

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Brad Hruska

“And the 2011 winner is...”

The world of Children’s Literature is filled with many awards; one of them being the Caldecott Medal. This prestigious recognition was named after the English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, one of three influential children’s artists during the nineteenth-century.

The Caldecott Medal is presented annually by the “Association for Library Service to Children” to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book written the previous year.

This year’s award has been bestowed to “A Sick Day for Amos McGee” by Philip Stead, illustrated by Erin Stead. In this heart-warming tale, readers meet Amos McGee, a seasoned zookeeper. Amos wakes up every morning, swaps his pajamas for a freshly-pressed uniform, and enjoys his usual breakfast of oatmeal and tea. He then makes his way to the bus station and waits for the number five bus.

Amos has a lot of responsibilities at the zoo, but no matter how busy Amos is, he always has time to spend with his animal friends. He often plays chess with the elephant, who thinks and thinks before making a move; races the tortoise, who never ever loses; sits quietly with the penguin, who is very shy; lends a handkerchief to the rhinoceros, who always has a runny nose;” and at sunset, reads stories to the owl, who is afraid of the dark.

One morning, Amos awoke with “the sniffles” and sneezes” and decided to spend the day in bed.

At the zoo, his dear friends waited patiently for Amos to arrive...”“Where is Amos?’ the animals thought.

After waiting a while, the group decided that they were going to see what was wrong with Amos. The animals made their way out of their cages, passed the zoo gates, and boarded the number five bus to Amos’ house.

When Amos heard them approaching the doorway to his’ bedroom, the elderly man sat up and was very happy to see his unique guests! The elephant engaged Amos in a game of chess, and the tortoise played a low-energy game of hide-and-seek with him. The penguin kept Amos’ feet warm and toasty while he napped, and the rhinoceros provided Amos with a handkerchief every time he sneezed. At the end of the day, the owl tucked Amos into bed and read him a story. The next morning when the alarm went off, everyone awoke refreshed and feeling much better.

The next time you are in the mood to read a great book, be sure to stop by the Columbus Public Library and check out the many award winning materials we have to offer. I am sure no matter what your taste; you will find a book hailed for its literary content and its ability to provoke readers’ imaginations. If you have any questions regarding the Caldecott Medal or any other juvenile literature award, please feel free to contact me at 564-7116 opt. 4.