
MEGAN DOWD LAMBERT ST. MARIE

WWW.MEGANDOWDLAMBERT.COM

WWW.MODERNMEMOIRS.COM



MEGAN@MEGANDOWDLAMBERT.COM

MEGAN@MODERNMEMOIRS.COM



(413) 253-2353

OBJECTIVES

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

SKILLS

Writing, interviewing, editing, reviewing, public speaking, leading storytimes, teaching, and training. Conversational French, beginning Spanish.

WORK EXPERIENCE

PRESIDENT & CO-OWNER MODERN MEMOIRS, INC., AMHERST, MA

Company purchase and assumption of duties, July 2019

I purchased this private publishing business (est. 1994) with my husband from founder, Kitty Axelson-Berry. We oversee a staff of regular and freelance employees to offer clients interview, writing, editorial, genealogy, design, and production services under our company name and our imprint, White Poppy Press. Most of the 100+ projects initiated since our company purchase are Commissioned (based on interview transcripts) or Assisted Memoirs, and Family Histories or genealogy books. We also work on books ranging from Celebration and Tribute Books, to poetry, essay, and art collections. Clients usually publish small print-runs only for friends and family, but we assist interested writers with print-on-demand set up and global distribution. My regular responsibilities include:

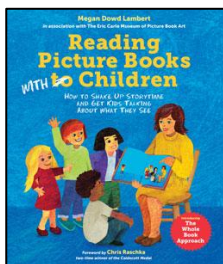
- Administration of office operations, vendors, and online Shop
- Client communications, contracts, and billing
- Client interviews for Commissioned Memoirs
- Design oversight: preformatting; page proofs; consultation on layout and cover designs
- Editorial: developmental editing; line editing; proofreading; research and writing; permissions
- Marketing & client recruitment: social media; blog posts; television and radio spots; print mailings; website updates; monthly e-newsletter; press inquiries, sponsorships
- Personnel supervision: hiring, oversight of 4 full- and part-time employees, plus 2–8 freelancers and interns annually
- Project administration & wrap-ups in coordination with the Director of Publishing and Bookkeeper
- Writing (Advance) Obituaries, Ethical Wills/Legacy Letters
- Workshop on (Advance) Obituaries and Memoirs

LECTURER IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, SIMMONS UNIVERSITY, BOSTON AND AMHERST, MA

First hired, 2003. Promoted, 2009 and 2014. Departed, 2020.

After several adjunct appointments between 2003 and 2008, I served as contract faculty from 2009–2020. I split teaching 7 courses annually between the main campus in Boston and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art satellite site in Amherst. In Spring 2018 I took a funded Professional Development Leave devoted to creative writing projects and studying the teaching of writing. I shifted to a 4/7 course-load during my final year of teaching, 2019–2020.

STORYTIME GUIDES, CHAPTERS & BOOKS



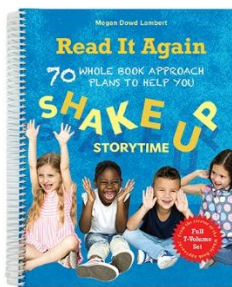
*Reading Picture Books with Children:
How to Shake Up Storytime and Get
Kids Talking About What They See*

CHARLESBRIDGE 2015; PB 2020;

10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION, 2025;

SPANISH TRANSLATION FROM MEXICAN
PUBLISHER, FONDO DE CULTURA
ECONÓMICA, FORTHCOMING IN 2027

SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL
STARRED REVIEW



*Read It Again: 70 Whole Book Approach
Plans to Help You Shake Up Storytime*

DIGITAL AND PRINT EDITIONS WITH
WHITE POPPY PRESS, AN IMPRINT OF
MODERN MEMOIRS, INC., 2023

Courses Taught: Criticism of Children's Literature; The Picturebook; The Child and the Book; Survey of Children's & YA Literature; A Whole Book Approach; Creators & Ideologies: Jacqueline Woodson; Special Topics: Visual Literacy & Visual Rhetoric.

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

EDUCATOR

THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART

September 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.

Administrative Tasks: 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.

PAST ADJUNCT AND GUEST FACULTY WORK

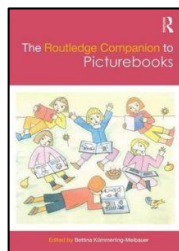
Children's Literature Adjunct Appointments 2003–2009 held at:

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.

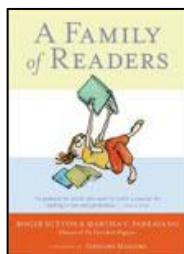
Graduate & Undergraduate Courses Guest Lectures Hosted by:

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

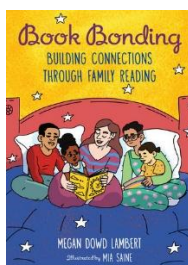
(STORYTIME GUIDES, CHAPTERS & BOOKS
CONTINUED)



“Layout in Picturebooks”
ESSAY IN *THE ROUTLEDGE COMPANION
TO PICTUREBOOKS*, ROUTLEDGE 2018



“Reading about Families in My Family”
ESSAY IN *A FAMILY OF READERS: THE
BOOK LOVER'S GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S
AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE*,
CANDLEWICK, 2011



***Book Bonding: Building Connections
Through Family Reading***

IMAGINATION PUBLISHING, AN IMPRINT
OF CHARLESBRIDGE, 2023

FREELANCE WRITER, REVIEWER, AND AUTHOR

My books for children and adults are linked in the left margin. Other publications, [linked here](#), date back to 2001 and are found in:

- The Beginning of Your Life Book Club podcast
- *Book Q&As with Deborah Kalb*
- *Bookbird*
- *Charlesbridge Children's Book Blog*
- *Children & Libraries*
- *The Children's Literature Association Quarterly*
- *CREArTA*
- *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*
- *Diverse BookFinder Blog*
- The Early Risers Podcast
- *EmbraceRace*
- *The Five Owls*
- *Good Reading*
- *Harper Stacks*
- *The Horn Book*
- *The Huffington Post*
- *#KidLitWomen*
- *Kirkus Reviews*
- *Le Forum*
- *The Public Humanist*
- *Reading While White*
- *Shelf Awareness*

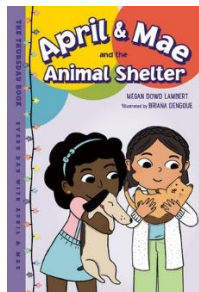
Book Reviewer at *Résonance*, a literary journal published under the Franco American Studies program at U-Maine Orono, where I've published reviews of the following titles:

- [*The Truth about Baked Beans: An Edible History of New England*](#) by Meg Muckenhoupt (Issue 4, 2022)
- [*Mutinous Women: How French Convicts Became Founding Mothers of the Gulf Coast*](#) by Joan DeJean (Issue 5, 2023)
- [*French Boy: A 1950s Franco American Boyhood*](#) by Denis Ledoux (Issue 6, 2024)
- [*Secrets of the Asylum: Norwich State Hospital and My Family*](#) by Julianne Mangin (Issue 7, 2025)

Guest Reviewer at *The Horn Book* since 2013, where I annually write signed reviews of 5–10 books for young readers.

Reviewer at *Kirkus Reviews* since 2009, where I annually write roughly 36 unsigned reviews of books for young readers.

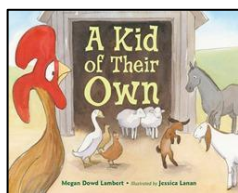
CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Every Day with April & Mae
7-BOOK EARLY READER SERIES
ILLUSTRATED BY BRIANA DENGUE
AND GISELA BOHÓRQUEZ

(CHARLESBRIDGE, 2022 & 2023;
2024 PAPERBACK EDITIONS)

- *April & Mae and the Tea Party*
(A 2022 NYPL BEST BOOK FOR KIDS
TITLE)
- *April & Mae and the Book Club
Cake*
- *April & Mae and the Soccer Match*
- *April & Mae and the Talent Show*
- *April & Mae and the Animal Shelter*
- *April & Mae and the Sleepover*
- *April & Mae and the Movie Night*



A Kid of Their Own
ILLUSTRATED BY JESSICA LANAN

(CHARLESBRIDGE, 2020; CHINESE
TRANSLATION 2022, HUNAN JUVENILE &
CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING HOUSE)

- **KIRKUSSTARRED REVIEW**
- **CCBC CHOICES 2021 TITLE**
- **A 2021 MA BOOK AWARDS MUST
READ PICTURE BOOK**

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Youth Services Librarian, Gaylord Memorial Library, South Hadley, MA, Sept. 2001–Jan. 2003, where I: led weekly storytime and 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, Booklink 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. Office manager for this non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization affiliated with Human Rights Watch.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS & EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

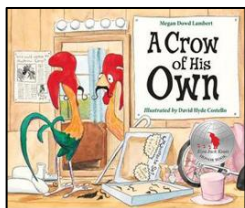
- **Selected** as a mentor Queer Kidlit Mentorship program, 2022
- **Appointed** to give the NESCBWI 2020, 2019, and 2018 Peg Davol Scholarship Critique
- **Awarded** a 2016 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor for my first picture book, *A Crow of His Own* (Charlesbridge 2015)
- **Appointed** as a 2012 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Judge
- **Elected** to serve as a Member of the 2011 Randolph Caldecott Medal Committee of the ALSC
- **Named** a 2009 MA Literacy Champion by Mass Literacy
- **Appointed** as a Member of the 2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Committee of the ALSC

EDUCATION

PhD student in Religion & Philosophy, Women's Spirituality concentration, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA. Began online coursework in fall 2025, with an emphasis in Women and World Religions.

- WSE Retreat Scholarship recipient, fall 2025
- 2025/2026 Miraa Alfasa "The Mother" Scholarship recipient
- Fall 2025 courses: Sacred Lineages; Building Conscious Allyship; Vocation, Passion, Action
- Spring 2026 Courses: Women's Sacred Mysteries; Christianity & Paganism; Independent Study
- Fall 2026 Course: Women & World Religions

(CHILDREN'S BOOKS CONTINUED)

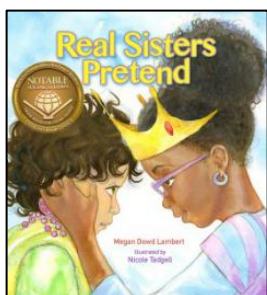


A Crow Of His Own

ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID HYDE
COSTELLO

(CHARLESBRIDGE, 2015; PB 2019;
CHINESE TRANSLATION PUBLISHED 2022
WITH HUNAN JUVENILE & CHILDREN'S
PUBLISHING HOUSE)

- 2016 EZRA JACK KEATS
NEW WRITER HONOR
- SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
EDITION, 2017



Real Sisters Pretend

(TILBURY HOUSE, 2016; PB 2019)

- 2017 NOTABLE SOCIAL
STUDIES TRADE BOOK FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE
- A 2017 MA BOOK AWARDS
MUST READ PICTURE BOOK

MA in Children's Literature, Simmons University, Boston, MA
(formerly Simmons College), received January 2002.

A Children's Literature Scholarship Fund and Virginia Haviland Scholarship recipient, I was awarded a TA position in my final semester. My culminating Independent Study with The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art led to my creation of the Whole Book Approach storytime model.

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

Double major in Government and African American Studies, as a First Group Scholar (top 5% of my class), Dean's List for all six semesters enrolled under a 3-year accelerated degree program. In Fall 1995, I participated in the Jean Picker Semester in Washington, with an internship at Rainbow-PUSH. A final semester 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.

SPEECHES, TRAININGS, CONSULTANCIES, VOLUNTEER WORK

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

A full chronology is [listed here](#). Highlights include:

Keynote Speeches, Solo Presentations, and Webinars

- 2-part Whole Book Approach webinar hosted by The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Oct. 2025
- Prudence Crandall School, Enfield, CT parent program Sept. 25, 2025
- Celebrating 10 Years of *Reading Picture Books with Children*, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, online and in-person programs, Sept. 2025
- *Reading Picture Books with Children* and Publishing Beautiful Books with Clients, Channing House, Palo Alto, CA, Sept. 8, 2025
- Children's Literacy Foundation Community Literacy Conference, Fairlee, VT, with Breanna J. McDaniel, April 4, 2025
- Loudoun County Public Schools, Ashburn, VA, Feb. 2025
- CLiF Rural Library Conference, online program Nov. 3, 2023
- UMaine-Orono Franco American Centre webinars with my father, Ray Lambert:
 - [Dans les Pas de Nos Ancêtres \(In the Steps of Our Ancestors\): A Father-Daughter Trip to France](#) (2023)
 - [Pain at the Root: Le Grand Dérangement and Our Family History](#) (2022)
 - [Les Filles à Marier](#) (2022)
 - [Nous et vous et les filles du roi!](#) (2021)
- EmbraceRace, with Melissa Giraud, Andrew Grant-Thomas of, and Elissa Gershowitz of the Horn Book May 25, 2023

WORKS IN PROGRESS



For adults:

*The Sentimental Archivist: Writings
Inspired by Heirlooms and Objects*

*Cheers to 30 Years: A Company History
of Modern Memoirs, Inc.*
(FORTHCOMING FROM MODERN
MEMOIRS, INC.)

For children:

*We Gather Around the Advent Wreath
Candlemas Crêpes for Everyone!*
(ON SUBMISSION)

PRAISE

IBRARY: “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.”

KIRKUS: “[*A KID OF THEIR OWN*] is a sweet and unusual new baby story with an uncommonly broadening vocabulary.”

JERRY PINKNEY: “Everything one needs to know about bookmaking and book sharing is bound up here, in one well-considered, strikingly designed volume, *Reading Picture Books with Children*.”

ANNE SIBLEY-O'BRIEN: “The Whole Book Approach invites me to consider how my choices as an illustrator might add layers of meaning for child readers as they engage with the entire book as art.” (SCBWI FALL 2019 BULLETIN)

- Literacy Committee of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) April 18, 2023
- Massasoit Community College, Brockton, MA, April 13, 2023
- NEIBA Virtual Meeting, with artist Mia Saine, Jan. 19, 2023
- LGBTQ Literature Course at Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, Amherst, MA, Jan. 9, 2023
- Woodruff Arts Center Educator Conference, Atlanta, GA, with author Breanna J. McDaniel, June 2, 2022
- Children’s Librarians of NH virtual conference, May 20, 2021
- Studio Institute, New York City, online training, Jan. 20, 2021
- 12x12 Picture Book Challenge webinar, April 14, 2020
- Massachusetts Library Association webinar, Jan. 10, 2020
- University of Maine, College of Education and Human Development, Orono, ME, keynote April 30, 2019
- Week of the Young Child Conference keynote sponsored by Elms College School of Graduate & Professional Studies at Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, MA April 6, 2019
- Educational Book and Media Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX, Jan. 2019
- KidLitCollege webinar, “Studying Picture Book Success,” with editor, Julie Bliven, July 2018
- 31st Annual Conference on Children’s Literature, Broward County Library, Fort Lauderdale, FL, April 2018
- Bank Street Book Fest, New York, NY, Oct. 2016
- Educator’s Night with Christian Robinson, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA, Oct. 2016
- “Get the Picture” Exhibit Program, the Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford, PA, July 2016

Panels

- SLJ Open Books Open Minds: “The Joy of Reading: Why I Write for Young People, Meeting Readers Where They’re At,” Online panel with authors Gayle Forman,, Kwame Mbalia, and Dana VanderLugt, moderated by Brandi Grant, Teacher-Librarian, September 18, 2025
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries, moderator with authors Tracey Baptiste, Hannah Moushabeck, and Maria Scrivenr, Springfield, MA, September 14, 2024
- Adoption Journeys, Florence, MA June 5, 2023
- “Picturing the World: Nonfiction Picture Books,” Boston Book Fest, panel moderator with Hayley Barrett, Karlin Gray, Lesa Cline-Ransome, Gloria Respress-Churchwell, Boston, MA, Oct. 19, 2019
- “Telling Our Stories, Sharing Our History” panel moderator with Joseph Bruchac, Lesa Cline Ransome, and Pam Muñoz Ryan “We the People: Stories of Strength and Struggle in



REFERENCES

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

from past employers, colleagues, and clients



Whole Book Approach storytime photo taken
at Crocker Farm School, Amherst,
Massachusetts, 2023

Challenging Times,” JFK Presidential Library, Boston, MA, May 9, 2019

- “LGBTQ+ Picture Books” KidLitCon19: Reaching Readers, panelist with Christian Trimmer, Andrea J. Loney, Alli Harper, and moderator Jeanette Bradley, Providence, RI, March 2019
- New England Independent Booksellers Association conference, panelist Providence, RI, Sept. 2018
- Assoc. of Jewish Libraries, panelist Boston, MA, June 2018
- Literacy Essentials Conference, Central CT State University, panelist New Britain, CT, April 2018

Consultancies

- Frontier Regional School District, Deerfield, MA (2025)
- EmbraceRace: Staff Blogger; Community Conversations webinar series; Reading Race in Picture Books (2017–2023)
- Story Starters Boston: inaugural family meetings (2019, 2020)
- MERGE for Equality Children’s Book Campaign (2017–2019)
- Link to Libraries: 2018 Smart Stories Campaign; 2019 Family Fun Event; and Link Live Storytime Series in spring 2020

Volunteer Work and Self-Directed Continuing Education

- Member of the Elected Leadership Team, First Church Amherst, March 2025–May 2026
- Participant in the Mary Magdalene Revealed Retreat led by Meggan Watterson, the Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, New York, Summers 2024 and 2025
- Member of the House of Mary Magdalene online community, led by Meggan Watterson since 2024
- Participant in several online learning programs hosted by FutureChurch, starting in 2024
- Participant in several online learning programs hosted by the Center for Action and Contemplation, starting in 2025
- Member of the OurShelves Curation Team (2018–2021)
- 2018 We Stand Together Hanukkah Ally Action Northampton
- March 2018 #KidLitMarchesForKids / #MarchForOurLives action, Northampton, MA.