

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

AMANDA GORMAN

1/20/21

SOMEHOW we've
WEATHERED & WITNESSED
a **NATION** that isn't
BROKEN but SIMPLY
UNFINISHED
WE the SUCCESSORS
of a **COUNTRY** & a
TIME where a
SKINNY BLACK GIRL
descended from **SLAVES**
& RAISED by a
SINGLE MOTHER
CAN **DREAM** of
BECOMING
PRESIDENT
only to find
HERSELF
RECITING for **ONE**



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The *Illinois Reading Council Journal (IRCJ)* is published quarterly and is distributed as a service to all members of the Illinois Reading Council. Membership in the Illinois Reading Council can be obtained through local and special interest reading councils in Illinois. For information, contact the Illinois Reading Council at 203 Landmark Drive, Suite B, Normal, IL 61761. IRC staff may also be reached by telephone at (309) 454-1341. Libraries and educational institutions can subscribe to *IRCJ* at an annual rate of \$40.00; address inquiries to the Executive Director at the IRC office. Because the *IRCJ* serves as an open forum, its contents do not necessarily reflect or imply endorsement or advocacy by the Illinois Reading Council, its officers, or its members.

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About the Cover Artist

Neil Shapiro

Originally from Kansas City Missouri, I can't remember a time when I wasn't drawing. I interned at Hallmark Cards after graduating high school, and went on to attend Art Center College of Design, where I received my BFA. After a long career in advertising art direction, creating award-winning campaigns for clients like McDonald's, Gatorade, and Cap'n Crunch, I went back to school and got a Master's in Illustration from Syracuse University. My illustration clients have included the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Nation*, *Kansas City Magazine*, Chelsea Books, and Red Rock Press, and I was the supervising designer of a 102' public mural celebrating the history of my neighborhood.

I'm especially proud of the work I've been creating over the last couple of years: both *The Jazz Alphabet*—my personal look at 26 jazz greats from A to Z—and my portraits of heroes who have made a deep impression on me. Currently, I'm at work on *The Jazz Alphabet 2 –The Flip Side*. I live in Chicago with my wife Maureen Gorman and our dog Ruka.

<http://neilshapiroillustration.com/index.asp>

Front Cover: "Amanda Gorman, 1/20/21"

Back Cover: "Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 1933-2020"

You can find more artwork by Neil Shapiro on pages 10, 25, and 68.



ILLINOIS READS

A READING STATE OF MIND



Saturday, November 12, 2022

Illinois Valley Community College
815 North Orlando Smith Rd
Oglesby, Illinois
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Everyone is invited to attend the 2022 Illinois Reads Book Festival. Many authors will be present. Bring your books and have them signed at this event! Books will also be available for purchase from Anderson's Bookshops.

Visit our website for more information www.illinoisreads.org

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Bodies are Cool
by Tyler Feder
It's So Quiet: A Not-Quite-Going-to-Bed Book
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Three Squeezes
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Time to Recharge, Harper!
by Kelly Leigh Miller
Yo! Yes?
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"When I'm sometimes asked 'when will there be enough women on the Supreme Court?'... & I say 'when there are nine', people are **SHOCKED.**

But there'd been **NINE MEN** & nobody's ever raised a **QUESTION** about that."



Ruth Bader Ginsburg
1933-2020