GOOD MORNING. ON BEHALF OF THAMES & HUDSON, I AM DELIGHTED TO ACCEPT THE 2019 MILDRED L. BATCHELDER AWARD FOR THE FOX ON THE SWING AND TO EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BATCHELDER HONOR WINNERS: NORTH-SOUTH BOOKS, ENCHANTED LION BOOKS, GRAPHIC UNIVERSE, AND YONDER.

THE BATCHELDER AWARD IS GIVEN TO THE PUBLISHER, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AT THIS TIME AUTHOR EVELINA DACIŪTĖ—HERE WITH US TODAY—AND ILLUSTRATOR AUŠRA KIUDULAITĖ—CURRENTLY IN LITHUANIA—who together created a beautifully illustrated tale that goes to the heart of the meaning of family, friendship, and happiness. It has been warmly embraced by reviewers for its originality and unpredictability, and this award, which cites the book’s outstanding writing for reflecting “a deep respect for childhood and the importance of adaptability and absurdity,” confirms the unique qualities of THE FOX ON THE SWING.

WHILE ONE OF THAMES & HUDSON’S EARLIEST CHILDREN’S BOOKS SUCCESSES DATES BACK TO 1978—the English translation of THE RAINBOW GOBLINS—OUR CURRENT CHILDREN’S PUBLISHING PROGRAM REALLY TOOK FLIGHT AFTER EDITORIAL DIRECTOR ROGER THORP JOINED OUR LONDON TEAM FROM THE TATE MUSEUM’S PUBLISHING DIVISION IN 2014. UNDER HIS AND ANNA RIDLEY’S EDITORSHIP, THAMES & HUDSON PUBLISHES A WIDE VARIETY OF CHILDREN’S BOOKS: INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERIES THAT HAVE BECOME SUCCESSFUL ALL OVER THE WORLD; RES ISSUES OF EUROPEAN CHILDREN’S CLASSICS; AND SUPREMELY IMAGINATIVE PICTURE BOOKS, ORIGINATING IN ENGLISH OR TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH, GERMAN, PORTUGUESE, SWEDISH, FINNISH, ESTONIAN, OR, AS IS THE CASE WITH THE FOX ON THE SWING, LITHUANIAN. THE BOOKS IN THIS GROWING LIST PROVIDE HOURS OF READING PLEASURE AND LEARNING FOR YOUNG READERS, AND OFFER THEM MYRIAD PERSPECTIVES ON OUR WORLD.

AS THE WORLD’S LEADING ART BOOK PUBLISHER, THAMES & HUDSON PRIZES EXCEPTIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS AND COMPELLING NARRATIVES, SEEKING THEM OUT ON A GLOBAL SCALE. IN THE FOX ON THE SWING, VIBRANT COLOR COLLAGES AND INSPIRING STORYTELLING TELL THE STORY OF A YOUNG BOY, PAUL, WHOSE FATHER PILOTS A HELICOPTER AND WHOSE MOTHER MAKES POTTERY. PAUL BEFRIENDS A PHILOSOPHICAL FOX HE ENCOUNTERS ON A SWING IN THE PARK ON HIS DAILY WALK HOME FROM THE BAKERY. OVER TIME, THEIR FRIENDSHIP DEEPENS AND PAUL AND THE FOX GROW CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHARE THEIR INNERMOST FEELINGS WITH EACH OTHER. AN UNEXPECTED MOVE DISRUPTS THEIR FRIENDSHIP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BATCHELDER AWARD, VISIT HTTP://BIT.LY/BATCHELDER-AWARD.
ship, but by the end of the story Paul and the fox learn an important lesson and arrive at a surprising resolution.

We wish to thank Tessa Michaelson Schmidt, who chaired the Batchelder committee for this award year, and the committee’s members for honoring Thames & Hudson by choosing *The Fox on the Swing* to receive this award; editors Roger Thorp, Rachel Dewhirst, Natalie Evans, and Elizabeth Keene, who shepherded the English-language publication; illustrator Aušra Kiudulaitė for the book’s transporting, colorful scenes; and author Evelina Daciūtė for this unexpected gift of a story. Thank you all, and remember . . . Happiness is a fox!


### 2019 BATCHEDLER HONOR BOOKS

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2019 BATCHEDLER AWARD COMMITTEE

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