



## Illustrator Bios

**RACHEL AURIEMMA** is an illustrator/designer based out of Michigan with a BFA in Graphic Design from Eastern Michigan University.

When she is not freelancing or dancing around her room with her furry cat friend, Emmie, she can usually be found sketching at her favorite spots in Ann Arbor.

“Talking about myself in the third person is very weird,” states Auriemma. “I hope to never have to do it again.”

**LISA BROWN** is an illustrator, writer, and cartoonist. Her children’s books include: *How to Be, Vampire Boy’s Good Night, Emily’s Blue Period* (with author Cathleen Daly), *29 Myths on the Swinster Pharmacy* (with author Lemony Snicket), and *Baby,*

*Mix Me a Drink.* She teaches writing and illustrating picture books at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco where she lives with her family, but can more often be found on the internet at [americanchickens.com](http://americanchickens.com).

**JENI CRONE** grew up in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky and moved to Chicago in 2006 to go to art school. While finishing her BFA with an emphasis in writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago she interned at 826CHI and over the past five-plus years has given over a thousand volunteer hours, including illustrating well over one hundred field trips. She is currently finishing her MAT in Visual Art at Columbia College Chicago and hopes to join

the Chicago Public Schools in the fall as an art educator.

**C. JASON DEPASQUALE** attended the very first volunteer orientation for 826michigan in 2005, and has been active (to varying degrees) ever since. He has taught workshops, illustrated publications, built bots, and was one of the creators of the Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair. His work at 826 led him directly to his current career as a middle school teacher at Summers-Knoll School. He also credits 826michigan for introducing him to his spouse, Amy Sumerton, who just so happened to be leading that volunteer orientation years ago. They live in Ann Arbor with their daughter Violet (whose middle name should probably be “826”), and are expecting a second child (currently unnamed as of this printing) in May of 2015.





CARSON ELLIS is the illustrator of a number of books for kids, including *New York Times* bestsellers *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart, *The Composer is Dead* by Lemony Snicket, and the *Wildwood Chronicles* by Colin Meloy (who happens to be her husband). She recently finished work on *Home*, a picture book she wrote and illustrated. She is also an occasional maker of editorial illustration and an even more occasional fine artist represented by Nationale in Portland. She's the illustrator-in-residence for the band The Decemberists. Carson lives on a farm in Oregon with Colin, her two sons, one cat, one stray cat, two llamas, eight chickens, a family of barn owls, a couple of goats, and an unfathomable multitude of tree frogs. You can see more of her work at [carsonellis.com](http://carsonellis.com).

JENNIFER HARLEY lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she graduated from the University of Michigan with degrees in science and engineering, and now works in a fancy research lab. She enjoys creating posters, album art, and graphics for local bands, bars, and businesses, but her favorite things are food and cute animals. You can find more of her work at [jenharley.com](http://jenharley.com).

ERIN JOHNSON is a high school art teacher at Lakeville High School in Otisville, Michigan. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in painting, and now lives in Frankenmuth, Michigan with her husband, two sons, and one dog. When she isn't teaching, making art, or running, you can find her crafting cardboard box robots to aid in her three-year-old's pursuit of space travel in the basement.

JON KLASSEN is the creator of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *I Want My Hat Back*, which was named a Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book, a *New York Times Book Review* Best Illustrated Children's Book of the Year, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Children's Book of the Year, and won the Caldecott Medal. He followed up with another hat and another thief in *This is Not My Hat*.

He is also the illustrator of *House Held Up By Trees*, a picture book written by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Ted Kooser, as well as *Cats' Night Out* by Caroline Stutson; *Extra Yarn* and *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* by Mac Barnett (both Caldecott Honor books); *The Dark* by Lemony Snicket; and *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place* series by Maryrose Wood.

Jon Klassen has worked as an illustrator for feature animated films, music videos, and editorial pieces.





His animation projects include design work for DreamWorks Feature Animation as well as LAIKA Studios on their feature film *Coraline*. Other work includes designs for a BBC spot used in the coverage of the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, which won a 2010 BAFTA Award. Originally from Niagara Falls, Ontario, Jon Klassen now lives in Los Angeles. You can see more of his artwork at [jonklassen.tumblr.com](http://jonklassen.tumblr.com).

LYLA LUTZ discovered a passion for art early in her childhood, and she has been drawing and illustrating ever since. After she finished studying Animation Design at the Communication University of China, she worked at a video game company as a character and background designer. Five years ago, she moved to the US and now works as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer. Many of her

illustrations have been published in magazines, newspapers, and books. She also enjoys designing t-shirts, posters, flyers, logos, and icons. In addition, she teaches drawing, polymer clay making, and crafts at the Church in Ann Arbor. She loves traveling, making friends, taking care of pets, and playing lots of video games.

ADRIAN LYJAK is a lifelong resident of Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he works in software engineering and web design. You can find more of his illustration work in 826michigan's *What to Call the Place I Call Home: Voices of 26 Ypsilanti Middle Schoolers* and *The Moons Were Jealous: A Practical Guide to our Solar System*. In his time with 826, he received numerous awards including the prestigious Hometown Hero Award for Excellence in All Things Publication; Most Likely to Create

a Timeless, Beautiful Illustration out of a Poorly-taken Photo of a Boisterous Middle School Student; and High Marks in Under the Radar Humor and Wearing Shades of Grey.

AMY MARTIN has created books, magazines, posters, products, and illustrations for *The New York Times*, *McSweeney's*, *Wall Street Journal*, *GOOD*, The Walt Disney Company, Death Cab for Cutie, Sufjan Stevens, St. Vincent, Band of Horses, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Detroit Free Press*, *The Advocate*, and more. Her work has been shown at the Manifest Hope galleries in Denver and Washington DC, the Re:Form School gallery in NYC, the 2010 California Design Biennial, and Electric Works gallery in San Francisco.

Her first illustrated children's book, *Symphony City*, was released by McSweeney's in July 2011 and won the 2012 Ridgeway Honor Award.





Since moving to Portland she has started on several new books, which not coincidentally involve rain, snow, and clouds. She is clinically Midwestern and will totally help you move.

You can see more of her work at [amymartinillustration.com](http://amymartinillustration.com).

**CHRISTOPHER MYERS** comes from a long line of storytellers. His grandfather had a talent for telling imaginative stories. His father wrote award-winning books from home. At age twenty, Myers illustrated *Monster*, a novel written by his father. After studying at Brown University in Rhode Island, Myers returned to New York and quickly established himself in the field of children's literature. His illustrations have received a Caldecott Honor, two Coretta Scott King Honors, and rave reviews. From his home in Brooklyn, Christopher Myers continues to

experiment with his art, both for children's books and beyond. He is also a fine artist, photographer, and clothing designer.

**GREG PIZZOLI** is an author, illustrator, and screenprinter from Philadelphia. He teaches part-time at the University of the Arts, and is currently working on several children's books. His first book, *The Watermelon Seed*, was the recipient of the 2014 Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal. You can see more of his work at [gregpizzoli.com](http://gregpizzoli.com).

**ADAM REX** grew up in Phoenix, Arizona as the middle of three children. He got a BFA from the University of Arizona, and there he met his physicist wife, Marie. Adam and Marie live in Tucson, where Adam draws, paints, writes, spends too much time on the internet, and listens to public radio.

His first picture book, *The Dirty Cowboy* by Amy Timberlake, was published by FSG in 2003. His picture book *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich*, a collection of stories about monsters and their problems, was a *New York Times* Bestseller. 2007 saw the release of his first novel, *The True Meaning of Smekday*, which was adapted into the DreamWorks film *Home* in 2015. He has illustrated the work of many authors, including Jon Scieszka, Mac Barnett, Neil Gaiman, Jeff Kinney, David Lubar, Kate DiCamillo, Eoin Colfer, Christopher Paul Curtis, and Paul Fieg.

You can see more of Adam's work at [adamrex.com](http://adamrex.com).

**CHRISTIAN ROBINSON** likes to tell stories with pictures, making a living as an illustrator and animator in San Francisco. He's worked with Pixar Animation Studios, the Sesame





Street Workshop, and illustrated a number of award winning picture books, including *Rain!* by Linda Ashman, which won the 2014 Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator Award, *Josephine* by Patricia Hruby Powell, winner of the 2014 Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor for non-fiction, and *Gaston* by Kelly DiPucchio.

You can visit him online at [theartoffun.com](http://theartoffun.com).

**DAN SANTAT** is the author/illustrator of the Caldecott Medal winning book, *Adventures of Beekle; Sidekicks*; and the winner of the Silver Medal from the Society of Illustrators for *Oh No! (Or How My Science Project Destroyed the World)* by Mac Barnett. He is also the creator of the Disney animated hit, "The Replacements." Dan lives in Southern California with his wife, two kids, and various pets. You can see more of Dan's work at [dansantat.tumblr.com](http://dansantat.tumblr.com).

**J. OTTO SEIBOLD** is an American illustrator of children's books, including the *Mr. Lunch* books, *Olive the Other Reindeer*, and *Monkey Business*, as well as some picture books intended for all ages (such as *Going to the Getty*). His most recent book is *Lost Sloth* (McSweeney's 2013). He also has had several shows of work using spray paint and paint pens. He has showed at Grass Hut, The Yerba Buena, and Le Strange in Paris. J. Otto Seibold likes lunch. And snacks. You can see more of his work at [jottodotcom.com](http://jottodotcom.com).

**ERIN E. STEAD** is the Caldecott Medal winning illustrator of *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*. Erin lives with Philip and their dog, Wednesday, in a 100-year-old barn in Ann Arbor, Michigan. You can see more of Erin's work at [erinstead.com](http://erinstead.com).

**PHILIP C. STEAD** is the author of the

Caldecott Medal winning book *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, illustrated by his wife, Erin E. Stead. Philip lives with Erin and their dog, Wednesday, in a 100-year-old barn in Ann Arbor, Michigan. You can see more of Philip's work at [philipstead.com](http://philipstead.com).

**OLIVER UBERTI** is a visual journalist. He travels the world with a sketchbook in hand. From 2003 to 2012, he worked in the design department of *National Geographic Magazine*, most recently as Senior Design Editor. His designs, information graphics, and art direction have won numerous international awards. In 2010, he designed 826DC's Museum of Unnatural History—a novelty gift store, non-profit tutoring and writing center, and the only museum he knows of with a cave, unicorn tears, and hundreds of volunteers teaching children to write.

Oliver is a member of the Guild





of Natural Science Illustrators and has spoken at TEDx on creativity and the time required to produce good, soulful work. Oliver left *National Geographic* in 2012 to form his own studio, Oliver Uberti Creative, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. You can see more of Oliver's work at [oliveruberti.com](http://oliveruberti.com).

**LISA VAN DUSEN**, a native "Michigoose," lives in Palo Alto, California, catalyzes Silicon Valley philanthropy at SV2-Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund, and hosts the First Person interview series. She loves helping people make a difference in the world. Lisa draws, paints, and recently illustrated *Objects & Oddities*. Discover more at [lisavandusen.com](http://lisavandusen.com) and [lisavandusenart.com](http://lisavandusenart.com).

**JEREMY WHEELER** has honed a unique style in the graphic arts world, creating

posters, illustrations, editorials, comics, branding, and more. His clients include *Esquire*, Death Waltz Recording Co., The Bang! Dance Party, Vault of Midnight, A.V. Club, FrightFest Original Posters, Blue Snaggletooth, KaPow! Posters, Silver Screen Society, the Ann Arbor District Library, the Ann Arbor Film Festival, the Overhead Army, and 826michigan, among others. Wheeler operates under the banner of his company, Bang! Media. You can see more of Jeremy's work at [thisisbangmedia.com](http://thisisbangmedia.com).

**JOHN KLEIN WILSON** has worked as a pirate, robot repairman, and Caribbean island dissident. He currently works deep underground in the Public Radio Mines, collecting ear gold.

**MIDEN WOOD** is a writer and illustrator based out of Chicago,

Illinois. She is grateful to 826 for providing a plethora of favorite subjects (including monsters, planets, and Rain Caves) for her illustrations. Peruse more of her work at [whocutyourjib.com](http://whocutyourjib.com).

**JAMES ZARK** has served time in Los Angeles as a comic book illustrator, consultant, and graphic designer and has worked primarily as a film storyboard artist for cult hits such as *The Wizard of Gore* and *Mortal Kombat: Legacy*. Rounding out a stint of drawing in little black and white boxes with commercial work for POM: Wonderful, and Latin music sensation Draco Rosa's music videos, Zark returned to hometown Chicago thrilled to work with children at the wonderful non-profit organization 826CHI. Zark is currently in San Francisco working on multiple graphic novels and print series. You can see more of Zark's work at [jameszark.com](http://jameszark.com).

