

Jane Addams Peace Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANE ADDAMS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD ANNOUNCED

APRIL 28, 2017... Recipients of the 2017 Jane Addams Children's Book Award were announced today by the Jane Addams Peace Association.

Steamboat School, written by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Ron Husband, and published by Disney-Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Disney Book Group, is the winner in the Books for Younger Children category. ***Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story***, written by Caren B. Stelson, and published by Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, is the winner in the Books for Older Children category.

Steamboat School is a fictionalized account of Reverend John Meachum's resourceful circumvention of an 1847 Missouri statute that outlawed schooling for African Americans. This picture book sketches the evolution of Meachum's secret school from its location in a cellar, through its closure by police, to its reincarnation on a steamboat floating on the Mississippi River, well beyond the laws of any territory. It's also the transformative story of young James, one of the students, who realizes the importance of small acts of courage. Detailed pen and ink illustrations animate the story, accenting a world whose darkness is made lighter through education.

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story traces the life of Sachiko Yasui, a six year old playing with friends a mere half mile from ground zero when the United States bombed Nagasaki. Some, including Sachiko's brothers, died within days of the blast, while others, including a younger sister and her father, slowly died from cancer. Drawing strength from her personal teachers of peace - her father, Helen Keller, Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., the adult Sachiko finds the courage fifty years later to tell her own story and work publicly to change the world. Sachiko's dignified voice emerges with elegance and respect in this documentary based upon extensive interviews and extended with poignant and pointed historical photographs.

Two Honor Books were named in the Books for Younger Children category.

First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial, written by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, and published by Bloomsbury Children's Books, spotlights a decisive action in the long history of African American efforts to desegregate schools by law. Banned from a nearby school for white children only, young Sarah Roberts must travel from one side of Boston to the other to attend a school for black children. Her parents fight back against this injustice and bring a case against the city. While Sarah's case is unsuccessful, it is the first step on the road

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to the groundbreaking *Brown v. Board of Education* nearly 100 years later and to the systemic change underway today. Lewis' warm watercolor illustrations enliven the text and make *The First Step* accessible to young readers.

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark, written by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley, and published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, celebrates Ruth Bader Ginsburg's lifelong refusal to accept the unacceptable. Inspired by her mother, Ginsburg's devotion to fighting for justice is signaled by the refrain "I dissent" that rings through both text and illustrations. Frequently humorous, this picture book biography notes Ginsburg's foibles, the support of her husband and family, and her struggles as a lawyer, professor and judge. With energy and charm, Levy and Baddeley represent Justice Ginsburg as a true hero who never hesitates to disagree with the status quo either in her personal life or on the bench of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Two Honor Books were named in the Books for Older Children category.

We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler, written by Russell Freedman, and published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, charts the political evolution of a handful of university students, many former members of the Hitler Youth, as they witness Nazi persecution of German citizens. Freedman centers this sobering documentary on the short lives of White Rose founder Hans Scholl and his younger sister Sophie, siblings who wrote, printed, and distributed anti-Nazi leaflets, ultimately making them targets of the Gestapo. Black and white photographs show just how average these students were in many ways while the text highlights their extraordinary bravery. Although they were executed for their defiance, Hans' and Sophie's courage inspired others then, and inspires young people now, to speak out against injustice, discrimination, prejudice and state violence.

Wolf Hollow, written by Lauren Wolk, published by Dutton Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House, is a coming-of-age novel set in rural World War II Pennsylvania. Twelve-year-old Annabelle encounters incorrigible cruelty for the first time when a bully, Betty, singles her out. Betty's ceaseless campaign against Annabelle extends to Toby, a troubled homeless World War I veteran who roams the woods between Annabelle's home and school. As a false accusation takes hold of the town, Annabelle's awareness of the world's unfairness grows. Despite supportive parents and her own courageous actions, Annabelle cannot prevent a chain of tragic events; her dilemma challenges readers to think about how to live morally and ethically in a world marred by cruelty and war.

The Jane Addams Children's Book Award began acknowledging books in 1953 and has continued this tradition annually ever since then. Books celebrated by the Award exemplify

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literary, visual and aesthetic excellence and effectively engage children in thinking about peace, social justice, global community, and equity for all people.

A national committee chooses winners and honor books for younger and older children. Members of the 2017 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Committee are Marianne Baker (VA), Kathryn Bruce (TN), Ann Carpenter (MA), Sonja Cherry-Paul (NY), Julie Olsen Edwards (CA), Susan Freiss (WI), Ilza Garcia (TX), Ijumaa Jordan (CA), Jenice Mateo-Toledo (NY), Lauren Mayer (WA), Beth McGowan (IL), Heather Palmer (chair, MN), and Barbara Ward (WA).

Regional reading and discussion groups of all ages participated with many of the committee members throughout the jury's evaluation and selection process.

The 2017 Jane Addams Children's Book Award will be presented on Friday, October 20, 2017 in New York City. Details about the award event and about securing winner and honor book seals are available from the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA). Contact the organization by phone 212.682.8830 or by email info@janeaddamspeace.org.

For additional information about the Jane Addams Children's Book Award and a complete list of books honored since 1953 as well as a poster and bookmark featuring this year's winners, see janeaddamspeace.org. Keep informed about these and other award authors and illustrators through our weekly newsletter; sign up at janeaddamspeace.org.