



Marion Vannett Ridgway Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2015 RIDGWAY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Creators of three picture books are recognized for debut work excellence

Each year the Ridgway Award celebrates outstanding work by first-time children's book illustrators or authors. Established in 1993, this unique award honors the memory of the artist's representative Marion Vannett Ridgway, who showed great devotion to talented newcomers. The Ridgway Award is given with the spirit of encouragement for those entering the world of children's book publishing and applauds the very best debut picture book illustration and text.

Over twenty United States children's book publishers participated in this year's contest, and more than 50 debut works, all published in 2014, were considered. The judging panel included Zolotow Honor Award-winning author Susan Marie Swanson, Coretta Scott King Honor Medalist and NYT 's Best Illustrator R. Gregory Christie, as well as 2014 Ridgway Award winners Jessica Young and Brianne Farley.

The Winners of the 2015 Marion Vannett Ridgway Award

First Prize: Illustrator Brendan Wenzel for *Some Bugs* (Beach Lane Books, Simon & Schuster, 2014).

Wenzel's collaged illustrations, full-to-bursting with quirky energy and "rendered in almost everything imaginable", provide a visual feast—conveying solid information about insects and their habitats. Dynamic and varied points-of-view, insect clicking, singing and buzzing made visible, and an odd ladybug to follow on every page—compel young readers into this first foray of entomological discovery. Angela DiTerlizzi's simple, rhymed text provides a fun and fitting invitation.

Honor Awards:

Author and Illustrator Deirdre Gill for *Outside* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014). Gill's lush paintings and honed text evoke a child's imagination and the rich possibilities of outdoor play, bringing readers along on a glorious ride as sunset turns to dragon, trees transform, and snowmen become playmates. Ethereal and atmospheric, her work speaks to creativity in the face of boredom, subtle sibling relationships, and how nature can transform a child's day.

Illustrator Evan Turk for *Grandfather Gandhi* (Atheneum Books, Simon & Schuster, 2014). Turk's bold collage technique ably meets the challenge of a text that emphasizes internal emotions and conversations: he employs shadow and silhouette, sinuous lines, and warm colors to achieve a raw visual power across a varied progression of illustrations. His ingenious incorporation of cotton, thread and fabric into his artwork lends dimension to the book's pages and brings alive its message of turning negative energy into good.

For more information, visit the Ridgway Award website: www.marionvannettridgwayaward.com

Contact: Christine Alfano, Administrator – 612-925-1284