Liz Garton Scanlon

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Author, Teacher, Speaker

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Teaching

Austin Community College, Faculty, English Dept. and Creative Writing Dept. Developed, launched and taught the College's first-ever courses in writing for young people. Also led courses in poetry and English Composition. 1994-2000 and 2005-2013.

SCBWI, full day and weekend-long intensives on crafting picture books, using poetic devices, utilizing research while writing novels, writing in rhyme, creating concept books, revision, and more, for SCBWI-Houston, SCBWI-Wisconsin, SCBWI-Chicago, SCBWI-Indiana, SCBWI-Florida, SCBWI-Northern California, SCBWI-Austin and more, 2005-the present.

Writers' League of Texas, numerous half- and full-day workshops on a variety of topics including "Writing in Rhyme", "Using Metaphor and other Poetic Devices", "Setting as Character", "Revising for Meaning", "Lyricism for Novelists", and more, 2009-the present.

The Writing Barn, a weekend-long intensive on "Perfecting the Picture Book", co-facilitated with author Audrey Vernick and agent Erin Murphy, 2014; two six-week long Advance Picture Book workshops, fall 2015 and winter 2016; and several single workshops in rhyme, lyricism and creating child-centered work.

Vermont College of Fine Arts, Core Faculty, Writing for Children and Young Adults. Twice a year residencies included facilitating workshops, giving lectures and participating in panels; year-round work included serving as a one-on-one advisor for master's candidate writers. 2016-2024; Faculty Co-Chair 2021-2023.

Whale Rock Literary Workshops, teacher and mentor via picture book webinar, chapter book workshop, and semester-long teaching and mentorship for masters-level online craft community, 2023-present.

Books

A Sock is a Pocket for Your Toes, illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser, Harper Collins, 2004 (ages 4-8). A Junior Library Guild selection; a Children's Crown Gallery finalist; a Children's Book-of-the-Month-Club selection; a featured title at the Texas Book Festival; inspired annual book-based performance by Salt Lake City's Tanner Dance Company; a featured garden at Bookworm Gardens children garden in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

All the World, illustrated by Marla Frazee, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2009 (ages 3-8). A 2010 Caldecott Honor Book; a New York Times Bestseller; a Best Book of 2009 in The New York Times, Horn Book, Publisher's Weekly, Kirkus and School Library

Journal; an ALA Notable Book; a Parents' Choice Gold Award; a Blue Ribbon Book from the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; a New York Public Library Children's Book for Reading and Sharing; Winner of the 2009 Cybils Award; a 2010 Indies Choice Honor Award; an Indie Bestseller; a Reading Rockstars pick; a Texas 2x2 Reading List selection; a Scholastic Bookclub selection; a featured title at the Texas Book Festival and the Bozeman Book Festival; selected for General Mills' Cheerios Spoonfuls of Stories campaign. Foreign language versions include: Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Korean, Hebrew and Mandarin Chinese. Video version by Scholastic-Weston Woods features narrator Joanne Woodward. Boardbook version released 2015.

Noodle & Lou, illustrated by Arthur Howard, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2011(ages 2-6). A Bank Street "Best Books of the Year" selection; a Reading Rockstars pick; selected for General Mills' Cheerios Spoonful of Stories campaign; a featured title at the Texas Book Festival and the Bozeman Book Festival.

Think Big, illustrated by Vanessa Newton, Bloomsbury, 2012 (ages 3-6). A Children's Book-of-the-Month-Club selection; a Scholastic Bookclub selection; inspired Think Big summer camp at Bookworm Gardens children garden in Sheboygan, Wisconsin; a featured title at the Texas Book Festival; a Reading Rockstars Pick.

Happy Birthday, Bunny!, illustrated by Stephanie Graegin, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2013 (ages 4-8). Multiple starred reviews; a featured title at the Texas Book Festival.

The Good-Pie Party, illustrated by Kady Macdonald Denton, Arthur Levine Books/Scholastic, 2014 (ages 4-8). An Indie Next Pick; a featured title at the Texas Book Festival; inspired "Good-Pie Parties" at Good Shepard Episcopal Pre-School and others.

The Great Good Summer, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2015 (ages 8-12). Multiple starred reviews; a featured title at the Texas Book Festival; a featured Recommended Middle Grade Read at ALA Conference; paperback version released in May 2016.

In the Canyon, illustrated by Ashley Wolff, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2015 (ages 4-8). Selected for the Leaping Lizards List in Cypress-Fair Texas district; featured in National Park Stores for the National Park Centennial Year; a Reading Rockstars pick; a Texas Book Festival Selection.

Bob, Not Bob, co-written with Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Matt Cordell, Disney/Hyperion, 2017. A Texas Book Festival selection; multiple stars and best-of lists; multiple state lists including Illinois Monarch Children's Choice Award. Abilene AISD Mockingbird Award.

Another Way to Climb a Tree, illustrated by Hadley Hooper, Neal Porter Books/Roaring Book Press, 2017 (ages 4-8). Multiple starred reviews; a featured title at the Texas Book Festival.

Kate, Who Tamed the Wind, illustrated by Lee White, Schwartz & Wade/Random House, 2018 (ages 4-8). Multiple starred reviews; an Arbor Day book selection. Represented as a featured garden at Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Wayne's Cinquain's, illustrated by Del Thorpe, Fountas & Pinnell Classroom/Heinemann, 2019 (ages 6-9).

Dear Substitute, co-written with Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Chris Raschka, Disney/Hyperion, 2018 (ages 4-8). Multiple starred reviews, Gryphon Award Honor Book, Arkansas Diamond Primary Award Winner, Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection.

One Dark Bird, illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2019 (ages 3-7). Multiple starred reviews. Margaret Wise Brown Honor Book, 2020.

Five Minutes is a Lot of Time, co-written with Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Olivier Tallec, Putnam/Penguin, 2019 (ages 4-8). Published in several languages including Japanese, French, Thai, Greek and Chinese.

Thank You, Garden, illustrated by Simone Shin, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2020 (ages 3-7).

I Want a Boat, illustrated by Kevan Attebery, Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, 2021(ages 2-6).

Lolo's Light, Chronicle Books, 2022 (ages 8-12). Four starred reviews; a featured title at the Texas Book Festival; an ALA Recommended Middle Grade Read; a *Kirkus*, *BookPage* and *Toledo Blade* Best Book of the Year. Audio and Large Print versions, 2022 and 2023.

Would You Come, Too?, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2022 (ages 3-7). Starred Publishers Weekly review, an Illinois Reads pick.

Frances in the Country, illustrated by Sean Qualls, Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, 2021(ages 3-7). Starred Publishers Weekly review.

Full Moon Pups, illustrated by Chuck Groenink, Putnam/Penguin, 2023 (ages 3-7) A Junior Library Guild and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library selection. SCBWI Charlotte and Wilbur Award Honor Book. Wisconsin Library Association Outstanding Achievement in Children's Literature Award. Published in several languages including German, French and French Canadian.

The World's Best Class Plant, co-written with Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Lynnor Bontigao, Putnam/Penguin, 2023 (ages 4-8). Multiple starred reviews and a Kirkus Best Book of the Year.15 Degree Laboratory's 2025 Giverny Award. A Junior Library Guild Selection, CCBC Choices Selection, Writers' League of Texas Picture Book Finalist. Numerous state lists including Volunteer State Book Award List, Show Me Readers Award List, Golden Sower/Little Bluestem List, Illinois Monarch Award List, Grand Canyon Reader Award List. Nominee for the Beehive Picture Book Award and the Nutmeg Book Award.

Everyone Starts Small, illustrated by Dominique Ramsey. Candlewick, 2024 (ages 3-7). Starred Kirkus review, a Bank Street Best Book of the Year.

Bibsy Cross and the Bad Apple, illustrated by Dung Ho. Knopf, 2024 (ages 6-10). The first installment in a four-book chapter book series. Multiple starred reviews, a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, a Washington State Otter Award nominee, a CFISD Horned Toad Tale nominee.

Bibsy Cross and the Bike-a-Thon, illustrated by Dung Ho. Knopf, 2024. The second installment in a four-book chapter book series. Kirkus starred review and Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection.

Bibsy Cross and the Creepy-Crawlies, illustrated by Dung Ho, Knopf, 2024. The third installment in a four-book chapter book series. Kirkus starred review.

Bibsy Cross and the Time Capsule, illustrated by Dung Ho, Knopf, 2025. The fourth installment in a four-book chapter book series. Kirkus starred review.

Big Little Baby, illustrated by Trudy Tran. Rise/Penguin Random House, 2025 (Board Book). Starred School Library Journal review.

Family Tree, co-written with Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Fiona Lee, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2025 (ages 4-8). Starred School Library Journal review, a Reading the West Award nominee.

Otis Knows, co-written with Martha Brockenbrough, illustrated by Stephanie Laberis. Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2026 (ages 4-8).

Upcoming

Homesick, co-written with Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Daniel Miyares, Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, 2026 (ages 3-7).

Peek-a-Boo Baby, illustrated by Ana Sebastián, Rise/Penguin Random House, 2027 (Board Book).

Hope Into Action: How the Endangered Species Act Saves Lives, illustrated by Jessie Hartland, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2028 (ages 4-8).

Duck and the Donut: Meet in the Middle, illustrator tbd, Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, 2028 (ages 3-7).

Poetry

- Journals including *Hawaii Pacific Review, Utter, Blueline, Diverse City*, and more, 1990-2004.
- Beyond Forgetting, Poetry and Prose About Alzheimer's Disease, 2009.
- The Country in the Mirror: Poems of Protest and Witness, Darrow, 2026.
- For Young Readers:
  Great Morning: Poems for School Leaders to Read Aloud, Vardell and Wong, Pomelo Books, 2018.

Imperfect: Poems About Mistakes, Yeatts, 2019
Thanku: Poems About Gratitude, Lerner, 2020.

- Editor and Board Member for *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, 1992-1999.
- Member of online poetry group with monthly challenges that include villanelle, pantoum and crown sonnets. 2008-the present.

Selected Online Works and Press

- Blog and Substack include posts on the writing process, school visits, family life, and recurring features such as an annual National Poetry Month challenge, 2006-present.
- Interviews and Guest Posts:
  My First Book Story podcast, 2026.
  Kidlit Happy Hour podcast, 2024.
  Only Picture Books interview, 2018.
  All the Wonders podcast, 2017.
  Interview and studio tour, 2015.
  On The Great Good Summer, 2015.
  Interview and art from All the World, 2009.
  Cynsations interviews, 2004-the present.

Judging

Writers' League of Texas manuscript contest, 2000
Sustainable Arts Foundation award jury, 2014, 2016
Margaret Wise Brown Award, 2021
PBS Kids Writing Award, 2023

Selected Speaking Engagements – Keynotes, Panels and Breakouts

School Presentations, more than 250 visits, primarily grades K-8, nationwide, 2004-present.

Texas Book Festival, multiple panels and presentations, 2005-the present.

SCBWI conferences, keynotes, panels and breakouts, nationwide, 2006-the present.

Texas Writers League, multiple classes and panels, 2012-the present.

National Council of Teachers of English, multiple panels, 2016-present.

Texas Library Association, keynote, 2010; panels, 2015-2019, 2023; Texas Tea, 2023.

Chautauqua Book Festival, panels and signings, 2018, 2023.
Princeton Book Festival, panels and signings, 2018 and 2023.
Charlotte Huck Festival, panel, breakout sessions, 2023.
American Library Association, presentations and panels, 2015, 2022.
American Booksellers, panel presentation and signing, 2022.
Virginia Children's Book Festival, featured author, 2017 and 2025..
Dublin, Ohio Literary Conference, featured author, 3 breakout sessions, 2016.
Sheboygan Book Festival, featured author, keynotes and panels, 2012, 2015.

Carmel Clay Indiana Library Foundation, luncheon keynote, 2013.
Colorado-IRA Conference, one panel and one breakout, 2012.
Bozeman Book Festival, one panel, one keynote, one breakout, 2012.

Selected Awards

Caldecott Honor for All the World, 2010.
Indie Next Award, 2010.
Austin Public Library Foundation Illumine Award, 2012.
Sustainable Artists Grant, 2014.
Abilene AISD Mockingbird Award for Bob, Not Bob, 2019.
Margaret Wise Brown Honor Award, One Dark Bird, 2020.
SCBWI Charlotte and Wilbur Award Honor Book, Full Moon Pups, 2023
Wisconsin Library Association Outstanding Achievement in Children's Literature Award, Full Moon Pups, 2023.
15 Degree Laboratory's 2025 Giverny Award, The World's Best Class Plant, 2025.

Professional Affiliations:

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
Texas Institute of Letters
Authors Against Book Bans
PEN America
Writers' League of Texas
Texas Library Association
Authors Guild

Education

B.A. – Journalism, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1990
M.A. – English/Creative Writing, University of Texas-Austin, 1994
James A. Michener Post-Graduate Fellowship, 1994-95

Represented by:

Emily Woods Mitchell, Wernick & Pratt
Carmen Oliver, The Booking Biz