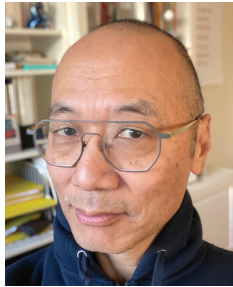




Geisel

AWARD ACCEPTANCE SPEECH



James Yang is the winner of the 2020 (Theodor Seuss) Geisel Award for *Stop! Bot!* (Viking/Penguin). He delivered his acceptance remarks during the ALA Book Award Celebration held Sunday, June 28, 2020, on YouTube.

First, a giant thank-you to the ALSC and ALA for this amazing award. I still can't believe one of my books now has a sticker. Those were the books that librarians told us were special as kids, so I'm still blown away. When the Geisel committee called on a Sunday evening with the news, I was stunned. This is a moment you dream about but never really think will happen. After hanging up, I googled "Geisel Award" to make sure I heard what I thought I heard. It was. I then went to the kitchen and told my wife, "Honey, I think a lifelong dream just came true," then broke down in tears while she hugged me.

As a child, I loved spending time at the elementary school library reading Caldecott and Newbery winners. One shelf was filled with Dr. Seuss books. The other kids and I would sit on the floor in front of the shelf and read one Seuss book after another. Sometimes we traded books after finishing. Library hour always passed too quickly.

Once again thank you so much for this moment; it means the world. You wonder if your books make an impression and, because of you, I'm excited to create more stories. A new wacky story actually hit me while celebrating.

I know this is a strange time, and perhaps books are even more important



now than ever. And so are librarians, who share books, in whatever ways possible, with children to help open up their worlds even more.

Thanks again to the ALSC and ALA for making a dream come true. And, last, but not least, thanks to Viking Children's Books' and my dream team of editor Tracy Gates and art director Jim Hoover. This has meant the world to me.

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For more information about the Geisel Award, visit <http://bit.ly/geisel-award>.



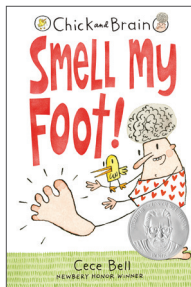
James Yang was born in Oklahoma and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Communication Arts and Design. His work has appeared in prestigious trade publications such as *Communication Arts*, *3x3 Magazine*, and *Print*. Yang has won more than 250 awards for design and illustration including best of show from *3x3 Magazine*. His picture book, *Bus! Stop!*, was selected as an outstanding picture book by *The New York Times*. Yang currently lives in Brooklyn, New York.



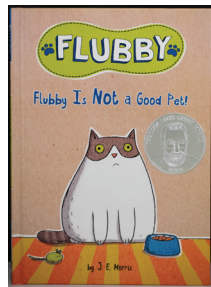
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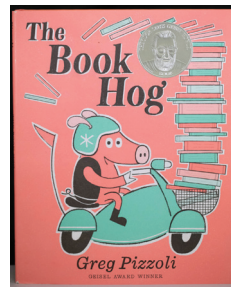
2020 GEISEL HONOR BOOKS



***Chick and Brain:
Smell My Foot!***
Cece Bell
Illus. by the author
Candlewick



Flubby Is Not a Good Pet!
J.E. Morris
Illus. by the author
Penguin Workshop/
Penguin Random House



The Book Hog
Greg Pizzoli
Illus. by the author
Little, Brown



For more information
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