

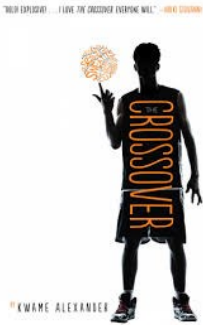
2017 SCBF: Featured Authors

HEADLINING AUTHOR

Kwame Alexander

<http://kwamealexander.com/>

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and the *New York Times* Bestselling author of 24 books, including *The Crossover*, which received the 2015 John Newbery Medal for the Most Distinguished Contribution to American literature for Children, the Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor, the NCTE Charlotte Huck Honor, the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, and the Paterson Poetry Prize. Kwame writes for children of all ages. Some of his other works include *The Playbook: 52 Rules To Help You Aim, Shoot, and Score in the Game of Life*; picture books, *Animal Ark*, *Out of Wonder* and *Surf's Up*; and novels *Booked*, *He Said She Said*, and the forthcoming *Solo*.

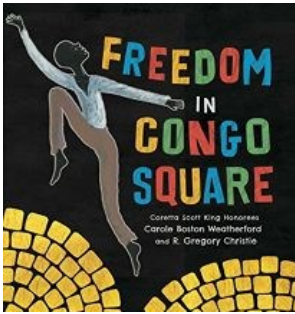


FEATURED AUTHORS

R. Gregory Christie

<http://gas-art.com/about-r-gregory-christie/>

R. Gregory Christie is an Atlanta-based commercial artist and illustrator with over 20 years of experience and over 50 books to his credit. He currently works as a freelance illustrator and owns GAS-ART Gifts (Gregarious Art Statements), an autographed children's bookstore, gallery and open art studio located in Decatur, Georgia. Mr. Christie also enjoys book binding, and teaching young people about art and literacy. He recently won both a Caldecott Honor and a Coretta Scott King Honor for his illustration work in *Freedom In Congo Square*.



Carmen Agra Deedy

<https://carmenagradeedy.com/>

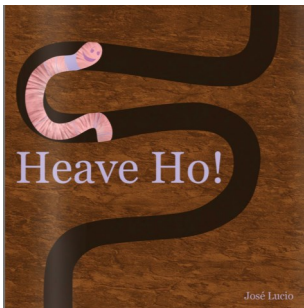
Carmen Agra Deedy has been writing for children for over two decades. Born in Havana, Cuba, she came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1964. She grew up in Decatur, Georgia, where she lives today. Deedy began writing as a young mother and storyteller whose NPR commentaries on All Things Considered were collected and released under the title, *Growing Up Cuban In Decatur, Georgia*. The pithy collection of twelve stories soon garnered awards, among them a 1995 Publishers Weekly Best Audio (Adult Storytelling) and a 1996 Parents' Choice Gold Award. Her children's books have won numerous awards. *The Library Dragon* received various children's state book awards and has sold near half a million copies. In 2003 the book was her home state's choice to represent Georgia at the Library of Congress's National Book Festival.



Jose Lucio

<http://www.joselucio.com/#heaveho>

Jose Lucio is an Author and Illustrator living in beautiful Savannah, GA. His first book, *Heave Ho!*, was awarded Best New Local Book in 2015 and he received Best Local Author in 2016 from the Readers of Connect Savannah. You can catch him in his personal studio working on projects, or just down the street at the Scribble Art Studio, where he works as an art instructor. Jose Lucio was a SCBF Coastal Author in 2016 and 2015. We are excited to invite Jose Lucio back as a Featured Author this year!



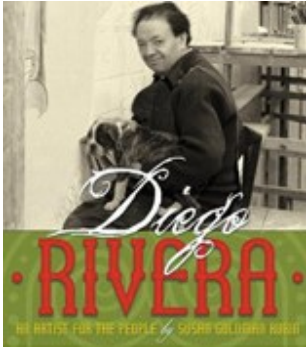
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FEATURED AUTHORS CONT.

Susan Rubin*

<http://susangoldmanrubin.com/>

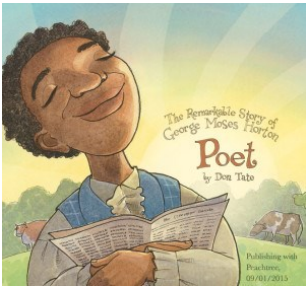
Susan Goldman Rubin grew up in the Bronx and dreamed of becoming an artist. She illustrated her first three picture books but then turned to writing nonfiction, mainly about art and history, and is the author of more than 55 books for young people. Her titles include *Diego Rivera: An Artist For The People*, *They Call Me A Hero: A Memoir of My Youth*, *Music Was It! Young Leonard Bernstein*, *Everyone Paints! The Art and Lives of the Wyeth Family*, and *Freedom Summer: The 1964 Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*. Most recently Susan has created board books based on fine art for very young children. Her titles include *Counting with Wayne Thiebaud*, *Andy Warhol's Colors*, and *Matisse: Dance For Joy*. Susan lives in Malibu, CA.



Don Tate*

<http://dontate.com/>

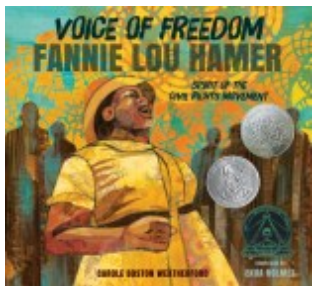
Don Tate is an award-winning author, and the illustrator of numerous critically acclaimed books for children. Including *Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton* (an ALA Notable Children's Book, 2016), *It Jes' Happened: When Bill Taylor Started to Draw*, and *The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch* to name a few. He is also one of the founding hosts of the blog The Brown Bookshelf – a blog designed to push awareness of the myriad of African American voices writing for young readers, with book reviews, author and illustrator interviews.



Carole Boston Weatherford

<https://cbweatherford.com/>

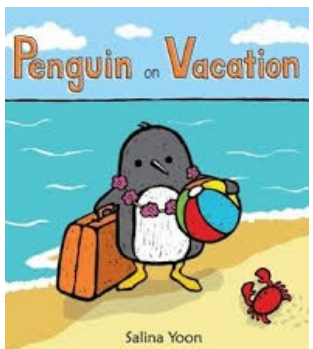
Baltimore-born and -raised, Carole composed her first poem in first grade. Since her literary debut with *Juneteenth Jamboree* in 1995, Carole's books have received many literary honors. Her award-winning titles include *Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America* (NAACP Image Award), *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* (Caldecott Honor, Sibert Honor, Coretta Scott King Award and more), *Sugar Hill: Harlem's Historic Neighborhood* (Arnold Adoff Early Poetry Honor), *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* (NAACP Image Award, Coretta Scott King Award and Caldecott Honor Medal), and *Becoming Billie Holiday* (Coretta Scott King Author Honor) to name a few. Note, she also wrote *Freedom in Congo Square*, an award-winning book illustrated by R. Gregory Christie.



Salina Yoon

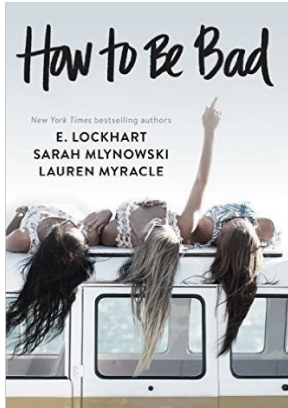
<http://www.salinayoon.com/HOME.html>

Salina Yoon was born in Korea in 1972. Today she is an author, illustrator and format designer of nearly two hundred innovative novelty books for young children, specializing in formats that are unique and interactive. Many of her books have flaps, tabs, die-cuts, and wheels. Recently, she created a character named Penguin for a picture book series who will make his debut with *Penguin and Pinecone* with Walker and Company. Salina lives in San Diego, CA and works out of her home studio.



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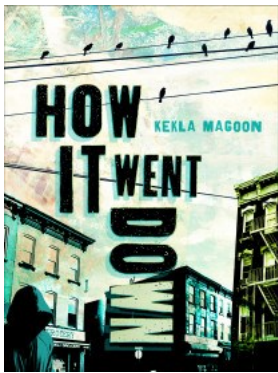
FEATURED AUTHORS serving on the **TEEN DAY LITERATURE PANEL DISCUSSION** the Friday before the Festival. Topic TBD by Festival Chairperson, Kady MacFarlane. More information to come.



E. Lockhart

<http://www.emilylockhart.com/>

E. Lockhart is the author of *We Were Liars*, *Fly on the Wall*, *Dramarama*, *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* and the Ruby Oliver quartet: *The Boyfriend List*, *The Boy Book*, *The Treasure Map of Boys*, and *Real Live Boyfriends*. *How to Be Bad* was co-written with Lauren Myracle and Sarah Mlynowski. *Disreputable History* was a Printz Award honor book, a finalist for the National Book Award, and recipient of the Cybils Award for best young adult novel. *We Were Liars* is a New York Times bestseller. It won the Goodreads Choice Award and was Amazon's #1 YA novel of 2014.



Kekla Magoon

<http://keklamagoon.com/>

Kekla Magoon is the author of eight young adult novels, including *The Rock and the River*, *How It Went Down*, *X: A Novel*, and the *Robyn Hoodlum Adventures* series. She has received an NAACP Image Award, the John Steptoe New Talent Award, two Coretta Scott King Honors, The Walter Award Honor, and been long listed for the National Book Award. She also writes non-fiction on historical topics. Kekla conducts school and library visits nationwide and serves on the Writers' Council for the National Writing Project.



Cynthia Leitich Smith

<http://cynthialeitichsmith.com/>

Cynthia Leitich Smith is the New York Times best-selling author of the award-winning *Feral* series and *Tantalize* series. Cynthia also is the author of several award-winning children's books, including: *Jingle Dancer*, *Rain Is Not My Indian Name*; and *Indian Shoes*, all published by HarperCollins. She serves on the faculty of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults and on the advisory board of *We Need Diverse Books*. "Leitich" is pronounced Lie-tick.