

Indiana Center for the Book Announces the 2024 Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award

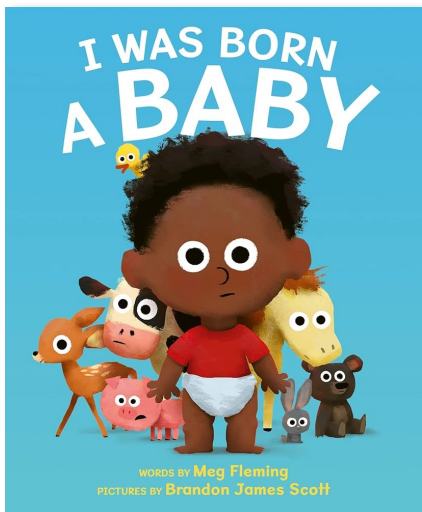


August 5, 2024 —INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Center for the Book Director Suzanne Walker is excited to announce that the 2024 recipient of the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award is the book *I Was Born a Baby* published by Harper Collins, written by Meg Fleming, and illustrated by Brandon James Scott.

In the book, a parade of animals tell us what they are called as babies. Hilarity ensues when the babies discover that some of them are referred to by the same name. For example, when they are babies, penguins, ostriches, and chickens are all called “chicks.” The book is a hilarious rhyming romp that delights all ages. This is the tenth year of the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award. Votes were submitted from 45 Indiana counties and over 3,000 Indiana children ages 0-5 voted.

Author Meg Fleming sent in the following remarks:

When I heard the news that I Was Born a Baby won the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award I was thunderstruck. While all awards are truly an honor, this one is decidedly special because the votes came in from real kids! (Not goats, mind you. Although, I hope they'd approve.) This book was inspired by my youngest son who, when he was three, walked in the room and made the declaration, "I was born a baby!" Several years later, I was thinking up a clever way to teach kids all the baby animal names and I remembered his declaration. That's when I started to wonder what baby animals would think about their own baby names. The rest is history. I proudly share this award with the immensely talented illustrator, Brandon James Scott, whose irresistible illustrations are full of dry wit, humor and warmth. (Tipping my hat to Brandon!) Thank you again to everyone who was instrumental in sharing I Was Born A Baby with the kids in Indiana. I am honored and gobsmacked! Lastly, I'm pretty sure this book was born... a booklet? What do you think?



Illustrator Brandon James Scott reacted by saying, "What a great honor! It's not often I get a chance to work with a story that is clever, funny, heartfelt and educational all at once. It was an absolute joy to illustrate Meg's wonderful words. Thank you so much for this recognition!"

The Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award is an initiative of the Indiana Center for the Book to promote early childhood literacy in Indiana. The nominees are chosen by the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Committee from a list of books nominated by library staff who work with children all over Indiana.

The nominated books are chosen for their ability to encourage parents and children to use the Every Child Ready to Read® practices of talking, singing, reading, writing and playing together. Caregivers can use the Firefly books as a quality go-to resource for having fun and learning with their young children.

A program guide is available for interested educators to use with children:

https://www.in.gov/library/files/Firefly-Program_Guide_2024.pdf

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Indiana residents! Visit this link for *I Was Born a Baby* resources!

<https://teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=83740>

Indiana Center for the Book / Indiana State Library

icb@library.in.gov

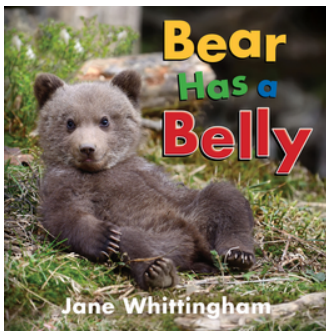
www.in.gov/library/icb.htm

Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award Ballot: 2024

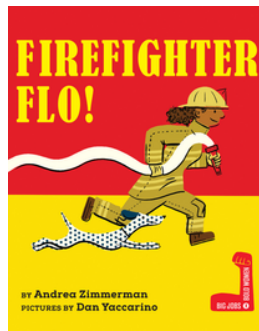


Indiana children ages 0-5 can vote with a caregiver.

Every child in Indiana, aged 0-5, may vote one time for the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award. Children will need the help of a parent, a librarian, a teacher, or other caregiver adult to circle one of the titles. Ask the child to point to their favorite. Once their vote is circled, turn this ballot in to your local Public Library or voting location. Libraries will then email their totals to the Indiana Center for the Book. The last day to report votes is July 31, 2024.



Bear Has a Belly
by Jane Whittingham



Firefighter Flo!
by Andrea Zimmerman



I Was Born a Baby
by Meg Fleming



Let's Go Puddling!
by Emma Perry



One, Two, Grandpa Loves You
by Shelly Becker

Prefer to vote online?



Visit the QR code or
<https://www.in.gov/library/icb/firefly> to access the
2024 Remote Voting Form



Indiana Center for the Book
Located at the Indiana State
Library 140 N. Senate Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46204
icb@library.in.gov

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