

Books that Inspire a Sense of Wonder – and Responsibility

2019 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards Results Announced

(Traverse City, MI – October 8, 2019) Raising kids isn't easy, with so many dangers out there in both the real *and* cyber world. It requires a balance of wonderment and practicality while teaching children how to be safe and secure, but also to learn, grow, explore -- and to go out into the world and make it a better place. That is why the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards exist – to honor those who create the books that give kids a sense of wonder, and encourage them to do great things.

The Moonbeam Children's Book Awards and Jenkins Group are proud to announce this year's 156 medal-winning books, chosen from 1,150 total entries. We congratulate the authors, illustrators and publishers representing 34 U.S. states, five Canadian provinces, and five countries overseas for their dedication to inspiring young people to read and to love books.

From alphabet books for toddlers to young adult books about gender and race, the Moonbeam Awards recognize excellence in 45 categories for children of every age and developmental stage. And what better way to instill a sense of wonder than with a beautifully created pop-up book?

Gold medal-winning, *Shells: A Pop-Up Book of Wonder* (Jumping Jack Press) fascinates with multi-layered paper sculptures depicting the undersea world, but mixes the beauty with a serious message the child finds when they lift a flap: "Coral reefs are at risk of destruction by climate change, fishing, pollution, and other causes."

In her silver medal-winning *Water Walker Series* (Lakeside Publishing) of books, author Carol Trembath writes about an Ojibway family walking around each of the Great Lakes to raise environmental awareness. In the story, young Mai is allowed to join the walk because, her grandmother says, "Even our little ones can make ripples and waves." The books are based on a real group of activists, the Mother Earth Water Walkers, who have been walking along shorelines and major rivers of the Great Lakes region since 2003, asserting that access to clean water is a basic human right.

Two books tied for gold medals in the Non-Fiction Picture Book category: In *Rosie: A Detroit Herstory* (Wayne State University Press), Bailey Sisoy Isgro tells the story of "Rosie the Riveter" and her thousands of wartime defense industry female co-workers. Isgro, a historian who lives in Detroit, rhymes about how the "Rosies" were

fired from their factory jobs when soldiers came home from World War II:

"Some women were eager for a regular pace.
Others wanted to get right back in the workplace.
They'd spent four long years, earning their own paychecks
And could not accept they were now the wrong sex.
Today when you walk onto a factory floor,
You will find more women than ever before.
Because, deep in the souls and the hearts of each one,
Rests the enduring victory all Rosies won."

In the co-gold medalist, *What Does It Mean to Be American?* (Little Pickle Press), authors Rana DiOrio and Elad Yoran answer the title's question in many ways, including:

"...welcoming people from other countries and helping them learn
what it means to be American.
...appreciating that our differences make us kinder,
smarter, healthier, and stronger.
...using our imagination and creativity to invent new things,
and our curiosity and courage to explore new frontiers.
...being proud of all we have accomplished,
and humble about all we still need to learn."

Congratulations to all of this year's Moonbeam Award winners for their wonderful stories and advice for the young people of today – helping them become the leaders of tomorrow!

