cool brains! 2016/2017
INPRINT READINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Nathan Hale
September 18, 2016

Tim Green
January 29, 2017

Dianne K. Salerni
April 23, 2017

Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School
10410 Manhattan

Sundays, 3 pm, free
inprinthouston.org
cool brains!

INPRINT READINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
presenting the nation’s top middle grade writers to families
free on Sunday afternoons

AUTHORS PRESENTED SINCE 2006

Katherine Applegate  Nick Hornby  René Saldana, Jr.
T. A. Barron  Lois Lowry  Jon Scieszka
Pseudonymous Bosch  Barry Lyga  Roland Smith
Marc Brown  David Macaulay  Rebecca Stead
Susan Cooper  Pat Mora  Trenton Lee Stewart
Christopher Paul Curtis  R. J. Palacio  Chris Van Allsburg
Kate DiCamillo  Stephan Pastis  Rosemary Wells
Jack Gantos  Katherine Paterson  David Wiesner
Chris Grabenstein  Gary Paulsen  Jacqueline Woodson
News Clippings and Press
A score for young readers

Former NFL star pens sports-related books for middle schoolers

By Alyson Ward

Landon knows the boys behind him are making fun of him. He can’t hear everything they say, and he knows he shouldn’t turn around. “Nothing good ever came from three boys laughing and gawking, but he felt drawn to it the way he might poke at a bruise to test how much it really hurt.”

Landon’s seventh-grader who just wants to play football. He has almost everything going for him—except the cochlear implants he wears. That’s where the action starts in Tim Green’s new book for middle graders, “Left Out.” And, like a lot of Green’s fiction for young people, this story was inspired by real life.

For eight years, Green played defense for the Atlanta Falcons. Now he writes suspense novels for adults and chapter books for middle schoolers.

DEAR ABBY:

STRANGER’S BOYFRIEND LOOKS A LOT LIKE FRIEND’S HUSBAND.

PAGE D5

HINTS FROM HELOISE:

KEEP TABS ON THOSE POWER CORDS.

PAGE D5

DEAR ABBY:

Stranger’s boyfriend looks a lot like friend’s husband.

PAGE D5

HINTS FROM HELOISE:

Keep tabs on those power cords.

PAGE D5

THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

By Kyrie O’Connor

It is a time for rebirth, transformation and a wee bit of preening.

ROLL up your sleeves, folks. It’s about to get real.

The current Lunar New Year (also known as the Chinese New Year or Tet, the Year of the Red Fire Monkey) ends today, and whether you saw it as a roller-coaster ride or a roaring dumpster fire, it’s over now.

Now for something completely different: the Year of the Red Fire Rooster.

“We are ready for a change, aren’t we?” says Nan H. Linke, surely Houston’s only astrologer/landscaper/therapist. “It’s an opportunity to go forward in a new way,” she says. The rooster’s crow tells us to “wake up and get out.” Susan Levitt is a California astrologer who prefers the term phoenix over rooster. (Linke uses both.) “It’s always a call to give a chance for rebirth and transformation,” she says.

This upcoming year is a time to focus on health, work and service. “It’s a year to heal after the crazy of the fire monkey year,” Levitt says.

The Chinese zodiac—observed broadly in East Asia—works in cycles of 12 years, with each year being represented by an animal, as well as by one of five fixed elements. That means they earn in a grand cycle of 60 years. So the last Fire Rooster year was 1957. That was when the USSR launched the satellite Sputnik and TV launched “Perry Mason.” Not a lot of fun.

It is a time for rebirth, transformation and a wee bit of preening.

By Wei-Huan Chen

Clever adaptation takes audiences into an unusual mind

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Mark Haddon’s book, “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,” seems nearly impossible to adapt to the stage. In his highly cerebral story told from the perspective of a boy with a theatrically unusual mind, 15-year-old Christopher Boone paints the world how he sees it—colors, emotions, numbers and patterns the other readers out of the realm of realism. Littered throughout the novel are devious fictional devices that play with narration and reality that would only work in a book. So to transform this story so rooted in interiority into a hopeful new production, it would be utterly change what “Curious Incident” triumphantly achieves, which is an approximation of an inner life for a teenager with (most likely) Asberger’s syn- drome.

And yet the stage version of “Curious Incident,” adapted by Huntley Rausch and directed by Michael Wilson at the Alley Theatre at the Hobby Center through Sunday, is a triumph.

DEAR ABBY: Stranger’s boyfriend looks a lot like friend’s husband. PAGE D5

HINTS FROM HELOISE: Keep tabs on those power cords. PAGE D5

THEATER REVIEW

What an amazing ‘Curious Incident’

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Green visits schools across the country to talk to kids about his books and the importance of reading.

Green, from page 15

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Rooster is hard-working, vain

Levitt advises not delaying decisions about romance—getting smart with money—time management—and prioritizing work over play. “If your boss is a phoenix, he’s not Mr. New Year’s resolutions,” she says. Might be a good time to start showing some urgency.

According to Greek mythology, the phoenix immolates itself in a fire (flying atop the rolling dumpster variety) and then, reborn, rises from your personal life, you never have to be a phoenix and rise,” Levitt says. “Once a kid has that experience, books come in handier. Tiger has to be driven, sweet and artistic, will be prone to miscomprehend stuff.”

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Tim Green Reads this Sunday!

**PROMOTIONAL EVENT DESCRIPTION**

*Tim Green Reads this Sunday!*

Cool Brains! Inprint Readings for Young People presents Tim Green, former NFL player and New York Times bestselling middle grade author of 18 books, reading from his latest sports centered novel *Left Out*, in celebration of Houston hosting the Big Game. Sunday, January 29, at 3 pm. Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School, 10410 Manhattan Drive, 77096. Free www.inprinthouston.org

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**LOCATION INFO:**

Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School

10410 Manhattan Dr.
Houston, TX 77096
713-726-3616

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1 of 3

1/27/2017 11:12 AM
Landmark legislation continues to protect migratory birds

By Gary Clark

I recently stood — along with multitudes of migratory shorebirds, including long-billed curlews and piping plovers — at the Houston Audubon Society’s Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary and the Audubon Society’s Bolivar Peninsular, listening to the birds sing their springtime songs. These birds, including long-billed curlews and piping plovers, are native to Texas, and they are a sign of the changing seasons.

But they are also a reminder of the challenges these birds face. The Audubon Society is one of the organizations that is working to protect these birds, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The society has been working to protect these birds for many years, including through the creation of the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary.

The sanctuary provides a safe haven for these birds, which are important to the ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico. They help to control the populations of crabs and other invertebrates, which are important to the food web of the Gulf. They also help to keep the water clean, as they feed on waste material and help to break down organic matter.

The sanctuary is also an important place for researchers to study these birds and their behavior. Scientists have been studying these birds for many years, and have learned a lot about their biology and ecology.

But despite these efforts, these birds continue to face threats from habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. The sanctuary and the Audubon Society are working to address these threats and protect these birds for future generations.

If you’d like to learn more about the sanctuary and the work being done to protect these birds, you can visit the Audubon Society’s website or contact them directly.

The sanctuary is open to the public, and there are guided tours available. You can also volunteer to help with the sanctuary’s conservation efforts.

The sanctuary is located at 1515 Bolivar Road, Bolivar Peninsula, Texas. For more information, you can contact the sanctuary at 409-764-2854 or visit their website at audubon.org.

So if you’re ever in the area, be sure to visit the sanctuary and see these amazing birds up close. You can learn a lot about conservation and enjoy the beauty of nature at the same time.
They founded the Massa- cusetts Audubon Society and paved the way for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The act ended the slaughter of birds like long-billed curlews, which were shot and killed into barrels for use as food. Today, placing birds atop feeders indiscriminately is a form of cruelty along with decoys.

Today, birds are all about 120 pages; they’re uncomplicated stories, and they’re moral and uncomplicated and dumboned down. Though reading skills are absorbing for adults who have to read in some of the legends and battles and changing characters, multiple endings to the stories in some of the legends and battles and changing characters, multiple endings to the stories...
Christian rapper NF has high hopes for new album, "Therapy Session."

BELIEF

Still new in the world, with big questions

BOOK

A fresh take on H-town

EXPLORE

Nature

Migrating Baltimore orioles brighten area neighborhoods

NATURE

Migrating Baltimore orioles brighten area neighborhoods

By Gary Clark

Be on the lookout for a brightly plumed bird called a Baltimore oriole that may decorate your yard like a sunflower. The birds migrate through our neighborhoods in numbers in April. They arrive from winter homes in southern Mexico down through Central America and into Colombia and Venezuela. The beauty of the bird has earned it the name "Baltimore Bird" in its "Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands," published in 1758.

Dear Abby: Spanking crosses the line during sibling roughhousing. PAGE D7

Out and about: Plan your next adventure at houstonchronicle.com/explore.
Japanese perennials and Kentos Endo are called to perform Saturday night at Miller Outdoor Theatre.

**NEW YORK TIMES TO HIS WEEKEND**

**D2**

| Image 39x1546 to 244x584 |
| Image 40x1195 to 337x1489 |

DiCamillo seeks to raise awareness about children’s literature

By Syd Kearney

Did you mark all your dates this week? No problem, here’s an overview of notable book-related happenings and recommendations are administrative-free.

**D2**

| Image 39x1546 to 244x584 |
| Image 40x1195 to 337x1489 |

DiCamillo’s first novel, *Because of Winn-Dixie* (2000), was made into a film by 20th Century Fox in 2005. Since then, two more books, *Hush, You* (2007) and *Raymie Nickelodeon* (2003), which was made into a film by 20th Century Fox in 2007, both of which were made for the Newbery Medal for Young People’s Literature. She won the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature in 2005 and 2006, and she was named the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature in 2007 and 2008. They’re thinking about big things, but they don’t necessarily know how to talk about it. “You’re not in the world of the question even bigger, and making something much more beautiful because as it all comes together, then people can grow up and forget about the intensity involved in being a kid.”

DiCamillo, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2004 for her novel *The Tale of Despereaux,* appeared in Houston on Monday as part of a Cool Stockholm Edgar Reading for Young People. She discusses “Raymie Nightengale,” the story of three young girls who meet at a birthday party known as a small Florida firm in summer 1975 and end up helping each other in ways none of them could have anticipated.

Raymie hopes to win the Little Miss Central Florida contest as her father, who’s just run off with an electrical engineer, will read about her in the newspaper and return home. Louisiana is more than a little adult, a delicate dreamer being raised by her eccentric grandmother and surrounded mostly on tours of France. Freely in tough and capable eyes, the daughter of a cop who knows how to pick locks and scores at button-twisting lessons every day with a black eye.

The story jumps nimbly from action to abstraction, and back again. As

**Author information**

Adams-Camillo will discuss and sign “Raymie Nightengale” 3 p.m., Sunday, June 26, at Middle School, 5400 Metropolitan. Free. Information: 713-832- 2025 or immigration.org or 713- 379-1000.

The girl moves between the Golden Glen Nursing Home, The Very Friendly Animal Shelter, Clarke Family Insurance, Lake Clara and other local haunts. Raymie often finds herself trembling toward mention of intellectual clarity.

She had the feeling that she was going to understood things small, final at last,” DiCamillo writes. “She had the feeling that some truth was going to revealed to her.

Raymie relates these feelings to her world, which shrinks and grows as she faces harsh realities about her own life and the lives of her new friends. When she’s troubled or sad, she feels like a small, hard, palpable thing. When she’s happy, her soul inflates—tall and wide, like a tent.

“Sail have a lot of profundity,” says DiCamillo, who covered the country to raise awareness about the importance of learning and children’s literacy as

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Still new in the world, with big questions

By Maggie Galik

Late in Kate DiCamillo's new novel for middle-grade readers, 10-year-old Raymie watches her temperamental baton-twirling instructor sleep. Ida Nee is stretched out on a plaid couch, white boots on her feet, baton clutched to her chest. Her mouth hangs open:

"Raymie looked at Ida Nee and then she looked away," DiCamillo writes. "There was something scary about watching an adult sleep. It was as if no one at all were in charge of the world."

Moments of insight like this - moments that send grown-up readers hurtling back to the confusion and tumult and newness of childhood - are scattered throughout "Raymie Nightingale," the seventh novel and 20th book from DiCamillo.
For the 52-year-old author, it is not particularly difficult to climb inside the mind of a young person. That part of her is easily accessible. At the ready.

"I feel like that part of myself is right on the surface," DiCamillo said in a phone interview. "I don't know why I remember what it feels like to be a 10-year-old, I just do. I feel lucky that I do."

DiCamillo, who won Newbery Medals for "The Tale of Despereaux" (2003), which was made into an animated film, and "Flora and Ulysses" (2013), appears in Houston on Sunday as part of Cool Brains! Inprint Readings for Young People. She'll discuss "Raymie Nightingale," the story of three young girls who meet at baton-twirling lessons in a small Florida town in summer 1975 and end up helping each other in ways none of them could have anticipated.

Raymie hopes to win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire contest so that her father, who's just run off with a dental hygienist, will read about her in the newspaper and return home. Louisiana is more than a little adrift, a delicate dreamer being raised by her eccentric grandmother and surviving mostly on tuna fish. Beverly is a tough and capable type, the daughter of a cop who knows how to pick locks and arrives at baton-twirling lessons one day with a black eye.

The story jumps nimbly from action to abstraction and back again. As the girls move between the Golden Glen Nursing Home, the Very Friendly Animal Shelter, Clarke Family Insurance, Lake Clara and other local haunts, Raymie often finds herself tumbling toward emotional and intellectual clarity.

"She had the feeling that she was going
"Kids have a lot of profundity," says DiCamillo, who criss-crossed the country to raise awareness about reading and children's literacy as National Ambassador for Young People's Literature in 2014 and 2015. "They're thinking about big things, but they don't necessarily have the language to talk about it. ... You're new in the world, so that makes the questions even bigger, and it makes everything much more beautiful because it's all new. Then we grow up and forget about the intensity involved in being a kid."

In addition to the animated version of "The Tale of Despereaux," DiCamillo's first novel, "Because of Winn Dixie" (2000) was made into a film by 20th Century Fox in 2005.

"Both times, with both movies, it was wonderful to watch it happen," she says. "It's a fever dream that gets constructed without you. It's just like when a book gets translated. The story is going out into the world, having a life of its own."
"Because of Winn Dixie," the story of a lonely 10-year-old girl who adopts a stray dog she names for a supermarket chain, was such a successful first novel that, for awhile, DiCamillo wondered if she should keep writing similar stories.

"I spent a lot of time thinking I need to write another book just like this or people won't love me," says the author, who is single with no children. "But you can't write that way - for approval. You have to write for the story."

Similarly, DiCamillo keeps those Newbery Medals, one of the nation's highest honors for young people's literature, close but out of sight.

"It's something to not think about," she laughs. "The Newbery comes with an actual, physical medal, and I keep those in the second drawer of my desk, way in the back. Once every few months, I open the drawer, very slowly, to see if they're still there."
EXCERPT & APPEARANCE

“

The way that Raymie imagined her plan unfolding was that her father would be sitting in some restaurant, in whatever town he had run away to. He would be with Lee Ann Dickerson, the dental hygienist. They would be sitting together in a booth, and her father would be smoking a cigarette and drinking coffee, and Lee Ann would be doing something stupid and inappropriate, like maybe filing her nails (which you should never do in public). At some point, Raymie’s father would put out his cigarette and open the paper and clear his throat and say, ‘Let’s see what we can see here,’ and what he would see would be Raymie’s picture.”

from “Raymie Nightingale,” by Kate DiCamillo

Kate DiCamillo, a two-time Newbery Medal winner, will discuss and sign her new book for middle-grade readers, “Raymie Nightingale,” 5 p.m. April 17, Johnston Middle School, 10410 Manhattan, as part of Imprint’s Cool Brains! Readings for Young People. Free. Information: imprint@houston.org
15 notable books of 2015

Local authors join the list of writers who penned some of the year's most significant novels

EXCERPT AND APPEARANCE

“I am born as the South expires, too many too many years endured, then unimagined but not oft, the people who look like me keep fighting and marching and getting killed so that today — February 12, 1963, and every day from this moment on, brown children like me can grow up free.”

from "Brown Girl Dreaming" by Jacqueline Woodson
By Holly Beretto

“The first time I write my full name...without anybody’s help...I know if I wanted to I could write anything,” by Jacqueline Woodson, from “on paper” in Brown Girl Dreaming.

When Jacqueline Woodson was growing up in South Carolina and Brooklyn, people would tell her stories and she would listen. Reading was a struggle for her, but that didn’t deter her from finding her way into the stories found in books.

“I would read things over and over until I memorized them,” she says. “I talked a lot; I was always in trouble for talking. But, looking back, I became a writer by reading.”

A three-time Newberry Honor Award-winning author of more than 30 books for young people,
author of more than 30 books for young people, Woodson reads and discusses her latest book, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, as part of Cool Brains! Inprint Readings for Young People. The memoir, written in free verse, won the 2014 National Book Award for Young people and was a 2015 Newberry Honor Book.

“After my mother died very suddenly, I wanted to know who she was before she was my mom,” she says. “I started writing down memories, and as I tried to link those into a narrative, I realized that memory is the way the story came, these small moments with white space.”

Those small moments make up a big tale of a life lived in the South at the dawn of the civil rights movement, as well as living in the melting pot of New York. It’s the story of Woodson and her family, and her own journey to find where she belongs. Those universal themes ring through for readers and their parents.

“It’s like the haiku in the book: ‘Even the silence/has a story to tell you/Just listen.’” she says. 3 p.m. January 24. Johnston Middle School, 10410 Manhattan For information call 713-521-2026 or visit imprinthouston.org. Free.
Solving crimes and eating bonbons

Cartoonist, author Stephan Pastis turns Failure into success

By Maggie Galehouse

When a children's book author goes on tour — facing crowds of 500 to 1,000-year-olds at every stop — questions from the audience tend to be blunt or random. "Kids will say exactly what they think in terms of what they like, what they don't like and what they wish you'd do," says Stephan Pastis, a cartoonist who writes and draws the Timmy Failure book. "One question might be about the book, another might be, 'Do you have a dog?' But it's easy to get children excited."

"When I start drawing, Timmy is in front of them," Pastis says. "It's like pulling a rabbit out of a hat." Pastis pens the Pearls Before Swine comic strip, which ran in the Houston Chronicle and is now touring with his fourth Timmy Failure book, "Sanitized for Your Protection." He appears at Johnson Middle School on Sunday.

"In the first person, the Timmy Failure books feature a clever young boy with a skewed world view who runs his own detective agency, Failure, Inc. In my head, he's probably about 6," Pastis says. "A third grader. But you won't find that in any of the book!"

Pastis has spent 14 years creating Pearls Before Swine, which features a pig, a rat, a robot, a goat and some crocodiles, all affected by the same sort of problems that afflict people. He undertakes the importance of well-defined characters who can push the story along.

"When you do a comic strip, the characters that endure are the pure notes on a piano," Pastis explains. "The grump has to be grumpy. The selfish loudmouth has to be a selfish loudmouth."

Pastis creates an adventure that mixes drawings, storytelling

Pastis from page E5

And you have to arrange them in a way that flows. You learn new ways to arrange them, then, hopefully, you have something that reflects the time but also has timeless themes." Timmy Failure's entrance includes a polar bear named Total, who may or may not be real. In the new book, Total spends most of his time eating bonbons, which Timmy is compelled to purchase.

In earlier books, though, Timmy and Total worked side by side. Back then, the agency was named Total Failure. The format of other books — twothirds text and one third drawing — was pioneered by Jeff Kinney in the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series. "But Timmy gets a little more imaginative," says Pastis, a former lawyer. "And it's not as much focused. I took the format but chose my own subject matter and picked my own path." In "Sanitized for Your Protection," Timmy takes a road trip to Chicago with his mom, his middle brother Deorman Dane, and his best friend and family — which includes a schoolmate of Timmy's named Molly Maddox. Along the way, Timmy tries to solve a crime.

Other books have gone missing from a school club that aims to convert hundreds of books to a boy named "Pigeon" who has no books. After some car trouble, a well-dressed hit, the temporary occupancy of a herd of goats in a nearby Chicago hotel and a bear ride, the crime is finally solved.

Pastis, 47, based this plot on a suggestion from a kid at a school in Indiana, who said Timmy should go on vacation and then run away. Originally, Timmy and Molly were to board a bus in Chicago and travel on their own to Portland, Ore. But the editor at Candlewick Press felt it would be too dangerous for the children to travel across the country solo and asked Pastis to keep their bus ride local.

Pastis released, through a hit of Portland comes in the latest in a series of books written by Patrick, a former Weld's. "Waffle" is released, a hit up to Portland-based Weld's Books.

Author appearance

Inprint
Margarett Root Brown
Reading Series
2016/2017

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Jonathan Safran Foer

October 17, 2016
Lauren Groff + Ann Patchett

November 21, 2016
Rabih Alameddine + Juan Gabriel Vásquez

January 23, 2017
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