

Award winning authors at An Open Book



Lynda Blackmon Lowery signs books for students at Ballou High School.



Thank you to all our generous donors for making this our best year-end fundraiser yet. It is because of the loyal support of our consistent donors that we can continue to expand our literacy initiatives.

In 2015, AOB piloted the following programs:

- After-school book groups at Martha's Table
- Lunchtime book group at Washington School for Girls
- Little Free Libraries program in Northeast DC
- Partnerships with new schools and community groups

We hope to expand these programs to additional schools and organizations in the coming year.

2015 Award Winners at AOB

An Open Book is proud that the best children's and teens authors and illustrators working today give their time to work with us. Again this year, some of them were lauded by the prestigious American Library Association Youth Media Awards.

Lynda Blackmon Lowery's *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March*, as told to Elspeth Leacock and Susan Buckley, illustrated by P.J. Loughran (Dial), received a Robert F. Sibert Honor Award for distinguished nonfiction. Lowery shared with students at Ballou High School her experience of being brutally beaten for her participation in the Civil Rights Movement as the youngest person to march from Selma to Montgomery.

Illustrator Christian Robinson received both the Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Awards for his book *Last Stop on Market Street* (Putnam). Christian shared with students how he researched his illustrations at the library and created a storyboard using Post-It Notes! *Last Stop on Market Street* also won the Newbery Medal for Matt de la Peña, who visited several schools with AOB in 2014.



Christian Robinson signing books at Miner Elementary.



Meg Medina regales the students at Seaton Elementary with stories of her grandmother's parrot.

Meg Medina returned to AOB this past year with her picture book *Mango, Abuela, and Me*, illustrated by Angela Dominguez (Candlewick). The title was a Pura Belpré Author Honor book, as well as a Belpré Illustrator Honor book for Dominguez, and Medina's bilingual sessions were wildly appealing to young students eager to share their new book with grandparents at home.

Jason Reynolds received awards for two books enjoyed by AOB students. *The Boy in the Black Suit*, which our book group at Washington School for Girls read, received a Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book award. *All American Boys*, co-authored with Brendan Kiely, also received a Coretta Scott King Author Honor award.



Reynolds and Kiely each read a character from *All American Boys* in the library at Northwood High School.

Rita Williams-Garcia's *Gone Crazy in Alabama* (HarperCollins/Amistad) won the Coretta Scott King Author award, a fitting tribute to the final book in a beloved series. Students in this intimate session at Washington School For Girls interviewed Williams-Garcia and talked with her about seeing themselves as writers and storytellers.

Steve Sheinkin received the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults for *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* (Roaring Brook). Drawing parallels between Ellsberg and Edward Snowden, Sheinkin helped AOB students at Cesar Chavez Parkside PCS draw strong text-to-life connections.



A student at Hardy Middle School dives straight into his freshly-signed copy of Margarita Engle's memoir.

Margarita Engle won the Pura Belpré Author Award and was a finalist for the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults for her memoir in poetry, *Enchanted Air* (S&S/Atheneum), a reflection on her childhood connections to Cuba. Engle's visit resonated with AOB eighth graders at Hardy Middle School who especially appreciated that the book could be shared with their Spanish-speaking parents. Rafael López won the Pura Belpré Illustrator Award for *The Drum Dream Girl*, a picture book also written by Margarita Engle (HMH).

Duncan Tonatiuh's visited two elementary schools this fall, DC Bilingual PCS and Mt. Rainier ES. Tonatiuh's *Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras* received the Robert F. Sibert Award for his informational writing, while his illustrations earned him a Pura Belpré Honor award.



Duncan Tonatiuh signs a book in Spanish for a Spanish-speaking student.



This 7th grader at Washington Jesuit Academy is thrilled with his beautiful new book.

Carole Boston Weatherford visited AOB twice last year, most recently in December with her exceptional picture book *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* (Candlewick), for which she won the Sibert Informational Honor Book Award for most distinguished informational book for children. Illustrator Ekua Holmes received a Caldecott Honor and the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Honor awards for the illustrations.

Frequent AOB visitor Liniers won a Mildred L. Batchelder Honor Award for best work of translation for his *Written and Drawn by Henrietta* (Toon Books). Liniers, a native of Argentina, wrote, illustrated, and translated his book from Spanish. His warm and playful sessions delighted third graders at Leleck ES as he drew alongside the students and explored how we all create stories.



Liniers is big fun...in 2 languages!

Shorty, written by Tony Andrews (Abrams), who received a Caldecott Honor and the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award; Phillip Hoose, *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Petersen and the Churchill Club* (FSG), who won a Sibert Honor; Marcus Sedgwick, *The Ghosts of Heaven* (Roaring Brook), who received a Printz Honor; Mo Willems, an adaptation of whose book *That is NOT a Good Idea!* (Weston Woods Studio) received The Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video; and Matt de la Peña, mentioned above.

Our first stakeholder survey is complete! Look for the results this spring on [our website](#).



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