



# Fun for the Whole Family!

Activities and Events for Children and Families at the Bay Area Book Festival

Saturday, April 28

**11:45 - 1:00 Full Hearts and Clever Minds: Meet Some Unforgettable Characters**

Tae Keller, Esta Spalding

How can you use creativity to make your life the best it can be? Is wanting something enough to make it happen? The characters in these panelists' books give young readers role models with a lot of moxie. Esta Spalding's "Look Out for the Fitzgerald Trouts" tells of four plucky kids who live in a car on an island, fending for themselves while they search for a permanent home. Tae Keller brings readers another moving character in "The Science of Breakable Things," which follows a young girl who goes to great lengths to help her mother through her depression. These two authors explore the possibility that with heart and creativity, anything is possible.

**11:45 - 1:00 Shakespeare Pops!**

Reed Martin, Austin Tichenor

For a man who said "brevity is the soul of wit," Shakespeare sure had a lot to say. Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor create a bridge from this great playwright to younger readers—they've packaged his stories in bite sized treats. And these treats pop! Join the duo at the helm of the Reduced Shakespeare Company as they discuss their eye-catching and whimsical book, "Pop Up Shakespeare."

**3:00 - 4:15 The Graton Writing Project**

As part of a comprehensive program to celebrate Native heritage and writing, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and the Bay Area Book Festival launched the Graton Writing Project, an essay contest open to middle- and high-school Native students from Sonoma. Students were invited to answer the following prompt: "Every community has a problem to solve. While one may struggle with a culture of domestic violence, another may not have access to healthy foods. Identify a problem that you see in your community, and write an essay about how that problem could be addressed or solved." Come hear this year's participants read excerpts from their pieces, and get a first look at the published anthology of their work!

3:15 - 4:30 **Tackling Issues: Katherine Applegate and Jen Petro-Roy on Hard-Hitting Middle Grade Fiction**

Katherine Applegate, Jen Petro-Roy, Mary Ann Scheuer

Some of the best books for young readers don't shy away from tough issues. In her wildly successful books for children and middle grade readers, Katherine Applegate ("Crenshaw," "The One and Only Ivan") has brought to life narrators of many different kinds, including a captive gorilla and a friendly neighborhood tree. Her books are brimming with imagination, whimsy, empathy, and hope—one New York Times reviewer called her newest, "Wishtree," "the most moving commentary I've read on the anti-immigration movement." Jen Petro-Roy is a vital new voice for young readers; her "P.S. I Miss You" has garnered national attention for centering on young same-sex love. Mary Ann Scheuer will moderate a conversation about how fiction can empower kids and make them feel less alone, and how reading can start a conversation around difficult subjects that kids engage with every day.

4:00 - 5:00 **Dude! Making a Book Together**

Dan Santat, Aaron Reynolds

Dude! Aren't friendships the best? Whether you and your best friend are setting off on a surfing adventure or writing a children's book together, you're bound to find some twists and turns that are best handled together. Award-winning author Aaron Reynolds and Caldecott Medal winner Dan Santat will discuss the making of their new book, "Dude!" and what it's like to work together to create something really cool—whatever your passion or gender.

4:15 - 5:30 **Jabberwalking with Juan Felipe Herrera**

Can you walk and talk at the same time? How about Jabberwalk? Can you write and draw and walk and journal all at the same time? If not, you're in luck: Festival favorite and marvelous speaker Juan Felipe Herrera, former Poet Laureate of the United States, is here to teach you everything he knows about being a real-life, bonafide, Jabberwalking poet! While his new book is technically for kids, anyone can learn to jabberwalk—parents, older siblings, and grandparents who have some pep in their step! Jabberwalkers write and speak for themselves and others no matter where their feet may take them—to Jabberwalk is to be a poet on the move. And there's no stopping once you're a Jabberwalker, writing fast, fast, fast, scribble-poem-burbles-on-the-run. Scribble what you see! Scribble what you hear! It's all out there — vámonos!

Sunday, April 29

10:00 - 11:15 **YES to Girls & Science!**

Emily Calandrelli

The "SpaceGal" delivers a most welcome new series about Ada Lace, a third-grade girl who has a knack for science and technology, and a nose for trouble. Emily says, "When you were a kid, what did you picture when you thought of a scientist or engineer?" You can bet the answer was "a socially awkward white dude with glasses." Emily Calandrelli created Ada in order to inspire young readers to ask

questions and lean into their curiosity, showing them that scientists and engineers can look just like them!

**10:00 - 11:15 Let Me Tell You a Really Good Story!**

Katherine Applegate, Arree Chung, Jonathan London, Michael Slack, Todd Parr, moderated by Ben Schwartz

There's nothing better than being told a really good story, right? These authors have some news for you: It's even more fun to tell the story yourself! They've told quite a few tales—Arree Chung with his energetic "Ninja!" series, Jonathan London's long-running "Froggy" escapades, Michael Slack's alien field trippers and monkey trucks, Todd Parr's books about family, Steve Goetz' and Eda Kaban's antic and new takes on Old MacDonald, and Katherine Applegate's new picture book for kids, "Sometimes You Fly." They're here to tell you a few more stories (and maybe help you discover the one you've been itching to tell!) A don't-miss marathon story time!

**11:30 - 12:30 Emerging Voices: Young Authors Writing Contest 2018 Winners**

Bay Area Youth participated in our fourth annual Young Authors Writing Contest with this year's prompt, "Everyone sees the world through different eyes—both literally and figuratively. How is it possible that two people can look at the same thing, but see different things?" Come hear this year's contest winners read their winning pieces and witness the rise of a new generation of writers. (Open seating; no tickets needed!)

**11:45 - 1:00 What Makes a Family?**

Nidhi Chanani, Chris Crutcher, Abdi Nazemian, Mitali Perkins

There are those with whom we share blood and childhoods, and those with whom we grow as adults: these are the beautiful, complex, sometimes ill-fitting puzzle pieces that make up a family. Join our panelists as they discuss what makes a family (and what makes a family difficult to write): Nidhi Chanani, a graphic novelist who delves into the immigrant experience; Chris Crutcher, an enduring novelist and family therapist; Abdi Nazemian, whose newest novel raises the question of personal identity and unknown heritage; and Mitali Perkins, who tells multigenerational stories of family and the Indian-American identity.

**11:45 - 12:45 Putting the FUN in Reading!**

LeUyen Pham, Megan McDonald, Travis Nichols, Judd Winick

Have you ever been asked, "Why do you love reading so much?" We certainly have, and our answer is always the same: "Because it's fun!" Join these four authors and artists as they discuss how they make reading fun for their younger audiences, from spicing a story up with pictures to having your characters (literally) fall from the sky.

**1:30 - 3:30 Judy Moody & Stink: Megan McDonald at Bay Area Children's Theater**

The Bay Area Children's Theater has two final performances of its "Judy Moody and Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt," a play adapted from Megan McDonald's widely-read books—and we're all so lucky they're on the festival weekend! Megan McDonald will appear in person for the final show

on Sunday afternoon, talk with the audience, and sign books after the show. Get tickets at BACT:  
<https://bactheatre.org/shows/JudyMoody>  
<https://bactheatre.org/shows/JudyMoody>

1:30 - 2:45 **Writing the Truth: Fiction and Non-Fiction**

Dashka Slater, Anne Nesbet, Sara Saedi, moderated by Dan Brekke

There's no use hiding the truth from young readers; their curiosity and passion will lead them straight to it! For kids and middle-grade readers, books explore truths and ideas they may have never been exposed to. The authors on this panel will discuss how they incorporate facts and truths in their books while keeping them enjoyable for young readers. Slater, who has written several children's books, has a new nonfiction book geared toward young adults that deals with some pretty heavy truths; Nesbet's historical fiction follows an 11-year-old orphan in 1941 America; and Saedi presents her true story of her family's undocumented history.

3:15 - 4:30 **Dave Eggers Conjures a Fantastical Story for Young Readers**

Dave Eggers interviewed by Mac Barnett

There is nothing as sure as the ground beneath your feet. That is, unless there's a whole world down there you don't know about. In Dave Eggers' new book for middle graders, "The Lifters," there may be more surprises underfoot than our heroes are prepared to handle—as they discover a complex underground system that is giving way to something nefarious. What if there were mysterious forces in these tunnels, mere inches below you as you sit in class or eat a banana? What if it were up to just two kids to stop these forces? What would it feel like to know the fate of an entire town rested on your shoulders? Twelve-year-old Gran Flowerpetal is about to find out. In "The Lifters," critically acclaimed author Dave Eggers establishes himself as a storyteller who can entertain and inspire readers of any age.

3:15 - 4:30 **Books y Libros: A Talk with Spanish and Bilingual Children's Books Writers, Illustrators and Publishers**

Maya Christina Gonzalez, Robert Liu-Trujillo, Heather Robertson-Devine, Aida Salazar, Jennifer Torres, Maceo Cabrera Estévez

As borders tighten and DREAMers await their future, there are children who need to find themselves in the books they read. Is having brown and black skinned characters in books enough? In the age of Trump and Time's Up, how can bilingual and Spanish children's books in the US make an impact in our society? Can they help create a world where borders cannot be closed off? Children's book writers, illustrators, and publishers discuss why they create books that are geared towards a Latinx audience.

4:00 - 5:00 **Falling from the Sky: Judd Winick, Creator of Hilo's World**

When Judd Winick's son asked to see his father's stories—featured in DC Comics like "The Green Lantern" and "Batman"—Winick realized he wanted to be able to share his art with all ages. This led him to create a New York Times bestselling treasure: his "Hilo" series, which follows D.J., an average boy whose life is turned upside-down when a new friend falls from the sky. Judd will discuss his series, the craft of storytelling, and the fact that picture books aren't just for kids!