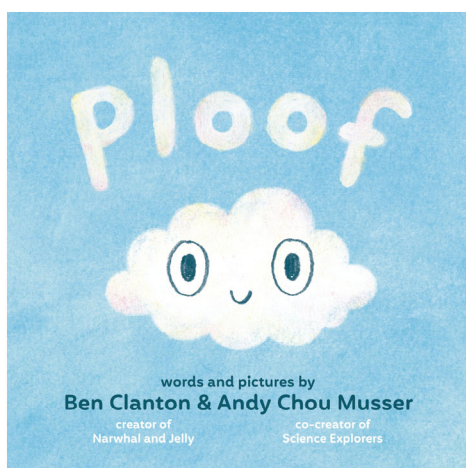


Indiana Center for the Book Announces the 2025 Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award



August 5, 2025 —INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Center for the Book Director Suzanne Walker is excited to announce that the 2025 recipient of the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award is the book *Ploof* published by Tundra Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Written and illustrated by Ben Clanton and Andy Chou Musser, *Ploof* is an interactive picture book that encourages parents, caregivers, and young children to interact with Ploof, the cutest cloud you'll ever meet. Readers are invited to play pretend, laugh with Ploof, say hello, and more.

This is the eleventh year of the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award. Votes were submitted from 50 of Indiana's counties (well over half). Over 3,700 Indiana children ages 0-5 voted for their favorite book from a ballot of five books. This is the third biggest year of the award as far as number of children participating.

When they heard they had won the award, Ben Clanton and Andy Chou Musser had this to say, "As our character Ploof would excitedly say WHOOSH WHEE!!! We are so thrilled and excited! Thank you Indiana families for reading and picking *Ploof*! And thank you Indiana libraries for helping our book and others take flight. We were so honored to be one of the contenders and blown away to have *Ploof* get so much love. Thank you!!!"

The Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award is an initiative of the Indiana Center for the Book to promote early childhood literacy in Indiana. The nominees are chosen by the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Committee from a list of books nominated by library staff who work with children all over Indiana.

The nominated books are chosen for their ability to encourage parents and children to use the Every Child Ready to Read® practices of talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing together. Caregivers can use the Firefly books as a quality go-to resource for having fun and learning with their young children.

A program guide is available for interested educators to use with children:

<https://www.in.gov/library/files/ProgramGuide2025.pdf>

Indiana Center for the Book / Indiana State Library

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Indiana residents! Visit this link for *Ploof* resources!

<https://teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=90814>

Indiana Center for the Book / Indiana State Library
icb@library.in.gov

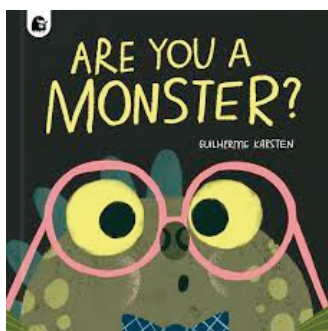
www.in.gov/library/icb.htm

Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award Ballot: 2025

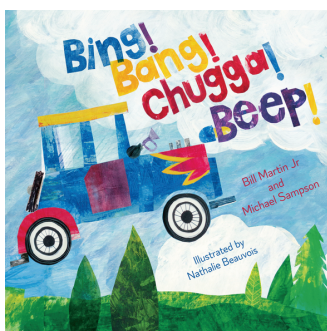


Indiana children ages 0-5 can vote with a caregiver.

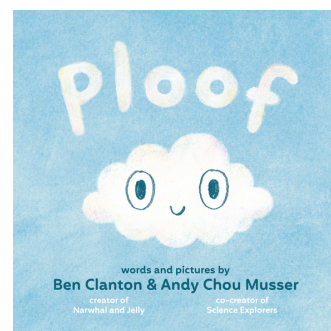
Every child in Indiana, aged 0-5, may vote one time for the Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award. Children will need the help of a parent, a librarian, a teacher, or other caregiver adult to circle one of the titles. Ask the child to point to their favorite. Once their vote is circled, turn this ballot in to your local Public Library or voting location. Libraries will then email their totals to the Indiana Center for the Book. The last day to report votes is July 31, 2025.



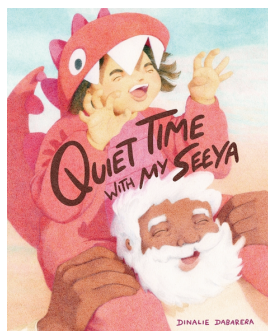
Are You a Monster?
by Guilherme Karsten



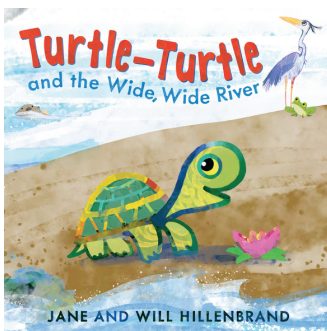
Bing! Bang! Chugga! Beep!
by Bill Martin Jr.



Ploof
by Ben Clanton



Quiet Time with My Seeya
by Dinalie Dabarera



Turtle-Turtle and the Wide, Wide River
by Jane and Will Hillenbrand

Prefer to vote online?



Visit the QR code or
<https://www.in.gov/library/icb/firefly> to access the
2025 Remote Voting Form



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