

Beloit Daily News
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For the past five years I have served on the Wisconsin Library Association Children's Book Award Committee, which is a subsection of the Youth Services Section (whew, that's quite a mouthful!). Each year the seven members of this committee read about 80 Children's and Young Adult books written or illustrated by Wisconsin authors in the previous year. The committee is charged with selecting the one title that best represents "distinguished achievement in children's literature", with honoring up to ten other outstanding titles, and with selecting a Notable author or illustrator for their literary contributions to children's literature. And believe me, with 80 or more books to choose from, this is no easy task.

Although I've enjoyed my time reading and analyzing all of the books, my favorite thing about serving on the committee has been that I have been able to meet several distinguished Wisconsin authors and illustrators over the years. I have always admired those who have the ability to express their ideas and draw people into their stories and the lives of their characters. I think everyone who has the opportunity to hear an author speak should seize that opportunity.

And to that end, the Beloit Public Library has several opportunities for you to meet some great local and state of Wisconsin authors:

- Wednesday November 11th at 6:30 p.m. – Gayle Rosengren, Children's author of *What the Moon Said*
- Monday November 16th at 5:30 p.m. – Chris Ramos, Young Adult author of *Time to Expire*
- Saturday December 5th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Stateline Author Meet and Greet featuring 20 local authors
- Wednesday December 9th at 7:00 p.m. – Tom Warren, author of *Stories Too Good to be True*

For more information on these opportunities and other outstanding programs and events, be sure to visit www.beloitlibrary.org, follow us on Twitter, and Like us on Facebook. In the meantime, check out these award winning Children's titles available at your Beloit Public Library:

Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War 1's Bravest Dog by Ann Bausum. The one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. (Book description)

Bird by Crystal Chan. Jewel never knew her brother Bird, but all her life she has lived in his shadow. Her parents blame Grandpa for the tragedy of their family's past... *Nothing matters. Only Bird matters. And he flew away.* (Book description)

The Hula-Hoopin Queen by Thelma Lynne Godin. A spunky girl has a hula-hooping competition with her friends in Harlem, and soon everyone in the neighborhood – young and old alike – joins in on the fun. (Book description)

This is a Moose written by Richard T. Morris and illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld. When a movie director tries to capture the life of a moose on film, he's in for a big surprise. It turns out the moose has a bigger dream than just being a moose... (Book description)

Kate Walden Directs: Night of the Zombie Chickens by Julie Mata. *Night of the Zombie Chickens* is supposed to be Kate Walden's breakout film. But her supporting actresses – her mother's prize organic hens – are high maintenance to say the least. (Book description)