

BOOKS BY BRIAN FLOCA

MOONSHOT: THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO 11

ISBN: 978-1-4169-5046-2 (HC)

LIGHTSHIP

ISBN: 978-1-4169-2436-4 (HC)

ALA Notable Children's Book

ALA Robert F. Sibert Award Honor Book

Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Books of the Year

Booklist Editors' Choice

NYPL 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing

2007 Cybil Award Winner

THE RACECAR ALPHABET

ISBN: 978-0-689-85091-2 (HC)

ALA Notable Children's Books

Kirkus Editor's Choice

Nick Jr. Family Magazine Best Books of the Year

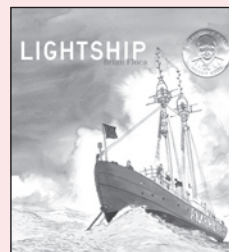
Parenting Magazine's Best Books of the Year

NYPL 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing



MOONSHOT: THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO 11

ISBN: 978-1-4169-5046-2 (HC)

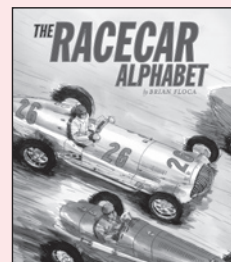


LIGHTSHIP

ISBN: 978-1-4169-2436-4 (HC)

★ "This handsome book respects both its subject and its audience."
—*Booklist*, starred review

★ "This fascinating, little-known slice of history should prove interesting to every child."
—*School Library Journal*, starred review



THE RACECAR ALPHABET

ISBN: 978-0-689-85091-2 (HC)

★ "[An] astonishing sense of movement and speed."
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

Text copyright © 2008 by Brian Floca.

Brian

FLOCA



"What I love most in bookmaking is taking a subject that touches and animates my own interest, learning as much as I can about it, and then finding a way to share what I've learned with young readers."
—Brian Floca

ILLUSTRATED BY BRIAN FLOCA

THE HINKY-PINK: AN OLD TALE

RETOLD BY MEGAN MCDONALD

ISBN: 978-0-689-87588-5 (HC)

NYPL 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing

UNCLES AND ANTLERS

BY LISA WHEELER

ISBN: 978-0-689-86469-8

THE MAX & MO SERIES BY PATRICIA LAKIN:

MAX & MO'S FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

ISBN: 978-1-4169-2533-0 (PB)

MAX & MO GO APPLE PICKING

ISBN: 978-1-4169-2535-4 (PB)

MAX & MO'S HALLOWEEN SURPRISE

ISBN: 978-1-4169-2539-2 (PB)

MAX & MO MAKE A SNOWMAN

ISBN: 978-1-4169-2537-8 (PB)

FROM SLAVE TO SOLDIER: BASED ON A TRUE CIVIL WAR STORY

BY DEBORAH HOPKINSON

ISBN: 978-0-689-83965-8 (HC) • ISBN: 978-0-689-83966-5 (PB)

BILLY AND THE REBEL: BASED ON A TRUE CIVIL WAR STORY

BY DEBORAH HOPKINSON

ISBN: 978-0-689-83964-1 (HC) • ISBN: 978-0-689-83396-0 (PB)

Richard Jackson Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers
Aladdin Books for Young Readers
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
1230 Avenue of the Americas • New York, NY 10020
SimonSaysKids.com • SimonSaysTEACH.com

I was born and grew up in Temple, Texas. My dad ran – and runs – the family business, a soft drink bottling plant founded

by his father. During childhood visits to the plant I was exposed to a lot of machinery and gears and caffeine – all of which would later interest me professionally. My mom, like her mother, was a teacher. She left teaching to stay at home with my sister and me.

Growing up, there was an emphasis on doing well in school but also plenty of time for other things. I explored the woods behind our house with my best friend, swam at the neighborhood pool, played soccer, and watched the old movies that Channel 11 ran in the afternoons..

And I did a lot of drawing. I was lucky to have supportive parents; I remember drawing with my mom, and my dad bringing office paper home from the plant for sketches. My teachers, too, found ways large and small to encourage my interest in art. In the fourth grade Mrs. Persons included my drawings of scenes from *Star Wars* on the class's mimeographed lesson plans, even though (I'm pretty sure) the Death Star had nothing to do with

what we were studying that week. It was a show of support that I still remember, and I suppose it was also my debut as a published illustrator.

After Temple High School, I attended Brown University, where I studied art, history, and art history; cartooned for the school newspaper; and took classes at the art school just down College Hill, the Rhode Island School of Design. The art department at Brown emphasized conceptual and

“As an author and illustrator I’m often pulled to the sort of subjects that would have appealed to my younger self – racecars, ships, and astronauts . . .”

abstract work, but in the illustration department at RISD the focus was on representation and narrative – on telling stories with pictures. That was how I had always enjoyed drawing and where I felt most at home. A RISD class with David Macaulay opened my eyes to picture books as a challenging and interesting way to tell visual stories, and then led to an introduction to Avi and to illustrating my first book.

As an author and illustrator I’m often pulled to

subjects that would have appealed to my younger self – racecars, ships, and astronauts, for instance. What I love most about bookmaking is finding a way to share what I’ve learned with young readers. I try to do that with language and pictures that are accessible and interesting and hopefully sometimes funny, and that trust readers’ intelligence and curiosity. Mostly I do that just by searching for the images that I’d most enjoy creating and seeing

myself. Sometimes there’s a lot of research involved, but it’s to answer questions that I want answered, to help me understand what I want to understand, and I always enjoy it. I suppose a part of what I’m sharing with readers is the process of discovery that I go through in order to be able to tell the stories that I want to tell. My hope as an author and illustrator is that the wonder and pleasure of that process ends up in the books for readers to discover for themselves. ■