



Geisel Award Acceptance Speech

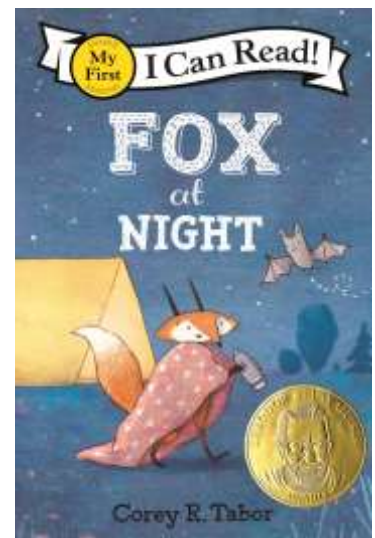


Corey R. Tabor is the winner of the 2022 (Theodor Seuss) Geisel Award for **Fox at Night** (Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers). He delivered his acceptance remarks during the ALSC Awards Program held Monday, June 27, 2022, during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

Thank you to the Geisel Award Committee for this incredible honor.

When you called to tell me the news, I was shocked. You never expect to get struck by lightning, and here I am getting struck again.

But then, I never expected to be an author of beginning reader books either. When HarperCollins made an offer on my first Fox picture book, they asked if I would also write two “I Can Read!” books starring the same characters. Before that, I have to admit, I’d kind of forgotten about early reader books. I didn’t have a kid at the time, and it had been a while since my early reader days. But when I thought about it, I realized that many of my favorite books from childhood, the ones I really loved, the ones I still remember, are beginning reader books. Books by Arnold Lobel, P.D. Eastman, Jan and Stan Berenstain (you know the ones). And I realized what an honor it is to get to be a part of that tradition.



My approach to writing and drawing books for beginning readers is the same as it is for picture books. That is, if I’m making myself chuckle, I must be on the right track. I figure if I’m having fun, then the reader probably will too.

And how can you not have fun while drawing an anthropomorphic fox exploring the night in his favorite polka-dotted blanket?

But, unlike picture books, beginning reader books have a specific purpose. It's right there on my cover: I Can Read, exclamation point! That's the goal. So, I aim for straightforward text and illustrations. Simple words and pictures. I try to make a good, fun, funny, simple, straightforward story, with the occasional flamethrower thrown in for good measure.

Working on these books has taken me places I never could have imagined (here, now, for example) and I'm so grateful for all of it.

Thank you to my agent Rebecca Sherman.

Thank you to my editor Donna Bray and my art director Dana Fritts, and the rest of the wonderful team at Balzer + Bray and HarperCollins.

Thank you to my ever-inspiring critique group.

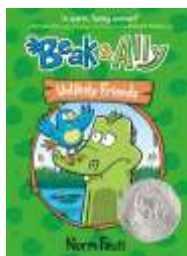
Thank you to my parents for all the love and encouragement.

Thank you to my wife and son, who are my first editor and reader, respectively, and who are my everything else too.

And thank you, once again, to the Geisel committee.

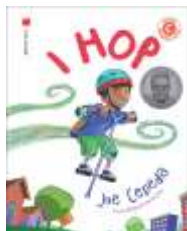
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2022 GEISEL HONOR BOOKS



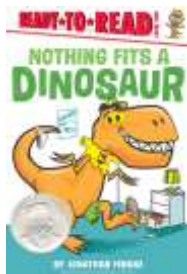
Beak & Ally #1: Unlikely Friends

written and illustrated by Norm Feuti
HarperAlley, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers



I Hop

written and illustrated by Joe Cepeda
I Like to Read®, an imprint of Holiday House



Nothing Fits a Dinosaur

written and illustrated by Jonathan Fenske
Simon Spotlight, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing