neighborhood?"
Beth Pearce
4. "Disability, Crip Time, & Care Communities in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*"
Alexandra Valint

T18 OUR NEIGHBOR, NANCY DREW: PART 2, Nancy's Continued Impact on 21st-Century Culture*

Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: Alisa Clapp-Itnrye

1. "Swallowing Her Shadow: How the New Nancy Drew: Girl Detective Series Absorbed Trixie Belden"
Kelly Blewett
2. "The Palace of Wisdom: An Intersectional and Anti-Racist Nancy Drew Comic"
Jessica Hale
3. "Where in the World is Nancy Drew? The Role of Location in the Books and Film Adaptations"
Maggie Steuer

T19 THE ART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Exploring Urban, Black, and African Childhoods through the art of Picturebooks*

Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: Jocelyn Amevuvor

- Jocelyn Amevuvor
- Phoebe Quaynor
- René Rodríguez-Astacio

T20 NEIGHBORS FEW AND FAR BETWEEN: Hermits, Castaways, and Rural Children in Nineteenth-Century Children's Literature*

Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: Elizabeth Massa Hoiem

1. "Queer Gender and Sexuality at Sea in *Mrs. Leicester's School* (1809) by Charles and Mary Lamb"
Elizabeth Massa Hoiem
2. "'And Though a Hermit He Had a Social Mind': Hermits in Anglo-American Children's Literature in the Long Nineteenth Century"
Laura Wasowicz
3. "Children of the North: Reading Illustration, Animals, and Excrement in Thomas Bewick's *Quadrupeds* (1790)"
Kristin Bluemel

T21 NEW NEIGHBORHOODS FOR EARLY AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND CULTURE*

Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: Katharine Capshaw

1. "Frances Harper's Flowers: Early African American Nature Poetry for Children"
Brigitte Fielder
2. "Teaching Rest and Resilience: Harper, Dunbar, and the Moral Imagination in *The Dunbar Speaker and Entertainer* (1920)"
Tabitha Lowery
3. "Youth Writers in *The Brownies' Book*: Archives of Memory"
Katharine Capshaw
4. "Kidfluencers When Harlem was in Vogue: The Cabin Kids and Child Performance Culture in the 1930s"
Latrice Ferguson

T22 THE PHYSICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL ARCHITECTURES OF HOME

Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: Jia Zuo

1. "'At the Edge of Town': Suspended Assimilation and Storytelling in *When You Trap a Tiger*"
Kylee Auten
2. "Identity & Location: The Ties Between Who We Are & Where We're From"
Ali Cortez
3. "Of Suburbs and Trailer Parks: Neighborhoods and Safety in Season 4 of *Stranger Things*"
Rachel Dean-Ruzicka

T23 THE POROUS BORDERS OF FANTASTICAL PLACES: Adaptation and Reinvention in Young People's Texts

Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: TBD

1. "The Nursery at 17 Cherry-Tree Lane"
Karlie Herndon
2. "Self as Neighbor: Alice's Looking Glasses"
Melissa Jenkins
3. "'Every Pakistani family has a Partition story': Examining South Asian History and Cross-Cultural Migrations in the Ms. Marvel Adaptation"
Tharini Viswanath
4. "'Because we always have': Liminal Fantasy and the Challenge to Community Convention in Diana Wynne Jones' *The Pinhoe Egg* (2006)"
Katherine Magyary

T24 BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR: Creating Safer Classroom Spaces for Queer and Trans Youth*

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: Jeremy Johnston

- Miranda Green-Bartee
- Nichol Brown
- Gabrielle Halko
- Brie Owen
- Derritt Mason

*denotes a premade panel

T25 OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAS NO BOUNDARIES: Illuminating Invisible Children in our Communities through Children's and Young Adult Literature*
Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: Sarah Hunt-Barron

1. "Breaking Boundaries: Exploring Boundaries Set by the Dominant Map"
Jason Surian
2. "Seeing the Unseen in Our Neighborhoods"
Diana Quito
3. "Exploring Third Spaces in Our Communities"
Sarah Hunt-Barron

T26 BATTLE OF THE BANS: Understanding ourselves and our neighbors through Banned Books*
Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: Matthew Panozzo

1. "The Rainbow Book Bus: Bringing Neighbors Together with Banned Books"
Matthew Panozzo
2. "Finding Home in the Banished Neighborhoods of YA Literature"
Joseph Castellanos
3. "Battle of the Bans: Understanding Ourselves and Our Neighbors through Banned Books"
Alicia Weaver
4. "Some Bedtime Reading Wakes Us Up: Challenged and Challenging Books as Portals to Parent-Child Connection"
Virginia Killian Lund & Calder Killian Lund

T27 TEXTUAL (RE)VISIONS OF CHILDHOOD IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY
Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: Deirdre McMahon,

1. "The Resilience of Childhood: Creating Community in E. Nesbit's *The Railway Children*"
René Fleischbein
2. "'My brother waits me on the sea': The Sea and Same-Sex Desire in the Children's Poems of E.E. Bradford (1908)"
Eric Tribunella
3. "Animal Neighbors in Modernist Children's Literature: Grahame and Woolf"
Sebastian Williams
4. "I Don't Like You Just the Way You: Unruly Children as Agents of Change in the Anne of Green Gables series"
Marcie Rován

T28. NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE: Discursive Neighborhoods and Spaces of (In)Equity
Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: Christine Case

1. "Gritty and Pretty: The Spectacle of 'Bad Neighborhoods' in Young Adult Speculative Fiction"
Kathleen Kellett
2. "Involving the Neighborhood: Spatial Justice and Activism in Jaime Alfonso Sandoval's *Unidad Lupita*"
Gustavo Velazquez Lazcano
3. "Searching for Black Linguistic Justice in the Neighborhoods of 2020's Best-Selling Children's Books"
Crystal Wise
4. "Swimming Beyond Borders: Reading Samad Behrang's *The Little Black Fish* Through the Lenses of Liminality and Diaspora"
Hoorá Ghanbari Adivi

T29 SYLLABUS SWAP*
Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: Rebecca Rowe

"Building neighborhoods for our students – Good neighborhoods have good shared facilities"
Jen Harrison

"Teaching Children's Literature as a Core Course: Considerations, Challenges & Benefits"
Stephanie Montalti

"Collaborative and Dialogic Strategies for Building Classroom Community"
Amy Bennett-Zendzian

"Building Textual Neighborhoods: A Curatorial Approach to Teaching Children's Literature"
Ivy Linton Stabell

T30 WELCOME TO YA: Neighborhooding in Young Adult Fiction
Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: Emma Tueller Stone

1. "Deeper and Deeper Underground: Examining Communities Forged in Resistance in Contemporary Young Adult Fiction"
Abigail Driscoll

2. "Where the Neighborhood Ends and the Woods Begin: Trends in Young Adult Folk Horror"
Chris McGee
3. "'Everything about this street looks quiet and peaceful': The Ordinary Neighborhood of the Young Adult Romance"
Emma K. McNamara
4. "'All the Queen's Women': Circles of Care in Melina Marchetta's *Lumatere Chronicles*"
Mary Jeanette Moran

T31 GROWING UP TOGETHER: Coming of Age and the Community
Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: Allison Speicher

1. "Coming of Age in the Philippine Barangay: A Reading of Select Philippine Coming-of-Age Stories"
Ino Habana
2. "Henrietta: The Ideation of Home and Neighborhoods in Maggie Stiefvater's *The Raven Cycle*"
Angela Loving
3. "Beyond Klickitat Street: The Neighborhood as a Transformative Space in Beverly Cleary's *Künstlerroman*"
Dawn Sardella-Ayres

T32 FROM NEEDS TO NEIGHBORS: A Decade Reflection on ChLA's 2016 "Needs of Minority Scholars" Panel*
William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: Sarah Park Dahlen

- Sarah Park Dahlen
- Ebony Elizabeth Thomas
- Titas Bose
- Cristina Rhodes

6:30 PM–7:30 PM

WELCOME RECEPTION
William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Gather with fellow attendees for a welcome reception on Thursday to welcome both new and seasoned members! The event is free and will include a cash bar and light refreshments.

Friday, May 29

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

BIPOC BREAKFAST

Sponsored by *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature (RDYL)*

Free to BIPOC members; registration required
Lawrence Welk Room - Mezzanine

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

MEMBERSHIP REMOTE MEET AND GREET FOR INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

Carnegie III - CL Floor

The Membership Committee will welcome our remote global presenters with an informal meet and greet over Zoom. In-person participants are welcome to grab breakfast on their own and join and chat informally with one another and our remote participants.

8:30 AM – 9:50 AM

CONCURRENT SESSION 5

F1 REMOTE PARTICIPATION Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: *Emma Tueller Stone*

1. "The Museum Next Door: Ancient Egypt as a Child's Imagined Neighborhood"
Dalia Mostafa Abdulrahman Mostafa
2. "Chennai-scapes": Conceptualizing Neighbourhoods, Creating Imaginaries: Child authored children's eco-fiction on Chennai, India
Aneesa Jamal
3. "The White Man is our Neighbour: A Child's Perspective of Colonial Segregation in Mulk Raj Anand's Seven Summers (1951)"
Pakhi Jain

F2 SPEAK FOR THE TREES: YOUNG PEOPLE AND NEW NEIGHBORHOOD ECOLOGIES Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: *Nava R. Cohen*

1. "Monstrous Ecologies and Spooky Activism in Children's Ecohorror Comics"
Brianna Anderson
2. "Posthuman Neighbors and Ecofeminist Melancholia in *Savi and the Memory Keeper and Jamlo Walks*"
Sreemoyee Bhattacharyya
3. "Commodified Gardens, Commodified Women: Environmental Memory and Oppression in McLemore's *Wild Beauty*"
Kylie Saar

F3 THE FLAVOR OF COMMUNITY: Exploring Cultural Foodways in Children's Literature* Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: *Michelle H. Martin*

1. "'Tastes like home when family meet': Bridging Joy Through Family and Food"
J. Elizabeth Mills and Michelle H. Martin
2. "'Cooking Up Culture: African American Children's Cookbooks and the Making of Black Identity'"
Laretta Henderson
3. "Cooking, Eating, and Savoring Safe Communal Spaces of Black Joy"
Ngozi Onuora

F4 STRANGE AND ESTRANGING: Girlhood in Speculative Neighborhoods* Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: *Gabriela Lee*

1. "Strange Bedfellows: The Limits of Pakikisama in 'Ella Arcangel'"
Gabriela Lee
2. "Constructing and De-Constructing The Wicked Witch of the West on Mr. Roger's Neighborhood and Sesame Street"
Christine Case
3. "For My Final Act, I Won't Disappear: The Liberatory Potential of the Black Final Girl"
Hebah Uddin

F5 OUTER AND INNER SPACES OF ACCESSIBILITY IN YOUTH LITERATURE Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: *Melissa McCoul*

1. "'It Isn't Clean or Pretty, But Survival Never Is': Race, (Dis)ability, and 'Good' Neighborhoods in *All the Noise at Once*"
Tolonda Henderson
2. "Barriers, Accommodations, and Disability-Based Spaces: Analyzing Access to Spaces and Community for Disabled Characters in Children's & Adolescent Literature"
Caitlin Metheny
3. "Visual Representation of Accessible Neighborhoods in Children's Literature Through the Image of the Wheelchair in Picturebooks"
Arpita Sarker

F6 MEMORY WORK: YOUTH TEXTS AND REMAPPING TRAUMA Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: *Roxanne Harde*

1. "José Luis in Borderlands: 'Translating' the Self and Navigating Liminal Space in *Mother Tongue*"
Anna Crawford
2. "Fractured Time, Reconstructed Memory, and Reader Collaboration in Graphic Novels About Japanese American Incarceration"
Gabrielle Halko
3. "Trauma and the Search for Home in Otfried Preußler's Children's Fiction"
Anemarija Jurisic
4. "Geometry, Trauma, and Suburbia in Marie Marquardt's *The Radius of Us*"
Maya Socolovsky

*denotes a premade panel

8:30 AM – 9:50 AM

CONCURRENT SESSION 5, CONT.

F7 BOLDLY GOING: Voyages of Pedagogical Enterprises

Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: Gabriella Solano

1. "Literature Adjacent: Writing and Selecting Engaging (Literary) Materials for Structured Literacy Education"
Casie Hermansson
2. "How Early Readers See Outer Space"
A. Robin Hoffman
3. "Our Nesting Neighbors: Establishing Healthy Multi-species Neighborhoods Through Children's Bird Literature and Birding in K-8 Education"
Ilesha Ismail
4. "Civic Imagination and Ethical Neighborhoods in Anthropomorphic Worlds in Bakor Patel"
Mahek Chirag Pathak

F8 THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD?:

Community in the Age of Late Capitalism

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: Miranda Green-Bartee

1. "'Garden Heights Ain't All Roses, But It's Ours': Neighborhood, Community, and Solidarity in the Work of Angie Thomas"
Hannah Doermann
2. "The Revolution will Not be Televised: Haymitch's Rebellion in *Sunrise on the Reaping*"
Amy Elliot
3. "Welcome to the Neighborhood: Capitalism, Commons, and Contested Space in *The Raccoons*"
Jeremy Johnston

10:00 AM – 11:20 AM

CONCURRENT SESSION 6

F9 CHILDREN'S LITERATURE SCHOLARSHIP AS A GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD? Reflections on Translation and Transnational Collaboration*

Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: Tyler Bickford

- Courtney Weikle-Mills
- Derong Xu
- Gabriela Lee
- Lidong Xiang
- Tyler Bickford

F10 STORY AS HOME IN DIASPORIC YOUTH LITERATURE

Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: Annesha Palit

1. "Between Neighborhoods: Belonging, Language, and Storytelling in *The Magic Fish*"
Sophia Pan
2. "Portable Promise Land: Flying Neighborhoods and Ancestral Re(memory) in African Diasporic Children's Literature"
Latoya M. Teague
3. "Creating Home Abroad: Storytelling as Cultural Preservation in Diasporan Communities as Portrayed in *When You Trap a Tiger* and *Grandfather's Journey*"
Zipamowei Tenn

F11 "THEY'RE NOT LIKE US": Imagined Divides in YA Speculative Fiction*

Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: Leah Phillips

- Leah Phillips
- Elizabeth Leach-Leung
- Emma Tueller Stone

F12 NEIGHBORHOODS OF CARE: Healing, Belonging, and Imagination in Youth Literature*

Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: Jewel Davis

1. "The Woods Remember: Neighborhoods of Land, Spirit, and Care in Black Southern Speculative Storytelling"
Jewel Davis
2. "Rural Resilience: Community Healing and the Opioid Epidemic in Youth Literature"
Jackie Eagleson
3. "Where Healing Lives: Rural Neighborhoods and Resilience in Contemporary Middle Grade Literature"
Jennifer Woods

F13 STRANGERS IN STRANGE OR DANGEROUS LANDS: Depicting Immigrant & Impoverished Neighborhoods in Works for Children and Young Adults Around the World*

Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: Lillian Feitosa

1. "Urban Comunidades: Growing up in Dangerous Brazilian Neighborhoods"
Lillian Feitosa
2. "Omar and the Tigers of the Barrio"
Sarah Annunziato
3. "Albino Bernardini: A Teacher and His Neighborhood"
Francesco Fiumara

F14 NEW NEIGHBORHOODS OF THEORY AND PRAXIS

Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: Michelle Pagni Stewart

1. "Queer Gender Identities and the Limits of Anthropomorphic Representation in Picture Books"
Grace Beckery
2. "Georgia's Classroom Libraries: Dawdling Toward Diversity?"
Alex Reyes & Scott Beck
3. "The Special Issue and the Book Series: The Future of Kiddie Lit in Academe"
Karin Westman

Friday, May 29

10:00 AM – 11:20 AM

CONCURRENT SESSION 6, CONT.

F15 RECLAIMING OUR TIME: Diversity in Children's and Young Adult Literature*

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: Patricia Enciso

1. "Reclaiming Our Time: Diversity in Children's and Young Adult Literature Publishing, Content, Methods, and Teaching"
Patricia Enciso
2. "The Political Economy of Contemporary US Children's Book Publishing"
Peter C. Kunze
3. "Global Perspective: South Asian Literary Production and the Evolution of Diversity Research"
Titus Bose
4. "Queering YA Literature Through a Queer of Color Critique"
Isabel Millán
5. Respondents: Sarah Park Dahlen & Ebony Elizabeth Thomas

F16 SPECIES OF SPACE/PLACE: Navigating the Bounds of Community Care Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: Katie Scurba

1. "The Connections That Make Us Neighbors: Generational, Cultural, and Ethical Reciprocity in Multicultural Children's Literature"
Kelly Bjalogobok & Annie Henley
2. "When the Neighborhood Doesn't Love You Back: The Monstrous Protector and Neoliberal Self-Care in *Red Wolf*"
Nichol Brown
3. "'Look Both Ways': Representations of Neighbourhood and Community in Carnegie Medal Winners, 1937–2022"
Mette Lindahl-Wise
4. "Promoting Inclusive Neighborhoods for Displaced Children through Middle Grades Literature"
Sarah Minslow

*denotes a premade panel

11:30 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH BREAK

Carnegie III - CL Floor

Membership: Global Neighbours:
International Scholar Solidarity

DISABLED SCHOLARS LUNCH

Sponsored by Johns Hopkins
University Press

Lawrence Welk Room - Mezzanine

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE THEMED LUNCHES: OFF SITE

- Moving Neighborhoods: Transitioning out of Academia
- Writing about Your Neighborhood: Publishing
- It Takes a Neighborhood: Parent Scholars

Thank You to Our 2026 Sponsors and Exhibitors



Support

- Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System
- Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
- The University of Pittsburgh Children's Literature Program
- Carnegie Mellon Bookstore

1:30 PM – 2:50 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 7

F17 REMOTE PARTICIPATION Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: Arpita Sarker

1. "A Very British Utopia: Paddington in Windsor Gardens"
Aishwarya Subramanian

F18 TALES FROM THE CITY: Displacement and Finding Community for Young People Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: Nichol Browns

1. "I Can't Afford Any Places Outside the Neighborhood': Food, Care, and the Ethics of Belonging in Brownstone"
Yueyue Li
2. "Gentrification, Displacement, and Neoliberal Racism: Brooklyn's Bushwick Neighborhood in Ibi Zoboi's *PRIDE*"
Roberta Seelinger Trites & Séan P. Connors

F19 WEAPONS: Violence, Moral Panics and Safety in Children's Literature, Media and Cultures* Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: Samira Abdur-Rahman

1. "Monsters and Guns: Graphic Adaptations of Walter Dean Myers and Geoffrey Canada"
Samira Abdur-Rahman
2. "Art Films and Youth Violence Before Social Media"
Thomas Britt
3. "This is Not a Fairy Tale: Warped Innocence, State Violence, and Magical Realism in *Tigers Are Not Afraid*"
Victoria Valle Remond

F20 PHOENIX AWARD AND PICTURE BOOK AWARD PANEL* Conference Room B - CL Floor

*Moderators: Gretchen Papazian
and Gabrielle Halko*

Respondents:

- Deborah Hopkinson and Antoinette Portis
- Gretchen Papazian, Presenting the 2006/2026 Phoenix Picturebook Awards and Honor Books
- Shauna McArdle, Paper Title: Doing More with Less: Minimalist Visual Storytelling and Reader Agency in *Not a Box*.
- Gabrielle Halko, Presenting the 2006/2026 Phoenix Book Awards and Honor Books

F21 DIVERSITY COMMITTEE* GATES AND GARDENS: Questioning the Boundaries of Neighborhood in Diverse Literatures Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: Gabriela Lee

1. "Silent Suffering: Child Sexual Abuse in Sundarbans and The Gaps in Legal Protection"
Vaidehi Uniyal
2. "Queer Filipino American Neighborhoods: Renegotiating Kapwa in Curato's *Flamer* and Rod Pulido's *Chasing Pacquiao*"
Cheeno Marlo Sayuno
3. "'To Stand as One': Indigenous Kinship and Activism in *We are Water Protectors* and *Healer of the Water Monster*"
Anuja Madan
4. Respondent:
Edcel Javier
Cintron-Gonzalez

F22 FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS?: Teaching and Reading Community Textures Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: Katharine Kittredge

1. "Community and Guardianship in the Show *Bluey*"
Kat Kolby
2. "Neighbors and Conflict: Escaping the 'Grouchy Neighbor Redemption Arc' and Other Unrealistic Tropes in Picturebooks"
Holly Lewis
3. "Made You Look: Examining what Children from Diverse Ethnic and Economic Backgrounds Consider Humorous Imagery Within Their Gentrifying Community"
Gabriella Solano

F23 REFRAMING COMMUNITY IN REFUGEE LITERATURE Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: Sarah Minslow

1. "'Putting your life in a stranger's hands': From Places of Fear to Places of Mercy in Jenny Sanchez's *We Are Not from Here*"
Deborah De Rosa
2. "When the Neighborhood Is a Refugee Camp"
Jane Gangi
3. "Assimilation and Becoming African American in Rwandan American Clemantine Wamariya's Refugee Memoir *The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After*"
Ymitri Mathison

F24 EN MI BARRIO: Place, Space and Metaphor in Latine Children's & YA Fiction* William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: Cassandra Whisenant

- Cassandra Whisenant
- Cristina Herrera
- Cristina Rhodes
- Sonia Alejandra Rodríguez
- Susana Martínez
- Regan Postma-Montaño

*denotes a premade panel

3:00 PM – 4:20 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 8

F25 GLOBAL COMMITTEE*

“Borders, Bridges and Belonging: Neighborhoods in Global Children’s and Young Adult Literature and Culture”
Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: *Tharini Viswanath*

1. “Orphans, Empire, and Forced Emigration: Dr. Barnardo’s Homes in the Late 19th-Century British Popular Imagination”
Deirdre McMahon
2. “‘Helping you has helped me’: Neighbourhoods as Spaces of Agential Negotiation and Solidarity in African Picturebooks”
Uchenna Emelife
3. “Windows Across the Archipelago: Digital Picturebooks and the Imagination of Belonging”
Herdiana
4. “Childhood Next Door: Neighborly Care at the Urban Margins”
Lidong Xiang

F26 GEOGRAPHIC AND LITERARY BLACK SPACES: Historic and Contemporary*

Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: *Karen Chandler*

1. “Precarious Spaces in Brenda Woods’ and Amina Luqman-Dawson’s Fiction”
Karen Chandler
2. “Rosa Guy’s Imamu Jones Mysteries: Racism and Crime in the Neighborhood”
KaaVonia Hinton
3. “Silenced Realities: The Aesthetic Life of Working-Class Childhoods in Literature for Children”
Roberta Price Gardner

F27 BRAVE NEW WORLDS?: New Geographies for Youth Literature Scholarship

Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: *Emily Midkiff*

1. “Autofiction in Children’s and YA Literature: Does It Exist?”
Lissi Athanasiou-Krikelis
2. “From Village to Forest to Castle: Traversing Symbolic Neighborhoods in the Grimm Fairy Tales”
Bob Godwin-Jones
3. “Mischievous Mirrors, and the Rise of the ‘Cute’ Child in Postbellum Baby Literature”
Allison Speicher
4. “Suspension of Disbelief in the Age of Deep Fakes”
Rebecca Anderson

F28 IMAGINING QUEER NEIGHBORHOODS, BUILDING QUEER COMMUNITIES*

Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: *Andrew Trevarrow*

1. “Expanding Literary Communities: Queer YA and/as American Literature”
Andrew Trevarrow
2. “Rebuilding Queer Spaces from Memory: YA Historical Fiction as a Blueprint”
Christopher Morabito

F29 CHILD-CENTERED SPACES IN CHILDREN’S MYSTERY FICTION*

Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: *Sonya Fritz*

1. “The World Is Your Oyster: Whimsy and the Child as Political Agent in *The Mysterious Benedict Society* and *The Umbrella Maker’s Son*”
Sonya Fritz
2. “Mystery in the Neighborhood: from *The Westing Game* to *The Parker Inheritance*”
Anne Phillips
3. “‘Running to somewhere’: Liminal Spaces in *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*”
Miranda Green-Bartlett

F30 DISTURBING THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Youth, Class and Community Responsibility

Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: *Carl Miller*

1. “‘It’s Whether or Not They Know Their Place’: Working-Class Culture, Solidarity, and Community Building in Kelly Yang’s *Front Desk*”
Allison Estrada-Carpenter
2. “The Young Worker and Their Neighbourhood in Belgian Catholic Youth Periodicals (1931-1935)”
Sofie Vandepitte
3. “Not the End I Hoped For: Fix-It Fic in the COVID Era”
Jess Walsh

F31 THE POSTHUMAN NEIGHBORHOOD IN CHILDREN’S AND YA FICTION

Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: *Elizabeth Leach-Leung*

1. “All Creatures Great and Small: The Child-Animal Neighborhoods of *Island of the Aunts* and *Pond Scum*”
Elaine Ostry
2. “Your friendly neighborhood AI? Posthumanism, Violent Hierarchies, and AI Characters as Protectors and Guardians”
Jamie Bienhoff
3. “Won’t You AI My Neighbor?: Posthuman Technophilia in Recent Graphic Novels”
Megan L. Musgrave
4. “Our Post-Human Neighbors in *Astro Boy* and *Pluto*”
Kyoko Taniguchi

F32 MR. CENSOR’S NEIGHBORHOOD: Writing, Reading, and Teaching Children’s Literature Today*

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: *Philip Nel*

- Philip Nel
- Melissa McCoul
- Sarah Park Dahlen
- Lara Saguisag
- Robin Kear
- Hebah Uddin

PRESIDENTIAL PLENARY SESSION

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

4:20 PM – 4:50 PM

COFFEE/TEA BREAK

Food and beverage provided by The Constantine Georgiou Library, Department of Teaching and Learning, New York University.

4:50 PM – 6:10 PM

THE UN-CONFERENCE AND THE “GREAT EXCLUDED”: Remaking the Academic Convention for Youth Literature and Today’s University

Moderator: *Paige Gray*

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

LIGHT BREAKFAST – ALL ATTENDEES

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

8:30 AM – 9:50 AM

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

2026 FRANCELIA BUTLER KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Kenneth Kidd

Professor and Chair, Department of English, University of Florida

“CHILDREN’S LITERATURE AND THE BLUE HUMANITIES”



Kenneth Kidd works in Anglophone children’s literature studies and is especially interested in the field’s intersections with other cultural projects, such as philosophy, psychology, and critical theory. His most recent book looks at children’s literature’s engagement with and presence inside theory and philosophy and is called *Theory for Beginners: Children’s Literature as Critical Thought* (Fordham, 2020). It’s a sequel of sorts to his second book,

Freud in Oz (Minnesota, 2011), about the intersections of children’s literature and psychoanalysis. He is also interested in questions of gender and sexuality in and around children’s literature. His first book, *Making American Boys* (Minnesota, 2004), explores literary and cultural programs of “boyology” in relation to stories of boys raised by various animals (what he calls the “feral tale”). He has also coedited two essay collections dealing with queer childhood and/or children’s literature: *Over the Rainbow* (with Michelle Ann Abate; Michigan, 2004), and *Queer as Camp: Essays in Summer, Style, and Sexuality* (with Derritt Mason; Fordham, 2019). He and Derritt also co-edited *Alt Kid Lit: What Children’s Literature Might Be* (Mississippi, 2024), which continues his interest in expanding what registers as children’s literature. With UF colleague Sid Dobrin he also coedited the first essay collection on children’s literature and ecocriticism, *Wild Things* (Wayne State, 2004), and with Joseph T. Thomas, Jr. he coedited *Prizing Children’s Literature: The Cultural Politics of Children’s Book Awards* (Routledge, 2017). Kenneth is currently finishing a book about Florida children’s literature.

Professor Kidd serves on a number of editorial boards and is especially active with the Children’s Literature Association. With Kate Capshaw, he is coeditor of the third volume of the *Cambridge History of Children’s Literature*, now in final production, and with Elizabeth Marshall he co-edits the Children’s Literature and Culture series at Routledge, the oldest-running monograph series in the field. Professor Kidd teaches undergraduate courses in children’s and young adult literature, including a new course on Florida children’s literature, as well as graduate seminars such as “Into the Archive,” “Comparative Children’s Literature” and “Disney and Its Discontents.” He is an Affiliate Professor with the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research and also serves as Director of UF’s Center for the Study of Children’s Literature & Culture. He was named a UF Research Foundation Professor for 2024-2027.

10:00 AM – 11:20 AM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Location: William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: Lara Saguisag

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE THEMED LUNCHES: OFF SITE

- New Neighbo(u)rs: Nationally-Transplanted Scholar Solidarity
- It’s a Lovely Day in the Neighborhood: Community Engagement

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

SOLIDARITY SESSION: How to help communities affected by ICE

William Penn Ballroom

Presenter: Jewelene Carter

Moderator: Annette Wannamaker

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

A PICTUREBOOK PLAYDATE AT THE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM

(Sponsored by the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh)

Participants will explore the MuseumLab space of the Museum and be offered opportunities to participate in multiple activities, including a Creative Spark Speed Connecting event for authors and illustrators, hands on creative opportunities to craft collages, zines, books and book marks, and collaborative conversations with picture book authors. This event is free for members but will also be open to members of the public and the Museums Creative Members. Light snacks will be served. Members can also receive admission to the museum’s Eric Carle exhibit by showing their conference badge. Transportation to and from the Omni will be provided to conference members; please see the conference registration desk for more details.

1:30 PM – 2:50 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 9

S1 STORY SPACES OF BLACK HISTORY

Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderators: Katharine Capshaw

1. "The Push and Pull of the Great Migration in Middle Grade Novels"
Jada Bradley
2. "Freedpeople's Neighborhoods: the Postbellum South and Black Childhood in Anne Maria Mitchell's Books"
Laura Hakala
3. "Lucy Davis's Mission Sampler: Agency in Relationships and on Canvas" Elissa Myers

S2 BUILDING COMMUNITY IN & WITH YOUNG ADULT FANTASY:

The Work of Tamora Pierce*

Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: Leah Phillips

1. "Self, Other, and the Space Between: Relational Models of Selfhood in YA Fantasy"
Leah Phillips
2. "'I call it rape in any country': Rape Culture, Consent, and Community in Tamora Pierce's *The Will of the Empress*"
Corinne Matthews
3. "Towards More Inclusive Storyworlds: Exploring the Possibilities and Limits of Race and Queerness in Graphic Novel Adaptations of Tamora Pierce's *Lady Knights*"
V Millen

S3 GIRLHOOD HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: Mary Jeanette Moran

1. "'Plotting Our Next Move': Suburban Girl Mobilities in Middle Grade Survival Fiction"
Caroline Hamilton-McKenna
2. "Wings at What Cost? Depictions of Martyrdom and Exploitation in *Winx Club*"
Samuel Hinds
3. "Intertext as Neighborhood: Making Sense of the Teenage Girl in the *Ladies' Home Journal's* 'Maudie' Stories"
Amy Pattee
4. "At Home in Nature: Barbara Newhall Follett Reimagines the Domesticated Wilderness of Girls' Organizations"
Anna Redcay

S4 NEIGHBORING CURATORS: A Roundtable Discussion of Children's Literature Special Collections*

Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: Fiona Hartley-Kroeger

- Fiona Hartley-Kroeger
- Karlie Herndon
- Lisa Von Drasek
- Laura Wasowicz

S5 R IS FOR RESISTANCE: Reshaping Cultural Memory in Asia and Europe*

Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: Lashon Daley

1. "Building a New Future: The Children's Play Library in Gwangju, South Korea"
Lashon Daley
2. "'Let Your Scissors Draw': Children's Creativity and Political Power in early Yugoslav and Soviet Culture"
Ainsley Morse
3. "Translating Authoritarianism: The Case of *Ito Ang Diktadura (This Is a Dictatorship)*"
Lara Saguisag
4. "Shifting the Image of Monstrosity: Mangiafuoco, Stromboli, and the De-Italianization of Pinocchio"
Katie Scurba

S6 I SAW THE TV GLOW: Screen Stories and Young People

Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: Amber Weinstock

1. "Blurring Boundaries: Digital and Physical Neighborhoods in *KPop Demon Hunters* — Exploring Space, Identity, and Media in Contemporary Youth Culture"
Jennifer Betts
2. "'Que Bonita Vecindad': Neighborhood as a Therapeutic Landscape in *El Chavo del Ocho*"
Lourdes Marquez
3. "*Minecraft* and *Roblox* as Virtual Archipelagic Neighborhoods: Filipino Child Gamers' Transmedia Experiences in Sandbox Games"
Cheeno Sayuno

*denotes a premade panel

Saturday, May 30

1:30 PM – 2:50 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 9, CONT.

S7 THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL: Identity and Belonging in Texts for Young People Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: *Maciej Wróblewski*

1. "Jesse Jackson's Room for Randy and Epitextuality: Navigating Black Authorship for Juvenile Publishers in the Mid-20th Century"
Amanda Greenwell
2. "Navigating the Contested Spaces of 1950s San Francisco: Malinda Lo's *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*"
Michelle Pagni Stewart
3. "Can We Be Friends?: The Politics of Child Worldview in Japanese Children's Literature, Post-War to Post-COVID"
Ian Lutz
4. "Childhood Perceptions Revisited: Autobiographical Childhood Neighborhoods in the Works of Carmen Lomas Garza and Julia Taft Bayne"
Marilynn Olson

S8 EDITORS ROUNDTABLE*

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: *Joseph Michael Sommers*

- Joseph Michael Sommers for *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*
- Elizabeth Leach-Leung for *International Journal of Young Adult Literature*
- Lisa Rowe Fraustino for *Children's Literature*
- Sonia Alejandra Rodríguez for *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature*
- Roxanne Harde for *International Research in Children's Literature*
- Karin Westman for *Lion and the Unicorn*
- Rebecca Rowe for *International Journal of Disney Studies*

3:00 PM – 4:20 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 10

S9 TWENTIETH-CENTURY NARRATIVE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: *TBD*

1. Graduate Student Essay Award (MA Level): 'I can't tell them what really happened': Analyzing the Layers of Trauma and Gaps Within *Speak: The Graphic Novel*
Allie Moore
2. "Young People's Narratives of Neighborhood in 1980s Boston"
Amy Fish
3. "The Shapes of Her World: Refiguring Neighborhood in Alexis DeVeaux's *Na-Ni*"
Stephanie Rambo
4. "Found Communities: Black Childhood Redefined in the Pages of the Harlem Renaissance"
Rachel Riffel

S10 MOSAIC: Breaking and Remaking Ideas of Community Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: *Deborah De Rosa*

1. "'Gnomies' On My Block: Reimagining Guardians in South Central LA"
Sumaria Butt
2. "Multilingual Neighborhoods: Building Connections and Standing Together with Bilingual Children's Books"
Sara Young
3. "The Magic is in the Noticing: Community Activism in Cozy TV and Games"
Emily Midkiff & Sara Austin

S11 NEIGHBORHOOD PATHS TO THE WHITE HOUSE* Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: *Elizabeth Goodenough*

1. "Neighborhood Paths to the White House"
Elizabeth Goodenough
2. "Andrew Jackson: Orphan of the Waxhaws"
Mark Heberle & Jacob Heberle
3. "They took him out to the ball game: Grover Cleveland, Buffalo and baseball"
Mark Goldman
4. "Judy Blume's Summer Sisters and the Bush Twins: The Summer Beach Neighborhood"
Carol Tell Morse
5. "Teddy Roosevelt in cowboy land"
Peggy Ellsberg

*denotes a premade panel

3:00 PM – 4:20 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 10, CONT.

S12 TEACHING, IDENTITY, AND COMMUNITY*

Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: Casey Wilson

1. "Teaching Queer Young Adult Literature in the South"
Casey Wilson
2. "Teaching the Tropes: Using Tracy Deonn's *Legendborn* to Interrogate the Purpose and Potential of YA Fantasy"
Jill Coste
3. "Please, Don't Be My Neighbor: AIDS, Bigotry, and Nuance in the Ryan White Story"
Lance Weldy

S13 DRAWN TO COMMUNITY: Picturebooks Ethics of Local and Global Neighbors

Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderator: Debbie Coppola

1. "It will be okay... They escaped too': Anthropomorphism in Picturebooks about Forced Displacement"
Nithya Sivashankar & Sarah Jackson
2. "The Ideal Companionship in *Miss Duck Is Looking for a Roommate* (2022)"
Kate Pei-Ying Wu

S14 MEDIATED YOUTH SPACES: Television Texts and Digital Discourse

Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: Peter Kunze

1. "Building a Neighborhood of Learning: Using Picturebook Biographies of Fred Rogers to Create Educational Spaces"
Jared Crossley
2. "Nostalgia in the Digital Neighborhood: *Bluey* and its Influence on the Consumer"
Anna Darling
3. "Reaping the Internet: Fan Casting Calls and Online Responses"
Rebecca Rowe
4. "Friendly Neighbors: The Multiethnic, Multigenerational, Multilingual Neighborhood of Sesame Street"
Lauren Tedesco

S15 UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Rebuilding Notions of Space, Place, and Community

Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: TBA

1. "Urban Spaces and Childhood Imagination in the Works of Bob Graham"
Ellanor Clark
2. "Moral Geography in Abbas Kiarostami's *Koker Trilogy*"
Maryam Khorasani

S16 CHILDREN AND THE VICTORIAN NEIGHBORHOOD

William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: Kristin Bluemel

1. "Not in Wonderland Anymore: Searching for a 'Child's Paradise' in Champney's ""The Bubbling Teapot""
Brittany Biesiada
2. "The Original Toy Story: Frances Hodgson Burnett's 'Racketty Packetty House,' a Playful Critique of Victorian Society through a Playroom Neighborhood"
Bethany Kaser
3. "An Anarchist, A Starving Seamstress, and A Baby Farmer are People in Your Neighborhood: Teaching Late Nineteenth-Century Girls to Make a Difference in Champney's *Witch Winnie* (1889)"
Joyce Kelley
4. "Victorian Fatherhood in ""Tim: A Story of School Life"" by Howard O. Sturgis"
MD Mehdi Habib Khan"

*denotes a premade panel

4:50 PM – 6:10 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 11

**S17 DATA, DREAMS, AND DEITIES:
Young People's Literature and
Asking the Big Questions**
Carnegie III - CL Floor

Moderator: Beth Pearce

1. "Race, Language, Culture and the Immigrant Experience in Ibi Zoboi's Young Adult Novel *American Street*" Hena Ahmad
2. "In Excelsis Deo—Animalia?: A Cognitive Approach to Anthropomorphic Animal Deities in Children's Literature" Anne Marie Corey
3. "Historical Children's Book Reviews as Big Data" Glen Layne-Worthey

**S18 ECOLOGIES PAST AND
PRESENT**
Phipps - CL Floor

Moderator: Brianna Anderson

1. "Calling Attention to the Garden in Garden Heights: Floriography, the Black Gardening Movement, and Environmental Justice in *The Hate U Give*" Michelle Ann Abate
2. "It Was the Garden that Did It: Natural Proximity and Neighborly Ecology Within *The Secret Garden*" Amy Hester

**S19 WALKING IN MR. ROGERS'
BLUE SHOES: A Case Study of a
Grand Rapids Library, School, and
Block***
Sternwheeler - WP Floor

Moderator: Amy Sonheim

- Amy Sonheim
- Courtnei Moyses
- Dawn Plescher

**S20 OUT OF THE GUTTER:
Graphic Narrative and
Neighborhoods**
Conference Room B - CL Floor

Moderator: Megan L. Musgrave

1. "'We were so diverse. All so different. And yet, we were the same': Forced Neighborhoods and Safety in *They Called Us Enemy*" Sarah DelMaramo
2. "A Fly in the Buttermilk": "Good" Schools and Neighborhoods in Jerry Craft's *Work*" Chelsea Rogers
3. "Youth and Revolution in Eiichiro Oda's *One Piece*" Annikka Stangil
4. "'Come Over Here and Look out this Window': An Invitation into Lynda Barry's Neighborhood" Meghan Sweeney

**S21 SCHOLARLY SIDEWALKS &
OPEN DOORS: A Collaborative
Research Workshop***
Three Rivers - WP Floor

Moderators: Amanda Greenwell & Jeremy Johnston

**S22 NEW CARTOGRAPHIES
OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN
CHILDREN'S
AND YA LITERATURE**
Frick - CL Floor

Moderator: Amy Pattee

1. "Neighborhood in Motion: Material Belonging, Spatial Memory, and Childhood Imagination in *Nina and the Travelling Spice Shed* and *Excuse Me, Is This India?*" Tungabhadra Banerjee
2. "The Neighbourhood of Fear" Elizabeth Prekas
3. "A Mapping Mind: Exploring the Neighborhood through Neurodivergence in Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog at the Night-Time*" Annesha Palit
4. "Won't you be my neighbor: A Contemplative exploration of children's ecological imagination" Christina Frasher

**S23 EMPIRE STATE(S) OF MIND IN
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**
Conference Room A - CL Floor

Moderator: Courtney Weikle-Mills

1. Chivalric Boys Make Good Neighbors: Merry Old England, the Boy Scouts, and the Victorian Public School" Amanda Chapman
2. "J.M. Barrie's 'The Little White Bird' (1902): London as the Place of Pretend" Alison Osos

**S24 POWER OF WORDS AND
STORYTELLING**
William Penn Ballroom - WP Floor

Moderator: Philip Nel

1. "How to Get Along with Your Fellow Bear: Progressivism, Conservatism, and the Berenstain Bears" Carl Miller
2. "Lyra's Imagination: The Politics of Emotion in Philip Pullman's *The Secret Commonwealth*" Annette Wannamaker
3. "'She Will Be Brave': The Impact of Storytelling in *When You Trap a Tiger*" Alexis Williams"
4. Graduate Student Essay Award (PhD Level): "My and Our Stories: Intermental Thinking, Identity Formation, and Vietnamera" Yi Wang

6:15 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY
RECEPTION

William Penn Ballroom -
WP Floor

(Cash Bar, Heavy hors d'oeuvres)

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY

William Penn Ballroom -
WP Floor

Master of Ceremonies: Pete Kunze

*denotes a premade panel

Committee Members

CHLA AWARDS AND GRANTS COORDINATORS

Pete Kunze, Tulane University
Poushali Bhadury, Middle Tennessee State University
Gabrielle Atwood Halko, West Chester University

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Chair: Rebecca Rowe, Texas A&M University-Commerce, 2023-2026
Jennifer Slagus, Brock University, 2024-2026
Daniel Freeman, Indiana University, 2024-2027
Christine Case, University of Central Arkansas, 2025-2028

ANNE DEVEREAUX JORDAN AWARD COMMITTEE

Chair: Teya Rosenberg, Texas State University, 2025-2028
Michelle Pagni Stewart, 2025-2026
Kate Slater, Rowan University, 2023-2026
Karen Chandler, University of Louisville, 2025-2028
Elisabeth (Libby) Gruner, University of Richmond, 2025-2028

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Chair: Gabrielle Owen, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2024-2027
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Isabel Millan, University of Oregon, 2023-2026
Jesus Montano, Baylor University, 2023-2026
Melissa Jenkins, Wake Forest University, 2023-2026
Julie Pond, Shorter University, 2025-2028
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Poushali Bhadury of Middle Tennessee State 2023-2026
Lidong Xiang, University of Pittsburgh, 2024-2027
Johari Murray, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, 2025-2028

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Courtney Weikle-Mills, University of Pittsburgh, 2023-2026
Anastasia Ulanowicz, University of Florida, 2023-2026
Lan Dong, University of Illinois Springfield, 2024-2027
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Christian Hines, Texas State University, 2025-2028
Mary Zaborskis, 2025-2028

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Rachel Dean-Ruzicka, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2025-2028
Chamutal (Tali) Noimann, BMCC-City University of New York, 2025-2028
Cassandra Whisenant, West Virginia University, 2025-2028

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Pete Kunze, Tulane University, 2023-2026
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Amy Pattee, Simmons University, 2025-2028
Sara Austin, Dayton Early College Academy, 2025-2028

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Chair: Kate Capshaw, University of Connecticut, 2023-2026
Sabrina Carnesi, University of Washington, 2023-2026
Gabriela Lee, University of Pittsburgh, 2023-2026
Anh Le, University of Connecticut, 2024-2027
Edcel J. Cintron-Gonzalez, Illinois State University, 2025-2028
Sridipa Dandapat, Indian Institute of Technology Patna, 2025-2028

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Chair, Regan Postma-Montaño, Baylor University, 2025-2028
Elissa Myers, Sam Houston State University, 2023-2026
Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, University of Michigan, 2024-2027
Elizabeth Hoiem, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2024-2027
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Ritwika Roy, Jadavpur University, 2025-2028
Kiedra B. Taylor, University of Connecticut, 2025-2028

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Lara Saguisag, New York University, 2025-2026
Roberta Trites, Illinois State University, 2024-2027
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Paige Gray, Savannah College of Art and Design, 2024-2026
Miranda Green-Barteet, The University of Western Ontario, 2024-2027
Cristina Rhodes, Shippensburg University, 2025-2026

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Megan Isaac, Elon University, 2023-2026
Mahshid Tavallai, Queen's University, 2023-2026
Vashalice Kaaba, 2025-2028
Mandy Suhr-Sytsma, Emory University, 2025-2028

Committee Members, cont.

GLOBAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Deirdre McMahon, Drexel University, 2024-2027
Maria Truglio, Penn State, 2023-2026
Bornali Nath Dowerah, Manohari Devi Kanoi Girls' College, 2023-2026
Samira Abdur-Rahman, The College of New Jersey, 2023-2026
Chengcheng You, University of Macau, 2024-2027
Melanie Ramdarshan Bold, University of Glasgow, 2024-2027
Tharini Visnawath, University of South Carolina, 2025-2028

JUDITH PLOTZ EMERGING SCHOLAR AWARD COMMITTEE

Chair: Megan Musgrave, Indiana University Indianapolis, 2024-2027
Laura Hakala, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, 2023-2026
Philip Nel, Kansas State University, 2023-2026
Tyler Sasser, University of Alabama, 2023-2026
Mary Jeanette Moran, Illinois State University, 2024-2027
Kate Slater, Rowan University, 2024-2027
Amy Fish, Boston University, 2025-2028

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Co-Chair: Amanda Allen, Eastern Michigan University, 2025-2028
Brianna Anderson, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2024-2026
Jennifer Gouck, University of Münster, 2024-2027
Rebecca Rowe, Texas A&M University, 2024-2027
Gina Boldman, Eastern Michigan University, 2025-2028
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OMBUDS COMMITTEE

Melissa Jenkins, Wake Forest University, 2024-2027
Jamie Fine, University of Texas-Austin, 2024-2027
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PHOENIX AWARD COMMITTEE

Chair: Gabrielle Halko, West Chester University, 2025-2026
Sabrina Carnesi, University of Washington-Seattle, 2024-2027
Anne Anderson, Independent Researcher, 2024-2027
Emma K. McNamara, Ohio State University/ University of the District of Columbia, 2025-2028
Hebah Uddin, University of Pittsburgh, 2025-2028

PHOENIX PICTURE BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

Chair: Gretchen Papazian, Central Michigan University, 2024-2027
Carrie Anne Thomas, The Ohio State University, 2023-2026
Elizabeth Dulemba, Hollins University, 2024-2027
Tess Prendergast, University of British Columbia, 2024-2027
Wendy Stephens, Jacksonville State University, 2025-2028



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Rebekah Fitzsimmons

CONFERENCE PLANNING INTERN

Irene Cabán Bonet

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Courtney Weikle-Mills
Gabriela Lee
Hebah Uddin
Clare Withers

Conference Planning Committee (Board)

Leah Phillips
Kaa Hinton-Johnson
Ngozi Onuora
Paige Gray
Elizabeth Leach-Leung

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Debbie Coppula and Cat Burton at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

Christina Gorski, Director of Communications at Fred Rogers Productions

Clare Withers, Elizabeth Nesbitt Collection Curator, University of Pittsburgh Library System

LOGO AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Erin Strother, Studio E Graphic Design

ONSITE BOOKSALES:



PAPER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Leah Phillips
Gabriela Lee
Gabrielle Owen
Miranda Green-Barteet
Elizabeth Leach-Leung
Amy Pattee
Paige Gray

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 AWARD WINNERS AND GRANT RECIPIENTS!

We are pleased to share our list of award winners and grant recipients! Our heartiest congratulations to our 2026 awardees and grantees. We are so grateful for your dynamic and meaningful contributions to our field.

We will recognize and celebrate our winners and grant recipients at our upcoming conference in Pittsburgh. We hope you can join us at our Awards Ceremony which will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

We thank all the committees that evaluated submissions and nominations this year. And special thanks to Pete Kunze, our Grants and Awards Coordinator, for his leadership and extraordinary work!

2026 Award Winners

ANNE DEVEREAUX JORDAN AWARD

Winner: Kenneth B. Kidd

MENTORING AWARD

Winner: Mark West

ARTICLE AWARD

(for article published in 2024)

Winner: Hannah Doermann

"Embracing the 'Silly Teen Girl': Perpetual Girlhood, Intergenerational Feminism, and the *Twilight* Renaissance," *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 49.3, Fall 2024

Honor: Summer Melody Pennell, Angel Daniel Matos, and Henry "Cody" Miller

"Queer Transgressive Cultural Capital in *When the Moon Was Ours*," *International Journal of Young Adult Literature* 5.1, 2024

BOOK AWARD

(for book published in 2024)

Winner: Amanda Greenwell

The Child Gaze: Narrating Resistance in American Literature (University Press of Mississippi, 2024)

Honor: Emily Corbett

In Transition: Young Adult Literature and Transgender Representation (University Press of Mississippi, 2024)

EDITED BOOK AWARD

(for book published in 2024)

Winner: Kristine Moruzi, Beth Rodgers, and Michelle J. Smith

The Edinburgh History of Children's Periodicals (Edinburgh University Press, 2024)

CAROL GAY AWARD

Winner: Irelyn Thomson

"Mid-Century American Conformity and L'Engle's *Suburban Dystopia*"

GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY AWARD, MA LEVEL

Winner: Allie Moore

"'I can't tell them what really happened': Analyzing the Layers of Trauma and Gaps Within *Speak: The Graphic Novel*"

GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY AWARD, PHD LEVEL

Winner: Yi Wang

"My and Our Stories: Intermental Thinking, Identity Formation, and *Vietnamerica*"

Honor: Delaney Sullivan

"The Ethics of Food Anthropomorphism"

JUDITH PLOTZ EMERGING SCHOLAR AWARD

(for article published in 2024)

Winner: Shicong Lin

"Rotating, Re-reading, and Reacquainting: A Critical Investigation of Reversible Picturebooks" (*Children's Literature in Education*, vol. 55, 2024)

Honor: Alexander Claussen

"Enchanting Images: Magic Mirrors and Moving Portraits in French Fairy Tales" (*Marvels & Tales*, vol. 38, no. 1, 2024)

PHOENIX AWARD

Winner: Deborah Hopkinson

Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America (Scholastic, 2006)

Honor Book: Martine Leavitt

Keturah and Lord Death (Boyd's Mills, 2006)

Honor Book: Neal Shusterman

Everlost (Simon and Schuster, 2006)

PHOENIX PICTURE BOOK AWARD

Winner: Antoinette Portis

Not a Box (HarperCollins, 2006)

Honor Book: Amy Lee-Tai and Felicia Hoshino

A Place Where Sunflowers Grow Translated by Marc Akio Lee (Children's Book Press, 2006)

Honor Book: Jeanette Winter

Mama: A True Story in which a Baby Hippo Loses his Mama during a Tsunami but Finds a New Mama (Harcourt, 2006)

ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD NOMINEES

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (USA)

Malorie Blackman (UK)

Luis Soriano (Colombia), founder of Biblioburro

2026 Grant Recipients

VIVIAN YENIKA-AGBAW GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

Winner: Uchenna Emelife

Global Honor: Herdiana

DIVERSITY RESEARCH GRANT

Vandana Saxena

Project: "Lullabies from Malaysian Estates: Childhood and Mothering under Indenture"

HANNAH BEITER GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

Anna Merz

Project: "Periodical Studies, Juvenilia, and Children's Literature at Eton"

Shuya Su

Project: "How Death Shaped U.S. Children's Literature Scholarship: Francelia Butler and the Beginnings of a Critical Conversation"

Kajori Patra

Project: "A Brave, New World: Postcolonial, Cold War-Era Anxieties in Premendra Mitra's *Kalpabigyan* (Science Fantasy) for Young Adults"

FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT

Johari Imani Murray

Project: "Liminal Bodies, Ancestral Tides and Contemporary Water Concerns: How Black Mermaids in Children's and Young Adult Literature (ChYAL) Function as Diasporic Knowledge Systems"

Arianna De Gasperis

Project: "From the *Gamin de Paris* to the *Ragazzo di strada*: Transnational Pathways into Nineteenth-Century Children's Literature"

Christine B. Case

Project: "Archives Visit:

Fred Rogers Institute at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA"

Viola Ardeni and Barbara Myslik

Project: "Would Cinderella Be Your Prime Minister? Young Adult Literature and Political Socialization Between Cultures"

René M. Rodríguez-Astacio

Project: "Queer Latinidades Youth Lens: Analyzing Queer Latine Young Adult Literature"

JUNE CUMMINS DIVERSITY CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANT

Melissa McCoul

Bincy Mariya N

MICKENZIE FASTELAND CONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY GRANT

Allison Estrada-Carpenter

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Elizabeth Leach-Leung, Simon Fraser University

Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, University of Michigan



Featured Authors



Antoinette Portis PHOENIX PICTURE BOOK AWARD

Antoinette is the creator of many inventive books for children. She made her picture-book debut with the NYT best-selling *Not A Box*, an ALA Seuss Geisel Honor Book, and one of the New York Times Ten Best Illustrated Books of the Year. Her other award-winning books include *A Penguin Story*, also a NYT Best Illustrated Book; *Hey, Water!*, an ALA Sibert Honor book; *A New Green Day*, a JLG selection, and a Horn Book Best Book of 2020; and *Seed Grows*, a 2023 ALA Sibert Honor book as well as an ALA Geisel Honor book. Her latest picture book, *To Activate Space Portal, Lift Here*, connects the reader to wary, then enthusiastic, aliens on a distant planet. She was a recipient of a 2010 Sendak Fellowship. Antoinette got a BFA at the UCLA School of Fine Arts and then had a career in the world of design and advertising. She was a creative director, then a VP, at Disney before she took a flying leap to pursue her sixth-grade dream of writing and illustrating books for children. She lives in Los Angeles and will never be able to pass up a good cardboard box.



Deborah Hopkinson PHOENIX AWARD

Deborah Hopkinson is an award-winning author of more than eighty picture books, historical fiction, and long nonfiction for children and teens. Her forthcoming titles include *Take Cover*, a middle grade novel set in the London Blitz and *Lucky's Home for Lost and Hungry Dogs*, historical fiction inspired by the founding of London's first dog shelter in 1860. Deborah lives outside

Portland, Oregon with her family and a menagerie of pets.



Karuna Riazi

Karuna Riazi holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Hamline University and is currently a PhD candidate in Children's Literature at the University of Pittsburgh, where she studies Black, children's and young adult horror. Her most recent middle grade novel is *Sabrina Swept Away* (Greenwillow Books, 2025), a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. She is currently

serving on the Phoenix Book Award Committee.



Daniel Kraus

Daniel Kraus is a New York Times bestselling writer of novels, TV, and film. His latest novel, *Angel Down*, was a New York Times Top 10 Book of 2025 and a USA Today bestseller. His novel *Whalefall* received a front-cover review in the New York Times Book Review, won the Alex Award, was an L.A. Times Book Prize Finalist, and was a Best Book of 2023 from NPR, the New York Times,

Amazon, Chicago Tribune, and more. With Guillermo del Toro, he co-authored *The Shape of Water* based on the same idea that was created for the Oscar-winning film. Also with del Toro, Kraus co-authored *Trollhunters*, which was adapted into the Emmy-winning Netflix series. His middle grade trilogy the Teddies Saga, featuring *They Threw Us Away*, *They Stole Our Hearts*, and *They Set the Fire*, is equal parts *Toy Story* and *Lord of the Flies*.



Sharon G. Flake

Sharon G. Flake is the best-known author of the ground-breaking novel *The Skin I'm In*, which transformed the reading habits and sense of self of generations of young readers. Considered a modern classic, this best-selling novel is used in classrooms worldwide and studied by experts in the field of education and literature. Flake is the author of sixteen books, with more than 1.8 million copies in print on six continents. Her most recent

historical novel, *Hattie Mae Begins Again*, focuses on a young girl's travels from the south to the north during the Great Migration. The book explores ways in which young people are sometimes forced to feel like outsiders and how they can draw on their upbringing, family stories and self-reliance to find their way back to themselves.



Mandi Figlioli

Mandi Figlioli is a wife and mother of two active and curious sons. Growing up surrounded by generations of educators, she always aspired to be a teacher. She enjoyed ten years as an elementary educator before pursuing a career in administration. As a PK-12 Curriculum Specialist and maker education enthusiast, Mandi has gained expertise in the areas of makerspace design and S.T.R.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Resourcefulness,

Engineering, Art & Mathematics) integration. She advocates for hands-on, child-centered learning. Through her children's book, *Miss Makey and the Magic Bin*, Mandi hopes to spark curiosity and inspire creativity in classrooms across the world. As Assistant Superintendent of K-5 Education for the Bethel Park School District, Mandi leads the district's charge to remake learning. She strives to empower students as the designers of their educational journey. She envisions school not just as an institution for academic growth, but as a joyful space where students can embark on a journey of self-discovery and personal development.



Caroline Carlson

Caroline Carlson is the author of funny and fantastical books for young readers, including *The Very Nearly Honorable League of Pirates* trilogy (HarperCollins) and, most recently, *Wicked Marigold* and *The Tinkerers* (Candlewick). Her novels have won accolades from the *New York Times*, the American Booksellers Association, Bank Street College of Education, the American Library Association, and Junior Library Guild, among

others. She is the children's book columnist for the website Literary Hub. Caroline holds a BA from Swarthmore College and an MFA in Writing for Children from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with her family.



Ally Russell

Ally Russell is the USA TODAY bestselling author of *It Came from the Trees*, the Mystery James series, *Down Came the Spiders*, and *Book of Outcasts*. She grew up on a steady diet of Halloween parties, horror films, *Unsolved Mysteries*, and Goosebumps books. She has always loved scary stories, and got her MFA from Simmons University and, eventually, a job working in children's publishing. She hails from Pittsburgh—ground zero for the zombie

apocalypse. Ally lives with her husband and her two black cats, Nox and Fury. She's afraid of the woods, the dark, and heights.