



# KRA Newsletter

Volume 39, Number 1

## The President's Message:

# Make Plans to Attend the ILA Conference

**Hello Fellow Literacy Educators,**  
As most of you know the Kansas Reading Association is now an affiliate of the International Literacy Association as IRA has changed its name. The name change was a crucial step in the efforts to emphasize our role as a global professional membership association for literacy leaders, not just for reading, and to position ourselves as champions in making literacy accessible to all whether it is in the classroom or beyond.

This name change will effect KRA only in a few areas such as changing our web site, letterhead,

handbook and bylaws to note the name change.

As I am approaching my final months as KRA President, I would like to thank everyone who helped me to promote KRA in a positive manner to ensure that literacy was kept alive throughout Kansas. My hat is tipped to my executive board, my committee chairmen, and all of our members. Without all of your expertise, KRA would not be the professional organization that



it is today. Please keep promoting KRA in your district. We need to make KRA to be a vital component for the educating of our youth.

We have lots to offer, but in these trying economic times, it is hard to gain membership. I challenge each of you to personally promote membership in your school and district throughout the coming year.

Hats off to each and every one of you!

**READ On!**  
Janelle Riedy  
*KRA President*

## 2015 Winner Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award Announced

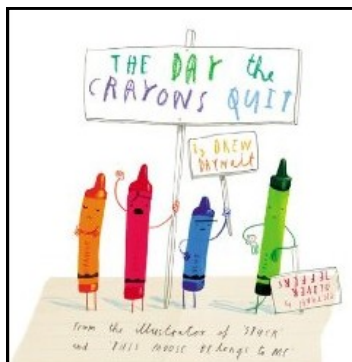
The Kansas Reading Association proudly announces the winner of the 2015 Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award: **The Day the Crayons Quit.**

The award was established in 1996 by the Kansas Reading Association. The purpose of the award is to promote an appreciation of quality literature in young children across Kansas. The award is named for Bill Martin

Jr, an internationally renowned author. We honor the outstanding authors and illustrators who produce outstanding literature for

this audience.

The titles are suggested by teachers, parents, communities, and librarians. A committee of KRA members choose nominations from the list of suggested titles. Then the nomination list is presented to the body of KRA members to vote on, the title with the most votes wins the year's award.



Drew Daywalt will be receive the BMJ Award and speak at the Fall Conference on Sunday, October 4.

### The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt

Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit! Beige Crayon is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown Crayon. Black wants to be used for more than just outlining. Blue needs a break from coloring all those bodies of water. And Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking—each believes he is the true color of the sun.

**Illustrator:** Oliver Jeffers  
**Publication Date:** June 27, 2013  
**Age Range:** 3-7 years



## Important Notices

### Nominees Needed

**KRA is in need of a Vice-President and Membership Chairman for the upcoming year.** If you would like to be or know of someone who would like to be on the KRA Executive Board in these positions, please let an officer know. For a list of Executive board members and their contact information go to [www.kansasread.org/executiveboard.html](http://www.kansasread.org/executiveboard.html).

We would like to visit with you concerning the wonderful opportunities of joining KRA. Please feel free to contact any one of us. **It is pure enjoyment promoting something as exciting and adventurous as reading!**

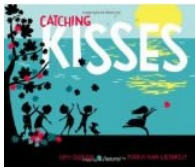
### KRA Member Login is Temporarily Unavailable

**We are currently experiencing some difficulties with the login portion of the Kansas Reading Association website.** Our hosting provider updated its server and it is no longer compatible with our archaic Microsoft Access database that ran the login section. As a result, our private portion of the site must be completely rebuilt. It is our hope to have it up and running by the end of April. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. If you need access to the member resources not found in the public site, please contact [jriedy@kansasread.org](mailto:jriedy@kansasread.org) or [website@kansasread.org](mailto:website@kansasread.org). **We will resume this service as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding.**

## 2016 Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award Nominees

### *Catching Kisses* by Amy Gibson

*At any given moment/someone, somewhere is blowing a kiss. And somewhere/someone/is catching it.*

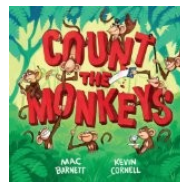


So begins this journey of the heart, as readers young and old follow a handful of kisses around the United States. From San Francisco to New Orleans to New York City, the text and stylized artwork celebrate all the ways kisses are shared.

**Illustrator:** Maria van Lieshout  
**Publication Date:** December 31, 2013  
**Age Range:** 3-6 years  
**Publisher:** Feiwel & Friends  
**ISBN-10:** 0312376472

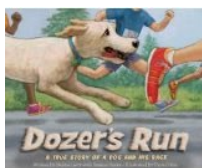
### *Count the Monkeys* by Mac Barnett

Imagine you were born before the invention of drawing, more than thirty thousand years ago. You would live with your whole family in a cave and see woolly mammoths walk by! You might even see images of animals hidden in the shapes of clouds and rocks. You would want to share these pictures with your family, but wouldn't know how. Who would have made the world's first drawing? Would it have been *you*?



**Illustrator:** Kevin Cornell  
**Publication Date:** June 25, 2013  
**Age Range:** 3-6 Years  
**Publisher:** Disney-Hyperion  
**ISBN-10:** 1423160657

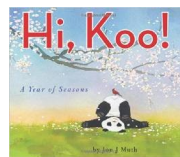
### *Dozer's Run: A True Story of a Dog and His Race* by Debbie Levy and Rosana Panza



Dozer the Goldendoodle has a wonderful life! He and his best friend, Chica, belong to a loving family. They have warm beds to sleep in, enough food to eat, and plenty of room in their yard to play and investigate.

**Illustrator:** David Opie  
**Publication Date:** May 1, 2014  
**Age Range:** 6-9 Years  
**Publisher:** Sleeping Bear Press  
**ISBN-10:** 1585368962

### *Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons* by Jon Muth, Jr.



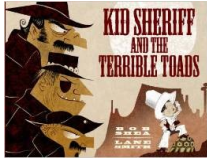
With a featherlight touch and disarming charm, Jon J Muth--and his delightful little panda bear, Koo--challenge readers to stretch their minds and imaginations with twenty-six haikus about the four seasons.

**Publication Date:** February 25, 2014  
**Age Range:** 4-8 Years  
**Publisher:** Scholastic Press  
**ISBN-10:** 0545166683

# 2016 Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award Nominees

## ***Kid Sheriff and the Terrible Toads***

by Bob Shea



Drywater Gulch has a toad problem. Not the hop-down-your-britches, croaking-all-night toad kind of problem. The thievin', hootin' and hollerin', steal-your-gold never-say-thank-you outlaw toad kind of problem. Then hope

rides into town. Sheriff Ryan might only be seven years old, and he might not know much about shooting and roping. But he knows a lot about dinosaurs. Yes, dinosaurs. And it turns out that knowing a thing or two about paleontology can come in handy when it comes to hoodwinking and rounding up a few no-good bandits.

**Illustrator:** Lane Smith

**Publication Date:** October 7, 2014

**Age Range:** 4-8 Years

**Publisher:** Roaring Brook Press

**ISBN-10:** 1596439750

## ***Mama Built a Little Nest***

by Jennifer Ward

A delightful exploration of the incredibly variety of nests birds build for their babies, illustrated by a Caldecott Honoree.



There are so many different kinds of birds—and those birds build so many different kinds of nests to keep their babies cozy. With playful, bouncy rhyme, Jennifer Ward explores nests large and small, silky and cottony, muddy and twiggy—and all the birds that call them home!

**Illustrator:** Steve Jenkins

**Publication Date:** March 18, 2014

**Age Range:** 4-8 Years

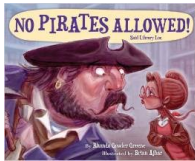
**Publisher:** Beach Lane Books

**ISBN-10:** 1442421169

## ***No Pirates Allowed? Said Library Lou***

by Rhonda Gowler Greene

Things are looking--and smelling!--a little fishy at Seabreezy Library. When the big X on Pirate Pete's treasure map leads him and his parrot-sidekick Igor to believe buried treasure is hidden



at the library, the patrons are quaking in their shoes. But never fear! Library Lou, Seabreezy's librarian-extraordinaire, is as cool as a cucumber and knows how to handle an irate pirate or two.

**Illustrator:** Brian Ajhar

**Publication Date:** May 1, 2013

**Grade Level:** 1-3

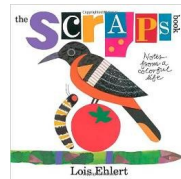
**Publisher:** Sleeping Bear Press

**ISBN-10:** 1585367966

## ***The Scraps Books: Notes from a Colorful Life***

by Lois Ehlert

The renowned Caldecott Honoree and illustrator of *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* provides a moving, intimate, and inspiring inside look at her colorful picture book career. Lois Ehlert always knew she was an artist. Her parents encouraged her



from a young age by teaching her how to sew and saw wood and pound nails, and by giving her colorful art supplies. They even gave her a special spot to work that was all her own.

They even gave her a special spot to work that was all her own.

**Publication Date:** March 4, 2014

**Age Range:** 5-10 years

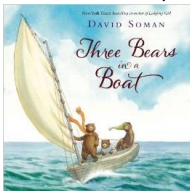
**Publisher:** Beach Lane Books

**ISBN-10:** 1442435712

## ***Three Bears in a Boat***

by David Soman

Three bear siblings break their mother's favorite blue seashell, and rather than tell her, they decide to set out in their sailboat to find her a new one. On their quest they encounter salty sailors, strange new islands, huge whales, and vast seas but no blue seashells. When a treacherous storm suddenly blows in, the three bears find themselves tossed about in their little boat, far from Mama.



**Publication Date:** May 20, 2014

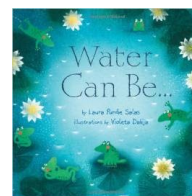
**Age Range:** 3-5 Years

**Publisher:** Dial Books

**ISBN-10:** 0803739931

## ***Water Can Be...***

by Laura Purdie Salas



"Water can be a...thirst quencher, kid drencher, cloud fluffer, fire snuffer

Find out about the many roles water plays in this poetic exploration of water throughout the year."

**Illustrator:** Violeta Dabija

**Publication Date:** April 1, 2014

**Lexile Measure:** 180L

**Publisher:** Millbrook Pr Trade

**ISBN-10:** 1467705918



## 2015 KRA Annual Conference "Lights, Action, Literacy"

**Sunday, October 4  
and Monday, October 5**

Hilton Garden Inn  
Manhattan, KS

### Featuring:

Ruth Culham and  
her book *The Writing Thief*

**The BMJ Picture Book Award  
Winner:** Drew Daywalt who wrote  
*The Day the Crayons Quit*

Andrea & Brian Pickney – author and il-  
lustrator

**Plan now to attend.**

## KRA Calendar

### March 2015

Early March - Newspapers in Education (NIE) week

### April/May 2015

Elect local council officers and submit  
to State Coordinator, Vicki Seeger

15 – KRA Board and Committee Nominations due to  
Kimberly McDowell

### June 2015

15 – Award nominations due to Award Committee  
Chairs

30 – Local Council Officer reports forms due to IRA  
and to State Coordinator, Vicki Seeger

30 – Sunflower Merit criteria due to Dawn Moews

### July 2015

18-20 – ILA Annual Convention – St. Louis, Mis-  
souri

Summer Leadership – Emporia, KS

### September 2015

Kansas READ Month

### October 2015

1 – Articles for KRA Newsletter due to Stephanie  
Hamby

4-5 – KRA Conference – Manhattan, KS

### February 2016

1- Bill Martin Jr. Voting

## International Reading Association Announces Changes

On January 26, the International Reading Association (IRA) will officially become the International Literacy Association (ILA). Welcome to ILA!

The name change is a crucial step in our efforts to emphasize our role as the global professional membership association for literacy leaders and to position ourselves as champions in making literacy accessible to all.

The change from "Reading" to "Literacy" came about as a result of ongoing discussions around who we are, what we do, and where we are going.

With 60 years of experience as leaders in reading and literacy, we took on this task to solidify IRA's legacy and to build our future as advocates for literacy in the classroom and beyond.

In the latest version of **Reading Today**, now available online, you will find an article titled "Welcome to the Future of Literacy" with more information on how this transformation came to be and what it means for our members. I encourage you to take a look. Here's what you can expect:

- **Reading Today Online** will become Literacy Daily—featuring even more practical resources, research, and thought-provoking articles to support the literacy efforts of our members and partners.

- **www.reading.org** will be updated to reflect our new name, logo, and design. Your username and password will remain the same, and your saved bookmarks will still work. In the first half of 2015, the site will be further enhanced to fully reflect our mission.

- The website of the **ILA 2015 Conference—themed "Transforming Lives Through Literacy"**—will go live for those wishing to register or to learn more about the conference.

Over the coming months, you will start to experience the positive changes that come with this whole new organization—one dedicated to transforming lives through the power of literacy. And this is just the beginning. I will be sure to keep you updated on the many exciting initiatives we have coming up this year.

From all of us at ILA, we want to thank you for your commitment to literacy and education. We hope you are as energized as we are about this exciting path forward.

**International Reading  
Association**