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March 2, 2016

2015 FLORIDA BOOK AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED DIANNE OCHILTREE WINS GOLD MEDAL FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - With its tenth annual competition now complete, the Florida Book Awards has announced winners for books published in 2015. More than 200 hundred eligible publications were submitted across the nine categories of competition.

Coordinated by the Florida State University Libraries, the Florida Book Awards is the nation's most comprehensive state book awards program. It was established in 2006 to celebrate the best Florida literature. Authors must be full-time Florida residents, except in the Florida nonfiction and visual arts categories, where the subject matter must focus on Florida.

Setting the standard for future cash prizes, the "Gwen P. Reichert Gold Medal for Children's Literature", now in its second year, is awarded to **Dianne Ochiltree** (www.dianneochiltree.com) of Sarasota for *It's a Seashell Day* (Blue Apple Books). This \$1000 cash award is in memory of Gwen P. Reichert and serves as a lasting tribute to honor her accomplishments as a rare book collector, nurturer of authors and their audience, and her commitment to children's education. Support for similar cash prizes associated with the eight other award categories are in development.

The winning authors will be honored at the Abitz Family Dinner, the annual awards banquet, which will take place in Tallahassee on April 7th at the Mission San Luis. The public is invited to attend. More information is available on the Florida Book Awards website.

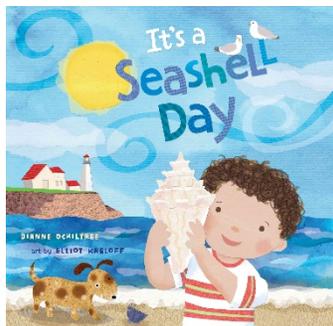
Children's Literature - Gold/Reichert Award:

It's a Seashell Day (Blue Apple Books) by **Dianne Ochiltree** (Sarasota), illustrations by Elliot Kreloff

Submissions for the 2015 awards were read by juries of three members, each nominated from across the state by co-sponsoring organizations. Jurors are authorized to select up to three medalists (including one gold winner, one silver runner-up and one bronze medalist) in each of the nine categories; jurors are also authorized to make no selections in a given year.

Co-sponsors of the competition include humanities organizations from across the state such as the Florida Center for the Book; the State Library and Archives of Florida; the Florida Historical Society; the Florida Humanities Council; the Florida Literary Arts Coalition; the Florida Library Association; the Florida Association for Media in Education; the Center for Literature and Theatre @ Miami Dade College; the Florida Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America; Friends of FSU Libraries; the Florida Writers Association; the Florida Literacy Coalition; and "Just Read, Florida!"

Learn more about the Florida Book Awards at floridabookawards.lib.fsu.edu.



IT'S A SEASHELL DAY

Dianne Ochiltree

Art by Elliot Kreloff

Blue Apple Books

July 2015 Ages 3-7

\$12.99-Hardcover ISBN 978-160905530-1

www.DianneOchiltree.com