

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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**ILLINOIS READS! A Reading State of Mind**

[www.illinoisreads.org](http://www.illinoisreads.org)

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## **"ILLINOIS READS" PROJECT ANNOUNCES 2017 BOOK SELECTIONS**

With the formal launch of the 2017 Illinois Reads initiative a matter of months away, the *Illinois Reading Council* and Illinois Reads Honorary Chairman, Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, have announced the book titles for the 2017 "ILLINOIS READS" initiative.

A statewide project promoting reading for Illinois citizens, Illinois Reads annually selects six books in each of six different age categories ranging from read-to books for infants to adult readers. A variety of topics and themes are chosen for each age group, with an emphasis on selections written by authors with ties to Illinois.

The "ILLINOIS READS" book selections for 2017 are:

### **Birth – 4 Years**

*Wish* by Matthew Cordell

*Silly Wonderful You* by Sherri Duskey Rinker

*Daylight Starlight Wildlife* by Wendell Minor

*When Elephant Met Giraffe* by Paul Gude

*Bulldozer's Big Day* by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann

*Baby Loves Quarks!* by Ruth Spiro

## **K-2**

*Gandhi: A March to the Sea* by Alice B. McGinty -

*Drawbridges Open and Close* by Patrick T. McBriarty

*Ava the Monster Slayer* by Lisa Maggiore

*Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty

*I Wish You More* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

*The Inventor's Secret: What Thomas Edison Told Henry Ford* by Suzanne Slade

## **3-5**

*The Zoo at the Edge of the World* by Eric Kahn Gale

*Seven and a Half Tons of Steel* by Janet Nolan

*Tiny Titans Series* by Art Baltazar

*Reading with Pictures: Comics That Make Kids Smarter* by Josh Elder

*Cupcake Cousins* (Books 1 & 2) by Kate Hannigan

*This Journal Belongs to Ratchet* by Nancy J. Cavanaugh

## **6-8**

*The Best Man* by Richard Peck

*Nightfall* by Jake Halpern and Peter Kujawinski

*Codename Zero* by Chris Rylander

*The Eye of Midnight* by Andrew Brumbach

*Women Heroes of World War I: 16 Remarkable Resisters, Soldiers, Spies, and Medics* by Kathryn J. Atwood

*I Am Drums* by Mike Grosso

## **9-12**

*Pig Park* by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez

*Rockin' the Boat: 50 Iconic Revolutionaries – From Joan of Arc to Malcom X* by Jeff Fleischer

*Lagoon* by Nnedi Okorafor

*Phantom Limbs* by Paula Garner

*Playlist for the Dead* by Michelle Falkoff

*Play Me Backwards* by Adam Selzer

## **Adult**

*Hamilton: The Revolution* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter

*The Bollywood Bride* by Sonali Dev

*The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henriquez

*Don't You Cry* by Mary Kubica

*By the Numbers* by Jen Lancaster

*Exoneree Diaries: The Fight for Innocence, Independence, and Identity* by Alison Flowers

Booklists for 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 can be found on the ILLINOIS READS' web site: [www.illinoisreads.org](http://www.illinoisreads.org)

The official launch of the 2017 ILLINOIS READS campaign will be in Wilmington at Wilmington Middle School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 11, 2017. Invited guests include Secretary of State and State Librarian, Jesse White, 36 Illinois authors and illustrators, and readers from all over the state of Illinois.

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