

news

A letter from Adams Literary pg. 2

**Notable &
Quotable pg. 3**

**Around the world with
Adams Literary pg. 5**

Select Snapshots pg. 6

Q&A pg. 8 Omiblog! pg. 8

A Look Ahead pg. 9

In the Spotlight pg. 9

Abby & Jessie's Bookshelf pg. 10

Recent & Upcoming Books pg. 10

In the Works pg. 10



© Carlyn Beccia

Tracey and Josh, center, enjoy the West Coast Happy Hour with, from left, Margaret Peterson Haddix, Kristin Venuti, Alan Katz, Nathan Katz, Stephane Lacastaigneratte and Robyn Mundell.



A letter from Adams Literary

We welcome Quinlan Lee!

With a busy and productive summer behind us, we're happy to be heading into a fabulous fall season of books. With each new season comes change—and we're excited about some great new changes at Adams Literary.

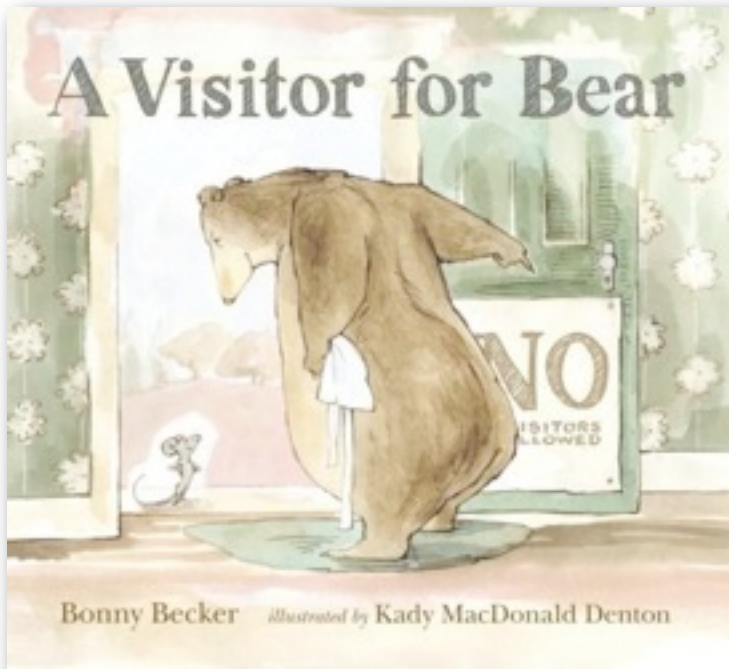
Our biggest change is the addition of Quinlan Lee (at right) to the Adams Literary family. For the past eight years Quinlan has worked as a freelance children's writer for Scholastic, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster, working on licensed projects for *Clifford Puppy Days*, *Dora the Explorer*, *Hello Kitty* and the *Planet Earth* series. She brings to Adams Literary a love of literature as well as administrative and project management experience.

Quinlan has lived all over the United States—and for the past eight years she's been raising her family in Charlotte with her husband, Steve. She has three children: Hannah, 12, Ann Catherine, 11, and Cooper, 7, who keep her busy with book clubs, homework and identifying creatures in the creek behind their home.

Quinlan will be working closely with Tracey and Josh on reading new manuscripts, among other things. Which brings us to the other big change: our submission policy. After much consideration, we've re-opened our doors to submissions, by email only. For complete details, please see Submissions on Page 8, or our web site.



Notable & Quotable



Bestsellers

Bonny Becker's *A Visitor for Bear* on *The New York Times* Bestseller List

Over the summer, Bonny Becker's *A Visitor for Bear* (Candlewick Press) reached #2 on *The New York Times* Picture Book Bestseller List.

And it's no surprise, as the story is truly endearing: Bear is quite sure he doesn't like visitors. He even has a sign. So when a mouse taps on his door one day, Bear tells him to leave. But when Bear goes to the cupboard to get a bowl, there is the mouse—small and gray and bright-eyed. In this slapstick tale that begs to be read aloud, all Bear wants is to eat his breakfast in peace, but the mouse—who keeps popping up in the most unexpected places—just won't go away!

Becker, author of award-winning picture books and middle-grade novels, says that the mouse in *A Visitor for Bear*

just popped into her head one day and wouldn't go away. It's a good thing: *Birthday for Bear* is scheduled for 2009, while *Bedtime for Bear* will come out in 2010. *Visitor* has sold in the UK to Walker Books; Adams Literary holds text rights for translation.

Cynthia Lord's *Rules* on *The New York Times* Bestseller List

As with the hardcover edition of her Newbery Honor book, Cynthia Lord's *Rules* (Scholastic Press) is currently on *The New York Times* bestseller list for children's paperbacks.

Lord is currently working on her next middle-grade novel, *Touch Blue*, and her first picture book, *Hot Rod Hamster*, is being illustrated by bestselling artist Derek Anderson.

Jenny Nimmo's *Charlie Bone and the Shadow* on *The New York Times* Bestseller List

The seventh and penultimate chapter in Jenny Nimmo's Red King saga, *Charlie Bone and the Shadow* (Orchard Books), put the series on the *The New York Times* bestseller list for a total of 44 weeks on the list since the series began.

Nimmo fans are eagerly awaiting the final installment of *Charlie Bone* next year, and in the meantime have been enjoying the paperback editions of *The Magician* trilogy.

News & Awards

Oprah Picks Becker and Haddix

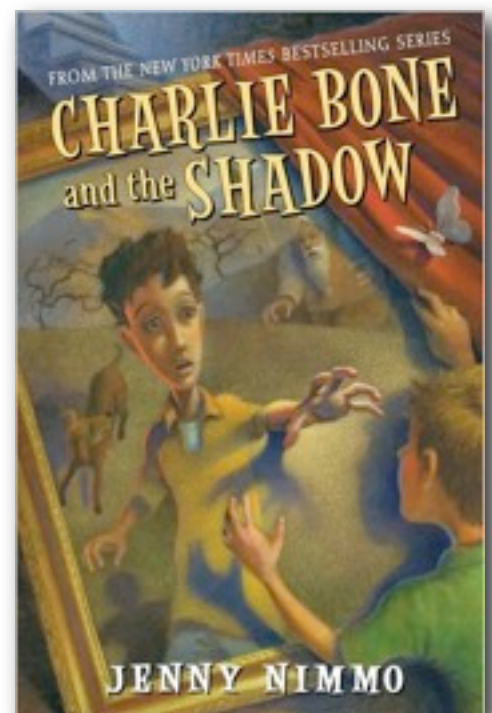
Two Adams Literary authors were selected to Oprah's Book Club Kids Reading List. Bonny Becker's *A Visitor for Bear* was selected in the 3–5 category, while Margaret Peterson Haddix's *Found* was selected in the 12 and Up category. The entire list can be found on www.oprah.com

Diamond Named to Top-10 List

Julia Golding's *The Diamond of Drury Lane* has been named one of *Booklist's* Top Ten Mystery for Youth books.

Sight and Uprising Honored by NYPL

Two Adams Literary authors were honored by the New York Public Library. Adrienne Maria Vrettos's *Sight* and Margaret Peterson Haddix's *Uprising* were both selected by the library as Books for the Teen Age, and a reception was held for all honorees.



Reviews

The Diamond of Drury Lane

By Julia Golding

“Young Cat, red-haired and full of curiosity, lives at the Theater Royal in Drury Lane, having been abandoned there as a wee babe and raised by the theater folk and Mr. Sheridan, the owner. Golding surrounds Cat with colorful characters. The butcher boy, also a boxer, heads up a gang that rivals that of evil Billy Boil. Johnny draws revolutionary cartoons and has a secret. The music master’s protégé, freed slave Pedro, plays the violin like an angel and becomes Cat’s partner in adventures. There are boxing and gang fights and pawnshops and a terrible jail and a lively pair of noble siblings who fall in with Cat; there are overheard conversations—like the one about a hidden diamond....The story itself plunges headlong from the theater into 1790s-era London’s muddy streets and silken drawing rooms.”

—Kirkus Reviews ★

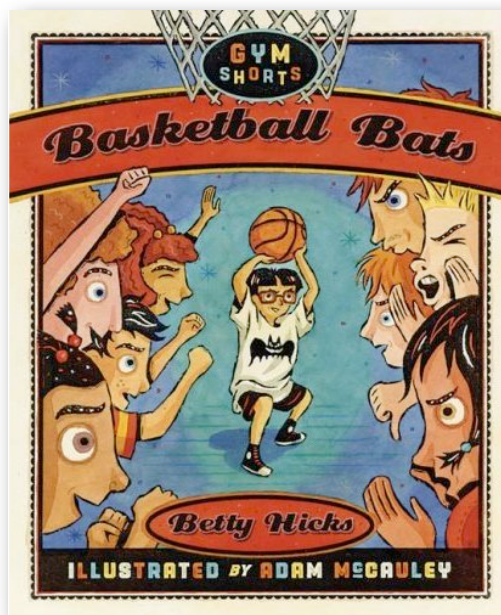
“A remarkable debut novel. Cat is a streetwise orphan living in the Drury Lane Theatre in 1790s London. Her budding friendships with violin prodigy Pedro, a former slave; two teenage members of the aristocracy; and the theatre’s mysterious new prompter are put to the test when she agrees to help safeguard the hidden treasure of the title. Golding’s fast-paced story abounds with atmosphere and adventure as Cat struggles to prevent the vicious leader of one of Covent Garden’s street gangs from finding the diamond. Along the way, she experiences a taste of political intrigue and begins to wonder what her future holds. The author’s liberal use of late-18th-century phraseology adds charm and color to this first-person tale, which is aided by a glossary in which the likable heroine explains each term. Cat and her friends are wholly three-dimensional....Readers will likely be too captivated by the charming prose, exciting plot, and Cat herself....”

—School Library Journal ★

Basketball Bats

By Betty Hicks

“This first in a series of sports-oriented books uses basketball to explore such topics as sportsmanship and friendship. Henry and five friends, three boys and two girls, are challenged to a basketball game by a sketchy group of players



calling themselves the Tigers. Turns out the Tigers cheat, but the newly dubbed Bats win anyway; their troubles with the Tigers don’t end there, however. In the second game Henry hogs the ball in an effort to compensate for the Tigers’ new player, Teen Boy, but the Bats’ loss makes him the goat. In the second book in the series, *Goof-Off Goalie*, the same friends play team soccer and this time Henry’s friend Goose takes the fore. He thinks being goalie will be a cinch. Turns out it isn’t so easy—it takes practice and good friends. With McCauley’s expressive spot illustrations accompanying Hicks’s breezily simple text, this series will be a great stepping-stone for reluctant or new readers, easily introducing topical issues with its blend of humor and sports. A real score!”

—Kirkus Reviews

Palace of Mirrors

By Margaret Peterson Haddix

“In this semi-sequel to 1999’s *Just Ella*, which imagined what happens after Cinderella moves to the Prince’s palace, readers meet another Cinderella-like character, this one raised to believe that she is the true princess of the realm at war with Ella’s kingdom. Fourteen-year-old Cecelia lives as a commoner, hidden in a remote village and tutored by kind Sir Stephen until she can claim her throne. When danger arises, naive Cecelia decides to pursue her promised fate. The narrative slowly builds suspense mixed with comedy as Cecelia and her best friend, a boy named Harper, slog over the wet countryside to the capital city, arriving looking even more ragged than usual.

Haddix isn’t content with a simple solution to Cecelia’s problem; she concocts several further dilemmas, gets poor Cecelia ever filthier and introduces savvy Ella on a state visit to help untangle the plot woven by the late queen. Completely unexpected results emerge. Plenty of fun here from a superior author.”

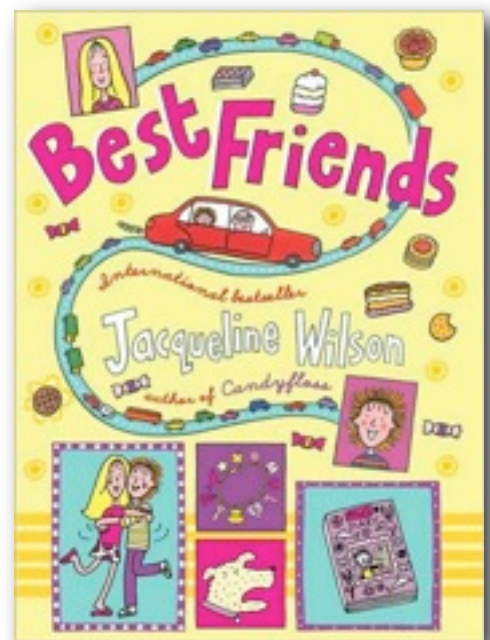
—Kirkus Reviews

Best Friends

By Jacqueline Wilson

Most middle-grade stories about a best friend moving away ultimately offer Adjustment, but Wilson is too fiercely on the side of her young heroines for that. Gemma’s friend Alice is moving up to Scotland, and both girls are distraught: “We can’t do anything. We’re just children. We don’t count,” said Alice bitterly.” But they certainly try, running away from Alice’s farewell party and almost catching the train to London. Gemma is disgraced; Alice moves away; the grownups, save Gemma’s grandfather, are unsympathetic. Wilson is probably the best grownup-hater in the business. Witness Gemma’s thoughts about Alice’s status-seeking mother: “I wanted to cork her mouth and cook her in her Aga and flush her down her en suite toilet and roast her on her barbecue and trample her to death riding Alice’s pony.” The story manages an ending that is realistic but happy—while new horizons and new friends appear, Gemma and Alice remain, in the last words of the book, “best friends forever.”

—Horn Book



Around the world with Adams Literary

An inside look at our Scandinavian affiliate, Ia Atterholm Agency/ICBS.

In our continuing series profiling each one of our international affiliates, we spoke recently with Ia Atterholm (shown at right), head of of Ia Atterholm Agency/ICBS, who represents translation rights for Adams Literary throughout Scandinavia from her office in Malmö, Sweden.

Ia Atterholm Agency/ICBS represents international publishers and agencies in Scandinavia and Scandinavian authors worldwide. Ia, who has extensive experience from the publishing industry in Sweden and the other Scandinavian countries, founded the agency in 2001.

Ia spent seven years as editor-in-chief with a leading Swedish publisher. Her background also includes seven years as a children's book editor and doing freelance editorial work, including translations. In July 2005, Ia also began running the former Danish-based agency ICBS (founded by Virginia Allen Jensen), sharing the same office in central Malmö.

Can you tell us about the history of your agency?

I started my agency seven years ago. Before then I had been working editorially for 15 years. I've always been interested in the rights side of my previous jobs.

What is the overall state of the children's book market in Scandinavia?

The five countries I cover—Sweden (where I'm based), Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland—are all very stable and the literacy rate is high. There is a strong tradition of great writers for children here, for example H.C. Andersen and Astrid Lindgren, to

name a few. But because we have very good authors, publishers are very picky when it comes to buying translation rights from outside Scandinavia.

Is there one book in Scandinavia which is a huge hit right now?

There is nothing huge right now. Apart from *Harry Potter*, local authors in each country normally occupy the top positions in the bestseller charts.

Which genres that you receive from Adams Literary do you think will be easiest for you to license, and which are the toughest?

Low-key literary fiction is hard. If the subject is some kind of social issue, it's even harder.

Can you help us understand how a work from the US is considered and translated by Scandinavian publishers?

Knowledge of the English language is very high in Scandinavia. Most publishers use readers, who read early versions of manuscripts—often submitted via e-mail—or finished



copies of the books.

Any other words of wisdom for our authors regarding your territory?

It often takes time to get decisions here. Sometimes when I get together with agent colleagues from bigger countries like Germany, France and Italy I'm amazed at the speed and the level of competition among the publishers in those markets. In Scandinavia, things take a longer time and the competition has slowed down because of a lot of mergers in the last few years.

Select Snapshots

New York City, Bologna, Charlotte & Los Angeles



Margery Cuyler (center) and Trish Batey (right) enjoy the party while Sam Ita (top left) and Randy Siegel (top right) strike up a conversation. Below: Josh with Rebecca Anderson.



In New York City, Adams Literary held its first happy hour for clients during the national SCBWI conference. Above: Everyone enjoys the festivities among great company. At our West Coast happy hour in LA this summer, below, Tracey spends time with Stephane Lacastaigneratte and Robyn Mundell, while Josh is all smiles with Alan Katz after his hilarious keynote.



As much as we love living and working from our base in Charlotte, NC, we travel frequently to conferences and events around the country—and around the world—in support of Adams Literary authors and artists. ➔



In 2008, we've been to New York City, Bologna, Los Angeles and back to New York City—for various conferences, meetings and celebrations.

We've also been fortunate to have several clients and editors we frequently work with travel to Charlotte to visit us at our home and office. We love to entertain guests—you know, Charlotteans are known for their Southern hospitality—so please let us know if you'll be in the area.

We hope you enjoy this selection of photographs from some of the many events over the past several months.

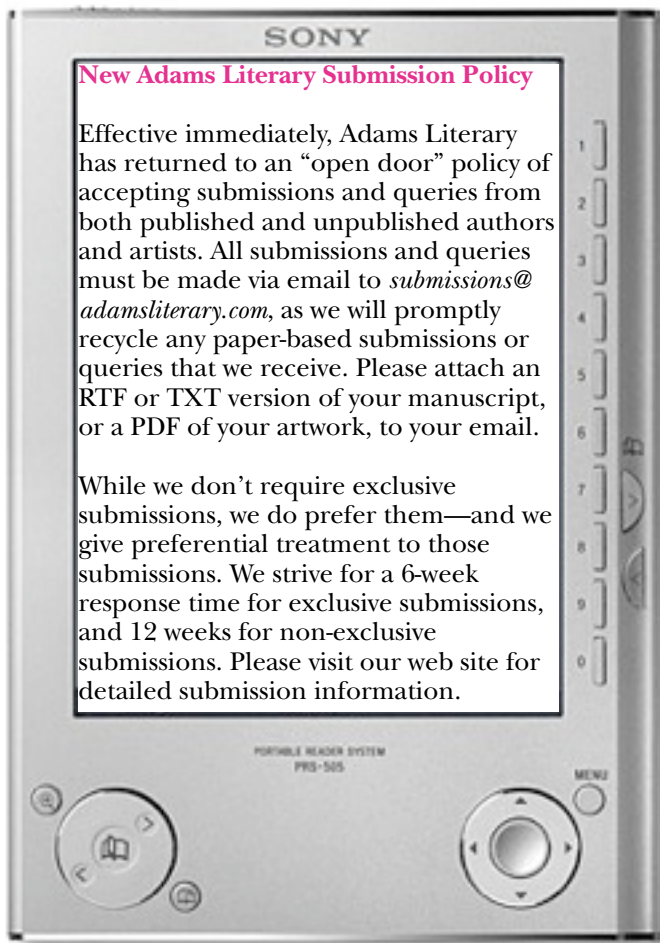


Clockwise, from top left: In Bologna, our clients books were the talk of the town—and some, such as *Operazione Matrimonio* by Coleen Paratore and *Moby Dick* by Sam Ita, could be found in local bookstores. Tracey stands next to a poster of Henry Neff's *The Second Siege* at the Random House booth. In New York this fall, our UK co-agent Caroline Walsh enjoys a beautiful day in between visits to publishers. Scholastic editor Leslie Budnick shows off sketches for Cynthia Lord's *Hot Rod Hamster*. Tracey and Josh with Chris Woodworth, during her visit to Charlotte.



Submissions

Q&A with Josh & Tra



New Adams Literary Submission Policy

Effective immediately, Adams Literary has returned to an “open door” policy of accepting submissions and queries from both published and unpublished authors and artists. All submissions and queries must be made via email to submissions@adamsliterary.com, as we will promptly recycle any paper-based submissions or queries that we receive. Please attach an RTF or TXT version of your manuscript, or a PDF of your artwork, to your email.

While we don't require exclusive submissions, we do prefer them—and we give preferential treatment to those submissions. We strive for a 6-week response time for exclusive submissions, and 12 weeks for non-exclusive submissions. Please visit our web site for detailed submission information.

Can you please explain your new submission policy?

When we started Adams Literary in 2004, we had an “open door” policy to submissions. However, the reality is that as a boutique agency, we simply couldn't keep up with demand without diverting time and attention from our clients—so we had to close our doors to unsolicited submissions shortly thereafter, as serving our clients is and always will be our foremost priority.

Since that time, we've struggled with the best way to discover new talent, while managing the level of submissions we receive and serving the needs of our clients. In our mind, the best option had been to accept submissions from attendees of the conferences at which we serve on the faculty. While we still highly encourage those interested in representation by Adams Literary to attend these conferences, as it provides a good opportunity to learn about our literary interests and working style, we recognize that many people cannot—for financial or other reasons—attend a conference. As a result, we have reinstated our “open door” policy, combined with a new email-only policy that helps us manage the expected increase in submissions—and saves you paper and postage. To encourage exclusive submissions, we have adopted a tiered policy, with exclusive submissions receiving preferred treatment and faster response times.

Why must I submit my manuscript in RTF or TXT?

In our ongoing effort to help the environment by reducing our—and your—paper consumption, all submissions will be read on Sony Readers, which accept RTF and TXT files, and PDFs for artwork.

Omiblog!

Bestselling author Margaret Peterson Haddix has always had legions of fans—but until recently, has had no web site. With the launch of her new series, *The*

Missing, she also launched her online presence at www.haddixbooks.com. Visitors can learn more about Margaret and all her books, including watching a video preview of *Found*, the first book in *The Missing* series. Young fans can also find Margaret's school visit and signing schedule, as well as all sorts of pertinent information for their book reports

Young readers who live on Facebook or their blogs will undoubtedly want to “download” debut author Susie Day's *serafina67* *urgently requires life*, published by Scholastic Press in August. Day is currently working on her second YA novel, *My Invisible Boyfriend*, also to be published by Scholastic.



In the Spotlight

One of the most rewarding parts of our job is discovering talented new authors, and helping to launch their careers. So, we're happy to spotlight what we're sure will be some dazzling debuts.

The After

By Amy Huntley

This YA novel in which a dead 17-year-old narrator haunts her own past life to discover who killed her, was acquired by Donna Bray at Balzer & Bray, in a two-book deal, for publication on their inaugural list in Fall 2009.

Leaving the Bellweathers

By Kristin Venuti

What do these things have in common? Three very loud

triplets, an albino crocodile, fugitive circus performers and an oh-so-proper English butler? They all live in a lighthouse in Eelsmack-by-the-Bay in this middle-grade novel acquired by Regina Griffin at Egmont USA for their debut list in Fall 2009.

Windblowne

By Stephen Messer

This middle-grade fantasy adventure about a boy blown away from his mountain world of treehouses and kites, and his encounters with a mad genius, robotic hawks, a missing moon, and the secrets of the powerful night winds was acquired by Jim Thomas at Random House for a 2010 pub.

We're happy to spotlight recently announced works by a few dazzling debut authors (clockwise from top): Stephen Messer, Kristin Venuti, and Amy Huntley.



Client List

R.J. Anderson
Matthew Armstrong
Linda Ashman
Michael Barakiva
Patricia Batey
Carlyn Beccia
Bonny Becker
John Claude Bemis
Ed Briant
A.E. Cannon
Tom Chmielewski
Margery Cuyler
Jacqueline Davies
Susie Day*
Kelsey Johnson Defatte
Stacy DeKeyser
Terry Farish
Susan Gates*
Maggi Gibson*
Julia Golding*
Rosemary Graham
Valiska Gregory
Margaret Peterson Haddix
Marsha Hayles
Betty Hicks
Gene Hult
Amy Huntley
Sam Ita
Ann Jacobus
Kathleen Jeffrie Johnson
Sherryl Jordan
Kathleen Karr
Alan Katz

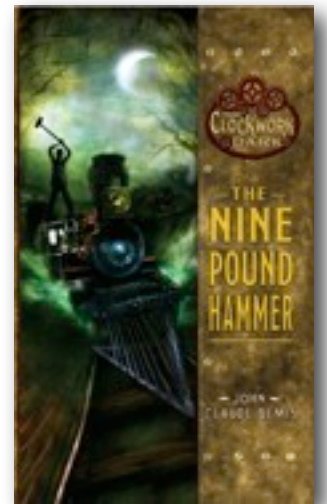
Bert Kitchen*
Stephane Lacastaigneratte
Kimberley Griffiths Little
Cynthia Lord
Heather Mackey
Hazel Marshall*
Geraldine McCaughrean*
Joyce McDonald
Stephen Messer
Robyn Mundell
Michael Morpurgo*
Henry H. Neff
Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Jenny Nimmo*
Barbara Odanaka
Coleen Murtagh Paratore
Charlie Price
Candice Ransom
Susanna Reich
Randy Siegel
Susan Spain
Michael Street
Jeremy Strong*
Brenda Sturgis
Sarah Sullivan
Kyra Teis
Jenny Valentine*
Kristin Venuti
Adrienne Maria Vrettos
Sue Wilkowsky
Jacqueline Wilson*
Rosie Winstead
Chris Woodworth

*Adams Literary represents clients of David Higham Associates, London, for US rights

A look ahead

Ever since we announced the deal, people have been asking about John Claude Bemis's debut, *The Nine Pound Hammer*, the first book in *The Clockwork Dark* series. We're happy to provide a sneak peek of the book, which publishes in Summer 2009 in the US by Random House and in the UK by Oxford University Press.

"Drawing on Southern folklore and American legend, in particular the story of John Henry, John Claude Bemis has constructed a brand-new mythology," says Random House BFYR Editorial Director Jim Thomas. "The setting is the American South at the end of the 19th century—the age of trains and Reconstruction, and the hoodoo magic of the Appalachian wild. John's heroes are connected to that wilderness and find their power in nature; they are elusive characters who defend the common people. Their adversary is an ancient evil called the Gog, who, in any time, desires dominion. In this age, he takes the form of a captain of industry, a cold and calculating champion of the machine. The John Henry of legend managed to destroy the Gog's previous creation. Now the Gog is building another, even more insidious than the first, that will bend all of humanity to his will. With John Henry gone, it falls to a new generation of heroes to take up the fight."



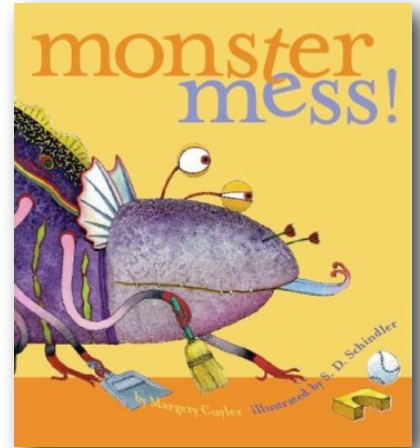
"It's flannel shirts versus velvet frock coats, woolen apple caps versus stovepipe hats in John Claude Bemis's original approach to adventure fantasy."

Abby & Jessie's Bookshelf

Our daughter Abby, who recently turned 6, is one of picture-book author Margery Cuyler's biggest fans. Recently, she's read *Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler* and *Hooray for Reading Day*, both from Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. So she was thrilled to read Margery's latest picture book, *Monster Mess!* (Margaret K. McElderry Books), her second collaboration with artist S.D. Schindler. The pair had previously collaborated on their 2002 picture book, *Skeleton Hiccups*, also from Margaret K. McElderry Books.

The book, which was released in August, is a funny story about a monster who comes to visit a sleeping boy, only to confront his messy room. So the monster does what any monster would do: clean his room!

"Rhyming, repetitive text and whimsical images whirl on the pages, mak[es] this a fun read-aloud," says *School Library Journal*. Says Abby, in a letter she wrote to Margery: "I love *Monster Mess!* I like your book with all my heart."



Recent & Upcoming Books



In the Works

Adams Literary is proud to represent author and artist

Carlyn Beccia, whose portfolio can be found on her web site, www.carlynbeccia.com. Carlyn has illustrated jacket covers, including the Coretta Scott King Award-winning and Newbery Honor book, *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis, and has written and illustrated her own non-fiction work, such as the playful *B is for Ballyhoo* and the recently released *The Raucous Royals*, both from Houghton Mifflin.



While Carlyn continues to shine with her non-fiction work—her next contracted project is called *Mad Medicine*—she has begun expanding into fiction and has developed several exciting picture book ideas. Carlyn, whose quirky and unique style has made many fans, is currently working on an as-yet unsigned picture book called *The Shoe Princess*, thumbnails of which are pictured above and below. It's a funny story about a princess who can't get enough shoes—and, based on initial feedback from our own 6-year-old "princess", Abby, young girls won't be able to get enough of Carlyn!



September
Palace of Mirrors
Return to the world of *Just Ella* in this Margaret Peterson Haddix novel in which a princess-in-hiding and a pretender to the throne discover that nothing is as it seems.

The Second Siege
The second book in Henry H. Neff's *The Tapestry* quartet finds Max McDaniels fighting evil as he journeys through Europe.

Cat Among the Pigeons
The second book in Julia Golding's award-winning *Cat Royal* series plunges

readers in the underbelly of London in a mission for justice.

Best Friends

Jacqueline Wilson is at her best in this story about whether two friends can remain so when one of them has to move away.

October

Charlie Bone and the Shadow

The penultimate chapter in the Charlie Bone saga from New York Times bestseller Jenny Nimmo finds Charlie battling the enchanter Count Harken and trying to save his ancestor who has been imprisoned in Badlock.

adamsLiterary

7845 Colony Road, C4 #215, Charlotte, NC 28226
704.542.1440 tel, 704.542.1450 fax
info@adamsliterary.com, www.adamsliterary.com