PACKAGING YOUR IMAGINATION 2014

SPEAKERS



Erin Bow is a rising star in the world of YA fantasy. Her debut novel, *Plain Kate*, won the

TD Canadian Children's Literary Award in 2011. Her second, Sorrow's Knot, was named one of best books of 2013 by Quill & Quire and Kirkus. Erin lives in Kitchener.



Holly Kent is the Community Manager for the National Reading Campaign,

a not for profit dedicated to making Canada a reading nation. Holly manages the NRC's entire web presence, including the blog Readerly, two interactive websites, and several social media accounts. Previously, Holly created the social media strategies for Scholastic Canada and the Canadian Children's Book Centre.



Lesley Livingston is a writer and actor living in Toronto. She is the author of several

award-winning trilogies for teens, including the Wondrous Strange series, the Never series, and the Starling series. She is also co-writer of the middle-grade series, The Wiggins Weird, with Jonathan Llyr.

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Matt James is a painter, illustrator and musician. His first picture book, *Yellow*

Moon, Apple Moon with Pamela Porter, was a finalist for the Governor General's Award. It was followed by I Know Here by Laurel Croza, a multiple award winner. Matt's most recent book, Northwest Passage, won the Governor General's Award.



Rob Laidlaw is a biologist, director of wildlife

protection organization Zoocheck, regular media pundit and the author of six children's books. Nominated for numerous awards, Rob was the Ontario Library Association 2013 Silver Birch Non-Fiction Award winner. 5 Elephants, about both wild and captive elephant issues, is his latest book.



Susin Nielsen is the author of the best-selling novels Word Nerd, Dear George

Clooney: Please Marry My Mom and the Governor General's Award-winner, The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen. Her new novel, We Are All Made of Molecules, will be published in Canada, the US and the UK in Spring 2015.

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Debbie Ridpath Ohi is a children's book writer/illustrator working

with Simon & Schuster,
HarperCollins and Random
House in the U.S. Recent
illustration projects: Judy Blume
middle grade and chapter
books, NAKED! written by
Michael Ian Black (Simon &
Schuster). Twitter: @inkyelbows.
Represented by Ginger
Knowlton, Curtis Brown.



Susan Rich is Editorat-Large for Little, Brown Books for

Young Readers. She publishes the work of Lemony Snicket, Jon Klassen, Dav Pilkey and others. Susan earned a Masters Degree in Children's Literature from Simmons College, began her publishing career in New York, and now lives and works in Toronto.



Stacey Roderick got her foot in the Kids Can Press door as a production editor in 1999. Two years later, she became an editor. In 2006, she

left to pursue a freelance career until an opportunity brought her back to Kids Can Press, where she is currently a full-time editor.



Michael Solomon is the Art Director at Groundwood Books.

He has been a book designer and children's book art director for over 35 years. Among the award-winning illustrators whose books he has helped bring to the world are Ian Wallace, Joanne Fitzgerald, Eric Beddows and Matt James. His design for Cybèle Young's *Out the Window* is the most recent of many Alcuin Award mentions he has received.



BC author, illustrator and cat enthusiast **Ashley Spires** is best

known for her junior graphic novel series, Binky The Space Cat. She likes to make picture books too, namely 2014's The Most Magnificent Thing and Edie's Ensembles. Her work has won the Silver Birch Express, the Shining Willow and the Hackmatack awards.

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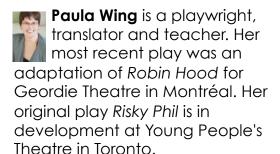
Shelley Tanaka is the long-time fiction editor at Groundwood Books.

She has edited thirteen Governor-General's awardwinning books and works with many of the country's finest children's book writers, including Deborah Ellis, Sarah Ellis and Tim Wynne-Jones. She teaches in the Writing for Children and Young Adults MFA program at Vermont College of Fine Arts.



Teresa Toten's sole ambition was to grow up and become a mermaid.

Instead she got side-tracked and wrote the Blondes Series, The Game, The Taming, The Onlyhouse, Bright Red Kisses and The Unlikely Hero of Room 13b. People were very sweet about this change of career and gave her some awards in compensation.



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Tara Walker is the Editorial Director at Tundra Books, a

division of Random House of Canada. She works with some of Canada's most accomplished writers and illustrators for children. Tara acquired and edited the best-selling Scaredy Squirrel series and has edited many awardwinning picture books and novels, including six Governor General's Award winners.



Cybèle Young is the author-illustrator of several children's books,

and an internationally renowned artist best known for her paper sculpture. She won the Governor General's Award for illustration in 2011 for her book *Ten Birds* (KidsCanPress.) Her latest release is *Nancy Knows* (Tundra Books).



Rachel Letofsky is an Associate Agent at The Cooke Agency. She is a graduate of both the University of Toronto,

where she specialized in English Literature, and The Humber Creative Book Publishing Program. She joined The Cooke Agency in 2010 following an internship, and is currently growing her own list of clients. Rachel is particularly drawn to debut authors with whom she can work in a handson, collaborative fashion.