
MEGAN
DOWD LAMBERT
ST. MARIE



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OR

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OBJECTIVE

To harness the humanizing power of stories and art through writing, reading, teaching, and listening.

SKILLS

Writing, editing, reviewing, public speaking, leading storytimes, and teaching and training.

WORK EXPERIENCE

SENIOR LECTURER IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

Promoted to current position in July 2014

Courses: Criticism of Children's Literature; The Picturebook; The Child and the Book; Survey of Children's and YA Literature; A Whole Book Approach. I was promoted to this full-time contract faculty rank after five years (2009-2104) as Instructor of Children's Literature, and after adjunct posts held since 2003. I've had a 6-7 course-load since 2009, split between the Boston campus and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art satellite in Amherst.

Administrative Duties: overseeing MFA students' mentorship placements with publishing professionals; planning biennial Children's Literature Institutes, including associated art exhibits; supervising Teaching and Research Assistants; advising Independent Studies; supporting program assessment; conducting admissions events at The Carle, and reading all MFA and MFA/MA applications; academic advising for two dozen students annually; representing the university at professional conferences such as NESCBWI and ALA.

Spring 2018 Professional Development Leave, which I devoted to creative writing projects and studying the teaching of writing.

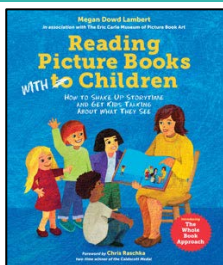
EDUCATOR

THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART

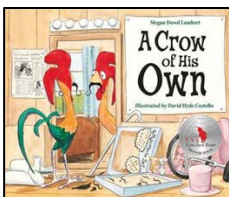
Sept 2001 – January 2011

Storytime & Professional Development Programming: I led storytime at The Carle's information office for a year before its grand opening, then onsite throughout my tenure. I received several promotions as I developed and led book-centered programs for children and adults arising from my original Whole Book Approach storytime model. Outreach programs reached 25,000 participants.

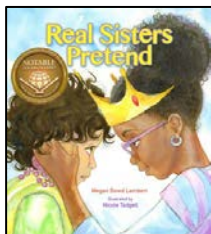
PUBLISHED BOOKS BY MEGAN DOWD LAMBERT



**READING PICTURE BOOKS WITH
CHILDREN (CHARLESBRIDGE 2015)**
STARRED REVIEW IN
SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL



**A CROW OF HIS OWN
(CHARLESBRIDGE 2015)**
2016 EZRA JACK KEATS NEW WRITER
HONOR BOOK



**REAL SISTERS PRETEND
(TILBURY HOUSE 2016)**
2017 NOTABLE SOCIAL STUDIES TRADE
BOOK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
A 17TH ANNUAL MA BOOK AWARDS
MUST READ PICTURE BOOK

Administrative duties at The Carle included: supervising 5-10 work-study, volunteer, and support staff each semester; maintaining two non-circulating book collections comprised of roughly 6,000 titles; collaborating with nonprofits and educational institutions; working with Education Department staff to plan and deliver events for children, families, and professional audiences

FREELANCE WRITER, REVIEWER, AND AUTHOR

My Books are linked to the left on this page. Other publications, [linked here](#), date back to 2001 and are from:

- *The Horn Book*
- *Kirkus Reviews*
- *#KidLitWomen*
- *EmbraceRace*
- *Reading While White*
- *Shelf Awareness*
- *The Huffington Post*
- *Children & Libraries*
- *The Five Owls*
- *The Public Humanist*
- *The Children's Literature Association Quarterly*
- *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*
- *CREArTA*
- *Bookbird*

Guest Reviewer at *The Horn Book* since 2013, where I annually write signed reviews of about a dozen picture books, chapter books, and children's audiobooks.

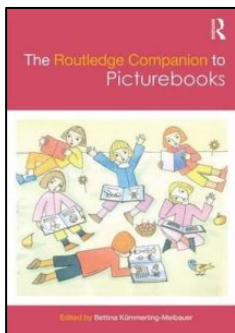
Reviewer at *Kirkus Reviews* since 2009, where I annually write about 100 unsigned reviews of picture books and early readers.

PAST ADJUNCT FACULTY WORK

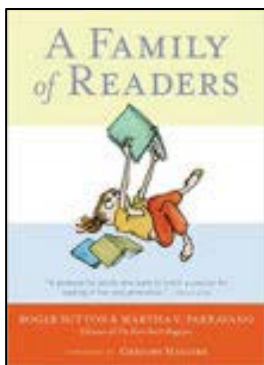
Adjunct teaching posts between 2003 and 2009 held at: Simmons University; Bay Path University; Mt. Holyoke College; Boston University; UMass-Dartmouth; and, Greenfield Community College. I also served as a reader and advisor for graduate student work at Lesley University and Plymouth State University.

PUBLISHED BOOK CHAPTERS

BY MEGAN DOWD LAMBERT



“LAYOUT IN PICTUREBOOKS”
(ROUTLEDGE 2018)



“READING ABOUT FAMILIES IN MY FAMILY”
(CANDLEWICK 2011)

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Youth Services Librarian, Gaylord Memorial Library, South Hadley, MA, Sept. 2001-Jan. 2003, where I: led weekly storytime & craft sessions and other patron programs; oversaw collection development; wrote successful grants; wrote monthly reports to the Board of Trustees; hired and supervised department assistants; ran the annual statewide summer reading program sponsored by the MA Board of Library Commissioners and MA Regional Library Systems.

Manager, Booklinks Booksellers, Northampton, MA, Jan. 1999-Jan. 2001. I started as a bookseller at this independent bookshop and was promoted to Children’s Book Dept. Manager, and then Manager.

Associate/Asociada, Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Washington, D.C., Aug. 1996-Aug. 1998. I acted as the office manager for this non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization affiliated with Human Rights Watch.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

Appointed to give the NESCBWI 2019 and 2018 Peg Davol Scholarship Critique

Awarded a 2016 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor for my first picture book, *A Crow of His Own* (Charlesbridge 2015)

Appointed to serve as a Judge on the 2012 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Committee

Elected to serve as a Member of the 2011 Randolph Caldecott Medal Committee of the ALSC

Named a 2009 Massachusetts Literacy Champion by Mass Literacy

Appointed as a Member of the 2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Committee of the ALSC

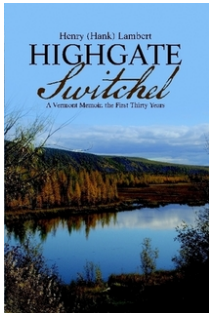


BOOKS UNDER CONTRACT

BY MEGAN DOWD LAMBERT

- **A KID OF THEIR OWN** (CHARLESBRIDGE 2020)
- **JANE AND JUNE ARE FRIENDS** (CHARLESBRIDGE 2020)
- **BOOK BONDING: A FAMILY'S READING LIFE** (CHARLESBRIDGE AND THE HORN BOOK 2021)
- **JANE AND JUNE BOOK 2** (CHARLESBRIDGE 2022)
- **JANE AND JUNE BOOK 3** (CHARLESBRIDGE 2023)

EDITING & WRITING OF PERSONAL HISTORIES, OBITUARIES & EULOGIES



I EDITED MY UNCLE'S SELF-PUBLISHED MEMOIR, **HIGHGATE SWITCHEL**, BY **HENRY (HANK) LAMBERT**, (LULU BOOKS, 2017)

I'VE BEEN HONORED TO WRITE SEVERAL **OBITUARIES AND EULOGIES** FOR LOVED ONES IN RECENT YEARS, INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF OBITUARY WRITER, **HEATHER LENDE**.

EDUCATION

MA in Children's Literature from Simmons University, Boston, MA (formerly Simmons College), received January 2002. I was a Children's Literature Scholarship Fund and Virginia Haviland Scholarship recipient, and I was awarded a TA position in my final semester, Fall 2001. My culminating Independent Study with The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art led to my creation of the Whole Book Approach storytime model. GPA 3.9

BA, Magna Cum Laude, from Smith College, Northampton, MA, received May 1996.

I completed a double major in Government and African American Studies, and I was a First Group Scholar (top 5% of my class) and on the Dean's List for all six semesters I was enrolled under an accelerated degree program. In Fall 1995, I participated in the Jean Picker Semester in Washington. My final semester's Independent Study on multicultural education built on two years of work-study with an anti-racism consultancy group, Communitas, Inc., and a j-term service-learning trip to Nicaragua with the Global Women's Project. GPA 3.89

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, CONSULTANCIES & VOLUNTEER WORK

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

A full chronology appears on my website's [Events page](#). Highlights from the past decade include:

Speeches and Solo Presentations

- Educational Book and Media Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX, January 2019
- 31st Annual Conference on Children's Literature, Broward County Library, Fort Lauderdale, FL, April 2018
- Bank Street Book Fest, Bank Street College of Education, New York, NY, October 2016
- Educator's Night with Christian Robinson, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA, October 2016
- "Get the Picture" Exhibit Program, the Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford, PA, July 2016



WORKS IN PROGRESS

BY MEGAN DOWD LAMBERT

EVIE'S WOODS

THIS MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL IS ABOUT A LITTLE GIRL LEARNING ABOUT HER FRENCH-CANADIAN AND ACADIAN FAMILY HISTORY FROM HER TRULY GREAT GREAT-AUNT, TANTE MARIE. I STARTED WRITING IT IN AN ONLINE COURSE THROUGH THE ADIRONDACK CENTER FOR WRITING TAUGHT BY AUTHOR, CHRIS TEBBETTS.

SYLVIE'S DRAGON

THIS MIDDLE GRADE FANTASY NOVEL BEGAN AS A PICTURE BOOK TEXT ABOUT A LITTLE GIRL WITH A BIG SECRET. MY CRIT GROUP PARTNERS, MOLLY B. BURNHAM AND LISA PAPADEMETRIOU, ENCOURAGED ME TO FLESH IT OUT INTO A NOVEL, USING THE SHORTER TEXT AS AN OUTLINE.

SUGARING TIME WITH MÉMÈRE AND MON ONCLE JEAN-MARIE

THIS PICTURE BOOK TEXT IS ABOUT A LITTLE GIRL VISITING FAMILY DURING SUGARING SEASON AND HOPING THAT THIS IS THE YEAR SHE WILL GET THE FIRST TASTE OF MAPLE SYRUP.

THE BEST OF A BAD SYSTEM

THIS MIDDLE GRADE HISTORY OF THE SHELDON POOR FARM DRAWS ON RESEARCH INTO MY GRANDFATHER'S WORK AS THE TOWN POORMASTER IN 1950S VERMONT.

- Texas Library Association Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, (with illustrator, David Hyde Costello) April 2013
- “*The Snowy Day* and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats” Exhibit Program, the Akron Museum of Art, Akron, OH, April 2013
- “A Celebration of Picture Books” conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 2013
- Long Island Children’s and YA Literature Conference, Adelphi University, October 2011
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners annual conference, sponsored by the Childhood Literacy Special Interest Group, Baltimore, MD, March 2011
- ALSC pre-conference “Drawn to Delight: How Picture Books Work (and Play) Today,” June 2010
- The Children’s Literature Council of Southern California annual conference, Los Angeles, CA, April 2009
- The Parent-Child Home Program Annual Conference, Uniondale, New York, May 2008

Guest Lectures in Graduate & Undergraduate Courses at:

- Hampshire College
- Smith College
- UMass-Amherst
- The College of Education at the University of Arizona
- Bates College
- Wellesley College
- Eastern Connecticut State University
- Mt. Holyoke College
- Simmons University
- Middlebury College
- Bay Path University
- Lesley University
- Tunxis Community College

Panels

- “LGBTQ+ Picture Books” KidLitCon19: Reaching Readers, Providence, RI, March 2019
- New England Independent Booksellers Association conference, Providence, RI, September 2018
- Assoc. of Jewish Libraries, Boston, MA, June 2018

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

CURRENT:

- THE SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS (NEW ENGLAND REGION)
- THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
- THE ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

PAST:

- THE CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
- THE WESTERN MA REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM EXECUTIVE BOARD (JANUARY 2006-DECEMBER 2007)
- THE AMHERST READS STEERING COMMITTEE (2005)

SELECTED INTERVIEWS & REVIEWS

JBRARY: "ONE OF THE REASONS MEGAN'S APPROACH HIT HOME FOR ME IS THAT SHE RESPECTS KIDS. PLAIN AND SIMPLE. THE FOCUS OF HER STORYTIMES AREN'T THE SONGS, RHYMES, OR BOOKS – IT'S THE KIDS WHO ATTEND THEM AND THEIR IDEAS, OPINIONS, AND OBSERVATIONS."

KIRKUS: "STRIKING IS HOW MUCH LAMBERT BELIEVES IN PICTURE BOOKS AND THE POWER THEY CAN HAVE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES."

DIYMFA PODCAST: MAY 2016

- Literacy Essentials Conference, Central CT State University, New Britain, CT, April 2018
- Moderator, "Words and Pictures: Picture Book Author/Illustrators Discuss the Whole Book," an Exhibitors' Round Table with David Hyde Costello, Don Tate, and Duncan Tonatiuh, at the ALA Annual, Chicago, IL July 2017
- 2013-2014 Lowell Lecture Series: Gateway to Reading at the BPL, interview with author Norton Juster, April 2014
- Boston Book Fest: "Meet the Medalists" panel moderator with Newbery Medalists, Kate DiCamillo, Rebecca Stead, and Jack Gantos, October 2013
- ALA Annual, Chicago, IL, "Calde-Tots: Using Caldecott Winning Books with Young Children," July 2013

PD Programs & Caregiver Trainings

I've drawn on my Children's Literature scholarship and Whole Book Approach work to lead webinars and in-person and online workshops at dozens of schools, libraries, library systems, museums, and school districts. Highlights from the past decade include:

- Pennsylvania State University Child Care Center, January 2019
- Schlow Centre Region Libraries, PA, March & October 2018
- KidLitCollege webinar, "Studying Picture Book Success," with editor, Julie Bliven, July 2018
- Youth Services Librarian Professional Development Days in Jamestown, Painted Post, and Canandaigua, NY, May 2018
- Berkshire County, MA Head Start, December 2017
- Pine Cobble School, Williamstown, MA, May 2017
- Concord Free Public Library, Concord, MA, March 2017
- Derby Academy Hingham, MA, March 2017
- Essex County Public Children's Librarians Group, Maplewood Memorial Library, Maplewood, NJ, January 2017
- Brooks School Elementary, Fishers, IN, December 2016
- Claremont Library System, Claremont, OH, June 2016
- Hawlemont Elementary School, Charlemont, MA May 2016
- *School Library Journal* webinar with editor, Yolanda Scott, and educator, Emily Prabhaker, March 2016
- Union #38 Frontier RSD, Franklin County, MA, January 2016
- Conroe ISD School Librarians, Conroe, TX, August 2013
- Junior Library Guild webinar, May, 2011
- Washington, D.C. Public Libraries Youth Services Division, June 2008 & August 2009



REFERENCES

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

CONSULTANCIES

Recent Paid Professional Consultancies with:

- MERGE for Equality Children’s Book Campaign (2017-)
- EmbraceRace’s Community Conversations webinar series (2017)
- EmbraceRace’s inaugural blog series (2016-2017)

VOLUNTEER WORK

Recent Activities:

- Volunteer for the 2018 We Stand Together (Northampton) Hanukkah Ally Action
- Member of the OurShelves book-box subscription Curation Team
- Volunteer for the 2018 Link to Libraries Smart Stories Campaign
- Volunteer for the March 2018 #KidLitMarchesForKids/ #MarchForOurLives action in Northampton, MA
- Parent volunteer at Crocker Farm Elementary School and the Cushman Scott Children’s Center, Amherst, MA
- Steward of a Little Free Library at my home since 2013

