

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Meg Medina Wins Charlotte Zolotow Award for *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away*

Madison, WI – *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away*, written by Meg Medina and illustrated by Sonia Sánchez, is the winner of the 2021-2022 Charlotte Zolotow Award for outstanding writing in a picture book. The award is given by the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC), a library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away* was edited by Kate Fletcher and published in the United States in 2020 by Candlewick Press.

Vivid emotions and childlike details shine in an account of the day Evelyn Del Rey moves away from the apartment across the street from Daniela's. It's a day like any other as the two friends engage in upbeat imaginative play, but a day unlike any other as Evelyn's apartment is emptied and the moving van loaded. The sadness as Evelyn and her parents drive away is as palpable as the girls' earlier delight as they played. But a final page assures an enduring friendship. The finely crafted text uses metaphor to marvelous effect to convey the expansiveness of the girls' imaginations and their feelings about this monumental change.

The 2021-2022 Zolotow Award committee named five Honor Books:

- *Catch That Chicken!*, written by Atinuke, illustrated by Angela Brooksbank, edited by Joan Powers, and published by Candlewick Press, 2020, masterfully employs alliteration, repetition and pacing as an energetic young protagonist practices her chicken-catching and problem-solving skills in a contemporary African community.

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- *The Cot in the Living Room*, written by Hilda Eunice Burgos, illustrated by Gaby D'Alessandro, edited by Sydnee Monday, and published by Kokila / Penguin Random House, 2021, provides superb details of observation and emotion to show a child's realistic transition from jealousy to empathy as her family provides overnight care for children of working adults.
- *I Talk like a River*, written by Jordan Scott, illustrated by Sydney Smith, edited by Neal Porter, and published by Neal Porter Books / Holiday House, 2020, uses lyrical language to illustrate a boy's struggle with spoken words and his supportive father's understanding of both the complexities and beauty of the boy's speech.
- *Let Me Fix You a Plate: A Tale of Two Kitchens*, written and illustrated by Elizabeth Lilly, edited by Neal Porter, and published by Neal Porter Books / Holiday House, 2021, combines crisp sensory details and judicious use of pattern as a girl describes travels to visit two sets of grandparents, cataloging their similarities and differences.
- *My Best Friend*, written by Julie Fogliano, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki, edited by Reka Simonsen, and published by Atheneum / Simon & Schuster, 2020, combines child-centered details and masterful pacing as two youngsters shift seamlessly from one activity to the next during the course of a single first encounter.

The 2021-22 Zolotow Award committee also cited ten titles as Highly Commended:

- *The Camping Trip* written and illustrated by Jennifer K. Mann (Candlewick Press, 2020).
- *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* written by Joanna Ho and illustrated by Dung Ho (Harper / HarperCollins, 2021).

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- *Just like a Mama* written by Alice Faye Duncan and illustrated by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow (A Denene Millner Book / Simon & Schuster, 2020).
- *Kaia and the Bees* written by Maribeth Boelts and illustrated by Angela Dominguez (Candlewick Press, 2020).
- *The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess* written and illustrated by Tom Gauld (Neal Porter Books / Holiday House, 2021).
- *My Day with the Panye* written by Tami Charles and illustrated by Sara Palacios (Candlewick Press, 2021).
- *Soul Food Sunday* written by Winsome Bingham and illustrated by C. G. Esperanza (Abrams, 2021).
- *Sun Flower Lion* written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow / HarperCollins, 2020).
- *Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail* written by Lesléa Newman and illustrated by Susan Gal (Charlesbridge, 2020).
- *Where Three Oceans Meet* written by Rajani LaRocca and illustrated by Archana Sreenivasan (Abrams, 2021).

Established in 1998, the Charlotte Zolotow Award honors the work of Charlotte Zolotow, a distinguished children's book editor for 38 years with Harper Junior Books, and author of more than 70 picture books, including such classic works as *Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present* (Harper, 1962) and *William's Doll* (Harper, 1972). Ms. Zolotow attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison on a writing scholarship from 1933 to 1936, where she studied with Professor Helen C. White. Ms. Zolotow died in November, 2013, at the age of 98.

The award is given for outstanding writing in a picture book for children in the birth-through-seven age range published in the United States. This the twenty-fourth time the award has been given. Typically an annual award for books published in the previous year, the current award term was extended to a second year in response to the challenges of the pandemic. The 2021-2022 award will be given at an award ceremony, either in-person in Madison or virtual, at a date to be determined.

Members of the 2021-2022 Zolotow Award committee were: Merri Lindgren, chair (Librarian, Cooperative Children's Book Center, Madison, Wisconsin); Shannon Furman (School Librarian, Lake View Elementary School, Madison, Wisconsin); Brooke Newberry (Early Literacy Librarian, La Crosse Public Library, La Crosse, Wisconsin); Bridget Nolan (Second Grade Teacher, Paul J. Olson Elementary School, Verona, Wisconsin); and Jeni Schomber (Head of Library Services, Beloit Public Library, Beloit, Wisconsin).

The Cooperative Children's Book Center is a noncirculating library for adults with a professional, career or academic interest in children's and young adult literature. The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., cosponsor of the award event, is a nonprofit organization offering lectures, book sales and other benefits for members, in addition to supporting the work of the Cooperative Children's Book Center.

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