



# ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

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## ***About the Cover Artist***

### **Eric Rohmann**

The cover art has graciously been shared by award-winning Illinois illustrator Eric Rohmann. They are taken from his book *HoneyBee: The Busy Life of Apis Meliflerra*, co-authored with his wife, fellow award-winner Candace Fleming. Eric is also the author/illustrator of *My Friend Rabbit*, *Cinder Eyed Cats*, *A Kitten Tale*, and *Bone Dog*. Other books co-authored with Candace include *Giant Squid*, *Bulldozer's Big Day*, and *Oh No!*

Eric notes, "My favorite part of the bookmaking process is the beginning: exploring, doodling, daydreaming, discovering. This is when ideas come alive, when thoughts are put to paper and made tangible. At first I only have an inkling of what I want the finished book to look like, and I'll put those first rudimentary ideas down in pencil sketches. Then I write, and then a few more pictures informed by the words. Then more writing . . . more pictures . . . words . . . pictures . . . more words, until the story starts to find its way. From there, I can see my choices and move ahead."

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## ***About the Photography***

### **Brad Betz**

Brad Betz is a professional photographer from Chicago, Illinois. Since 1994, Brad has been exploring the world through photography. He attended DePaul University where he took his first photography class, and he continued to study photojournalism at Columbia College Chicago under the tutelage of Photojournalism Pulitzer winner, John H. White. Brad has been published online and in print in various publications, including *Chicago Public Radio* and *Time* magazine. His work has also been exhibited at The Art Institute of Chicago.

You can find Brad's photographs on pages 25, 26, 34, 39, 52, and 67.

# ILLINOIS READS

## A READING STATE OF MIND



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*This is Music: Drums*  
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*Chicago, Baby!*  
by Feather Flores and  
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*ABC Animals!*  
by Stephen F. Majsak  
*I'll Be Your Polar Bear*  
by Justin Roberts  
*Molly on the Moon*  
by Mary Robinette Kowal

### **6-8**

*Courage*  
by Barbara Binns  
*The Civil War of Amos Abernathy*  
by Michael Leali  
*Pilar Ramirez and the Escape from Zafa*  
by Julian Randall  
*Tumble*  
by Celia C. Pérez  
*ReThink the Internet: How to Make the Digital  
World a Lot Less Sucky*  
by Trisha Prabhu  
*Underground Fire: Hope, Sacrifice, and Courage  
in the Cherry Mine Disaster*  
by Sally M. Walker

### **K-2**

*The Most Haunted House in America*  
by Jarrett Dapier  
*Stella Keeps the Sun Up*  
by Clothilde Ewing  
*Elephant's Big Solo*  
by Sarah Kurpiel  
*The Meaning of Pride*  
by Rosiee Thor and illustrated by Sam Kirk  
*Tortoise and Hare: A Fairy Tale to Help You  
Find Balance*  
by Susan Verde and illustrated by Jay Fleck  
*Yetis are the Worst!*  
by Alex Willan

### **9-12**

*A Man Called Horse: John Horse and the Black  
Seminole Underground Railroad*  
by Glennette Tilley Turner  
*Murder Among Friends: How Leopold and Loeb  
Tried to Commit the Perfect Crime*  
by Candace Fleming  
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Achieve Success*  
by Kendall Coyne  
*Strike the Zither*  
by Joan He  
*The Wolves Are Watching*  
by Natalie Lund  
*Darling*  
by K. Ancrum

### **3-5**

*Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks*  
by Suzanne Slade and  
illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera  
*Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of  
Charles Henry Turner*  
by Janice N. Harrington  
*Pighearted*  
by Alex Perry  
*A Rover's Story*  
by Jasmine Warga  
*Apple Crush*  
by Lucy Knisley  
*Three Strike Summer*  
by Skyler Schrempp

### **Adult**

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by Julia Fine  
*Grace: President Obama and Ten Days in the  
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by Cody Keenan  
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