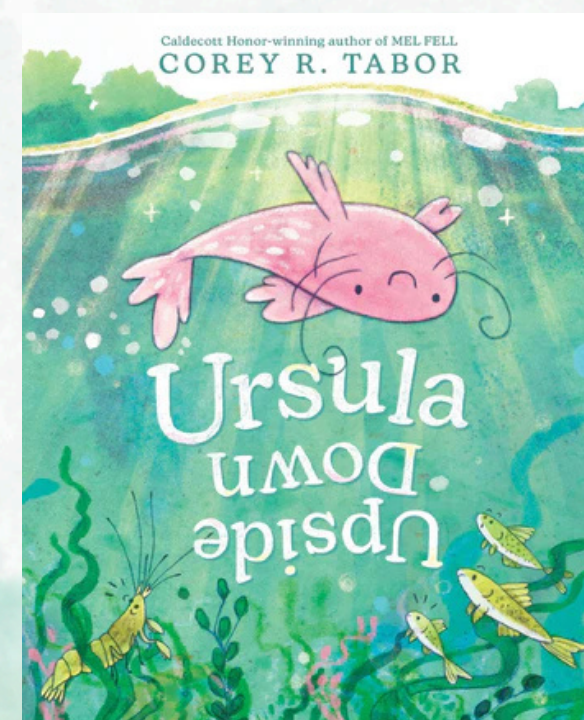
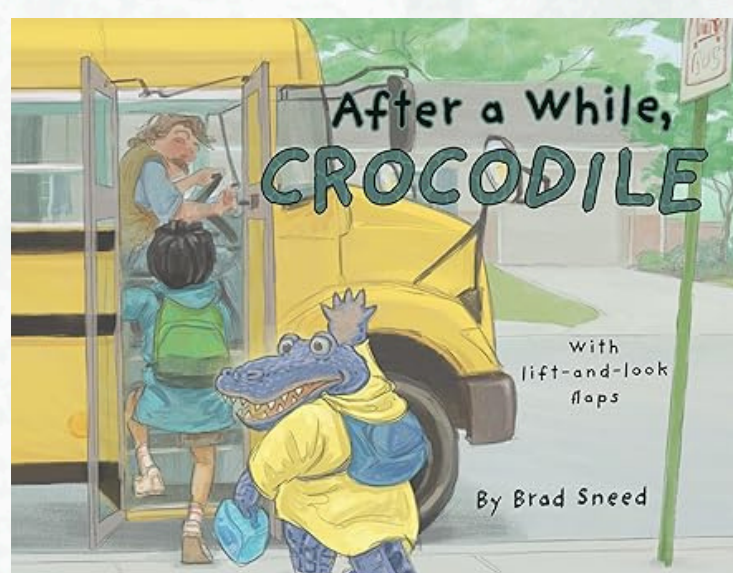
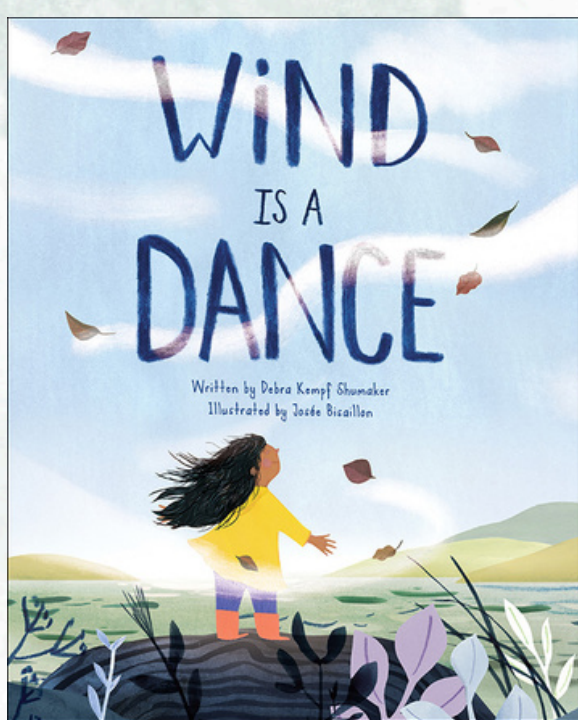
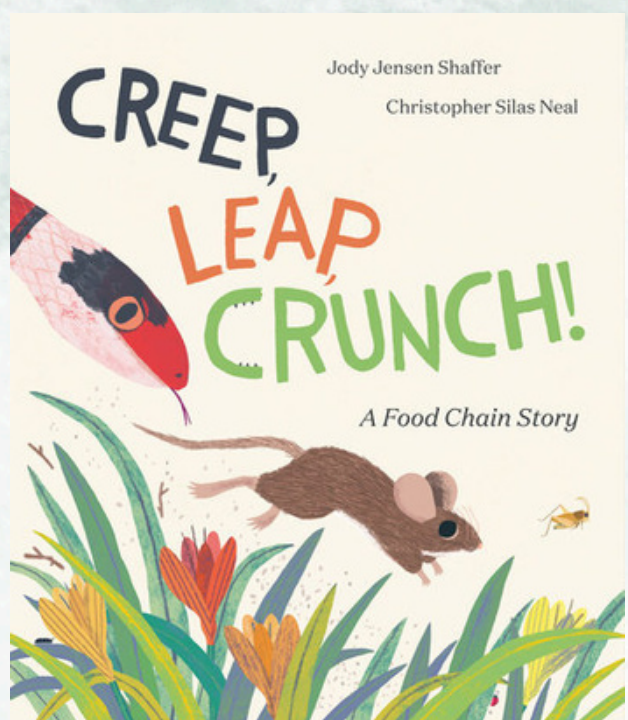


2026 NOMINEES

Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award



Bill Martin, Jr.

- Born (1916) and raised in Hiawatha, KS
- Reading difficulties until attending college
- Bachelor of Arts from Kansas State Teacher's College in Emporia, KS
- Teacher (Kansas), principal (Chicago, IL), consultant/publishing executive (Holt, Reinhart & Winston, New York)
- "America's favorite children's author"
- Over 300 children's books

Purpose

- to honor Bill Martin, Jr., an internationally renowned Kansas author of children's picture books
- to promote an appreciation for quality literature in young children
- to commend outstanding authors of children's picture books
- to encourage involvement in promoting quality picture books

INFORMATION

emporia.edu/bmjaward

- Promotes quality literature for children grades K-3
- Play of language, not illustrations
- Not a Caldecott winner
- Copyright within three years of finalized nomination list
- Author lives in the United States

Criteria

Visit Our Website



- View past nominees and winners; download bookmarks; recommend a book to be considered; and, sign-up to be added to the voting/distribution database.
- Between February 1 and February 28 a ballot is open for voting.
- Individuals in the voting database will receive an email prior to this voting window with instruction for the voting procedures.
- In April the winner from the current list of nominations is announced and next round of nominations will be shared.