

# Storytime Newsletter

Baker, Bradford, Union County Libraries

## Author of the Month – Candace Fleming

May 2016

Birthdate: May 24, 1962

In second grade, Fleming discovered a passion for language. She can still remember the day her teacher, Miss Johnson, held up a horn-shaped basket filled with papier-mache pumpkins and asked the class to repeat the word "cornucopia." She said it again and again, tasted the word on her lips, testing it on her ears. That afternoon, she skipped all the way home from school chanting, "Cornucopia! Cornucopia!" From then on, she really began listening to words—to the sounds they made,

and the way they were used, and how they made her feel. She longed to put them together in ways that were beautiful, and yet told a story.

As she got older, Fleming continued to write stories, but she never really thought of becoming an author. Instead, she went to college where she discovered yet another passion—history. She didn't realize it then, but studying history was really just an extension of her love of stories. After all, some of the best stories are true ones—tales of heroism and villainy

made more incredible by the fact they really happened.

After graduation, Fleming married and had children. She read to her children a lot, and that's when she discovered the joy and music of children's books. She simply couldn't get enough of them. With her two sons in tow, she made endless trips to the library, and she read stacks of books. When she found herself begging, "Just one more, please!" while her boys begged for lights-out and sleep, it struck her. Why not write (continued on page 2)

### Storytimes at the Libraries

Storytimes are on hiatus during May as we plan for summer programs for children.

Check back for a summer program schedule.



## May – Get Caught Reading Month

Get Caught Reading Month is a nationwide campaign that reminds people how much fun it is to read! Launched in 1999 by former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, and supported by the Association of American Publishers, this campaign has set out

to spread the word about the joys of reading.

Well-known figures such as Rosie O'Donnell, Robin Williams, and Dolly Parton have been "caught reading" to help promote this campaign. Research shows that the development of early

literacy skills through books, are linked to a child's success in reading. Armed with this knowledge, the Get Caught Reading Campaign hopes to encourage children and people of all ages to enjoy books. ...JanelleCox-teachhub.com

### **TumbleBooks**

Online book service, watch a picture book or read along with the audio.  
[www.newriver.lib.fl.us](http://www.newriver.lib.fl.us)

### **Dial a Story**

Stories for young children, changed weekly.

496-2542

or

1-888-4ATALE1

(1-888-428-2531)

# Books to Share

## Pssst!

By: Adam Rex

A child, a visit to the zoo, animals—sounds like good, simple all American fun. But there's something *different* about this zoo. These animals *want* things. Unusual things. What will they do with them? Laughs, jokes, and surprises abound in this graphic picture book about a feisty, all-too-helpful little girl and her role in aiding and abetting zoo-animal shenanigans. Adam Rex once again reveals the hilarious hidden life of creatures we thought we knew well.

## Smile If You're Human

By: Neal Layton

When trying to spot a real-life human, this alien family understands that it's important to know exactly what to look for. On a visit to one of our planet's zoos, they ready their camera and try to follow their not-very-well-informed Aliens' Guide to Earth. Through persistent trial and error (webbed feet? feathers? a striped coat?) these most unusual tourists are able to discover just what makes us

humans the "most stupendous" animal of all!

## Inside a Zoo in the City

### A Rebus Read-Along Story

By: Alyssa Satin Capucilli

A squawking parrot wakes a colorful cast of sleeping creatures, and a symphony of chattering and barking ensues! This jolly story is told with picture words that invite young kids to "read" along. The combination of playful text and humorous illustrations will make this a favorite among emergent readers.

## Magic Box: A Magical Story

By: Katie Cleminson

Eva receives a very special box for her birthday. When she climbs inside, she becomes a master magician! After pulling quite a few rabbits out of quite a few hats, Eva throws a fantastic party with lots of cake, the very best musicians, and plenty of dancing. But for her best trick, Eva wishes for a pet named Monty and she gets even more than she imagined.

## Maxwell's Magic Mix-Up

By: Linda Ashman

"It's my sister's seventh birthday. Entertainer calls in sick. Poor Louise is brokenhearted. Better find a backup quick!" When Maxwell the Magician entertains at Louise's birthday party, the birthday girl is turned into a rock, her father into a broom, and the guests into animals. It takes Max's young nephew, Alex, to save the day! Kids will laugh at the mixed-up magic and root for Alex to set things straight at this unforgettable birthday party.

## The Great Pancake Escape

By: Paul Many

When Dad's pancakes magically take flight, it is up to his three children to round up their breakfast. Hot on the trail, the magician's kids pursue the pancakes down alleyways, across town, and through the park. Tracking down a bunch of renegade pancakes is tougher than it seems as the battered bunch blend into the background. But nothing will stop our hungry heroes from chasing down a hot meal.

# Author of the Month

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children's books? It seemed the perfect way to combine all the things she loved: stories, musical language, history and reading.

Fleming is the critically acclaimed author of lively fiction for younger children, titles like *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!* And *Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary*, as well as non-fiction

titles like *Our Eleanor* and *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary*.

...readingrockets.org



Thanks to Harriet, Children's Library Assistant at New River Public Library Cooperative, for providing content for this newsletter.

