

Canadian Library Association Announces 2012 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award Winner and Honour Books

(Ottawa, April 16, 2012) The Canadian Library Association / Association canadienne des bibliothèques is pleased to announce the 2012 winner and honour books for the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award. This award is generously sponsored by Library Services Centre.

The winner is *My Name is Elizabeth!* (Kids Can Press), illustrated by Matthew Forsythe and written by Annika Dunklee. Honour books are *Small Saul* (Kids Can Press), illustrated and written by Ashley Spires, and *Migrant* (Groundwood Press), illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault and written by Maxine Trottier.

My Name is Elizabeth! Elizabeth has a simple wish: she has a perfectly good name and wants people to use it. Forsythe's two-tone illustrations engage the reader from the first page, keeping the focus on the determined heroine and adding expressive detail to this appealing story. Simply perfect. This is the first time that Forsythe has won the Amelia Award.

Honourable mention goes to Ashley Spires for *Small Saul*. Saul loves the high seas and hard work rather than natural talent earns him his Pirate Diploma. Once on board the Rusty Squid he has to prove his worth to the pirate crew. The ink and watercolour illustrations give a rich and inviting flow to the narrative and add hilarity to a vibrant and humorous story.

Honourable mention also goes to Isabelle Arsenault for *Migrant*, the story of the youngest child in a family Mennonite migrant workers. Anna wonders what it would be like to stay in one place, "like a tree with roots sunk deeply into the earth" and the mixed-media illustrations explore her longing in a beautiful and imaginative way.

A complete list of the shortlisted titles is available on the CLA web site at www.cla.ca The Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award was established in 1971 and is presented annually to the illustrator of an outstanding children's book published during the previous calendar year. The award will be presented at the CLA National Conference and Trade Show at the Ottawa Convention Centre on 31 May 2012. The CLA Book Awards Reception is generously sponsored by TD Bank Group.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CLA Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award Jury:

Delilah Deane Cummings, Coordinator, Community Outreach & Program Services, London Public Library,
Chair

Joy Huebert, Children's and Family Literacy Librarian, Greater Victoria Public Library

Lynne Thorimbert, Consultant/Library Services, Marigold Library System, Alberta

Stirling Prentice, Librarian, Ottawa Public Library

Diana Gauthier, retired teacher-librarian, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

The Canadian Library Association / Association canadienne des bibliothèques is Canada's largest national and broad-based association, representing the interests of public, academic, school and special libraries, professional librarians and library workers, and all those concerned about enhancing the quality of life of Canadians through information and literacy.