

A WORD FROM THE LIBRARY

January 2009

Your Librarians

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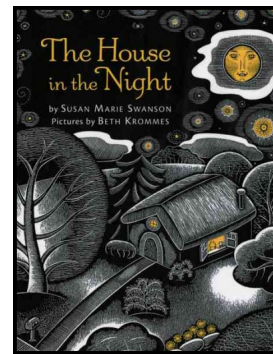


CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

We have noticed that the kids have become more responsible for their library books. They are aware of what they have checked out and the books are returned in a timely manner.

During January, each class had an introduction to the American Library Association Award Winning Books. On January 26th the ALA announces winners of several prestigious awards such as the Caldecott Medal, Newberry Medal, Coretta Scott King Medal, Sibert Medal and Theodore Seuss Geisel Medal.

K: After a presentation of magazines housed in the library, I've been leading the kids to think about the illustrations in a book, how they enhance, and effect the story. I introduced them to several of the Caldecott Medal winners given annually to an American illustrator for their distinguished contribution to an American picture book published that year. We read the following winners *The Snowy Day* (1963) by Ezra Jack Keats, *My Friend Rabbit* (2003) by Eric Rohman and the newest winner *The House in the Night* (2009) by Susan Marie Swanson, illustrated by Beth Krommes.



2009 Caldecott Winner

1st: We began the month with booktalks about Juvenile Biographies (JB). I introduced the kids to several biographies about historical, artistic and athletic figures, such as Abe Lincoln, Pablo Picasso, J.K.Rowling and Tiger Woods. As a group, we visited the shelf where these books are shelved and the kids noticed the abbreviation (JB) on the call labels of the spines. Over the last few weeks we have read the following biographies: *Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein* by Don Brown, *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman* by Kathleen Krull, *Boss of the Plains: The Hat That Won the West* (about John Stetson) by Laurie Carlson, and David Weisner. We read the book on Weisner as a lead into a discussion about Caldecott Award winning books which are announced annually for the most distinguished picture book illustrations. We read three of David Weisner winners *Tuesday*, *The Three Pigs* and *Flotsam* as well as the latest winner (announced on 1/26) *The House in the Night* by Susan Marie Swanson, illustrated by Beth Krommes.

2nd: We also began January with booktalks about Juvenile Biographies(JB). We looked at several books in this genre ranging from history to modern day figures, some well known others not. I reinforced how to find books in our library by using the symbols on call labels found on the spine of a book. Unlike all other call labels, which include the first three letters of the authors' last name, biography call labels include the first three letters of the persons last name about which the book is written. We read *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* (JB HAW) by Barbara Kerley with drawings by Brian Selznick. Selznick won a Caldecott Honor for this book and in 2008 won the medal for his "chapter book, *The Inventions of Hugo Cabret*. As well as looking at some Caldecott Medal books we looked at books that have won the Coretta Scott King award. It is given to an ... "African American author and illustrator for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions" to the world of children's literature. We read *Goin' Someplace Special* by Patricia Mckissack .

3rd – For most of the month we had booktalks about Caldecott Medal books and the prestigious label found on those books. We looked at the 2008 winner (a chapter book) *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick and 2007 winner *Flotsam* by David Weisner. We read *Rapunzel* by Paul Zelinsky and *Fables* by Arnold Lobel. The following week we looked at and read a few of the Caldecott Honor Books (silver medal) *John Henry* by Julius Lester, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and *Frederick* by Leo Lionni. And on January 20th we read another Caldecott Medal book, appropriately titled *So You Want to Be President?* By Judith St.George, illustrated by David Small. We ended the month reading the just released winner *The House in the Night* by Susan Marie Swanson, illustrated by Beth Krommes.

4th – We began January with discussions about choosing a favorite book. What makes a book interesting/likeable? Do you tend to like similar type of books? Do you have a favorite author? What do you think about series books? The kids wrote their own list of top 5 favorite books of all time that will be posted in the library for all to see. The following week I talked about the John Newbery Award that is given to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. It is chosen annually by a 15 member committee of Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. We will be reading 2 Newbery Medal winners both by Avi - *Crispin The Cross of Lead* and *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* (an honor book).

5th- I had a booktalk about the John Newbery Award winning books with this class. I showed them some of my favorites, *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate Di Camillo, *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park, *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis, *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse, *The Midwife's Apprentice* by Karen Cushman, and *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech. I read a bit of the 2008 Newbery winner *Good Master's Sweet Ladies* by Laura Amy Schlitz. We are currently reading a wonderfully funny tale - *A Year Down Yonder* (2001) by Richard Peck about a teenage girl, Mary Alice, who leaves the city life of Chicago to live with her Grandmother in the country during

BOOK ILLUSTRATOR TO VISIT THE LIBRARY



We are excited to announce that illustrator Jill Dubin will be visiting the library to speak to our elementary classes. She will be here on **Wednesday, March 4th**. Jill's program includes how she created the cut paper illustrations in her latest book and also a review the process of turning ideas into a published book.

We are offering our families the chance to purchase hardback copies of her book to be personalized and distributed the day of her visit. The cost to pre-order the book is \$16.95 and 30% of the purchase price will go to Cliff Valley School. In order to have the books available in time for Jill's visit, we will be accepting pre-orders up until **February 6th**. Order forms are available in the lobby, in the library, and on our website at

www.cliffvalleyschool.org/Programs/Elementary/Library/Parent_Resources.

