

ASHLEY BRYAN

Ashley Bryan, illustrator of the 2013 International Children's Book Day poster, has been producing books - as author, illustrator, binder, publisher, and distributor - since he was five years old. Whenever he speaks about the origin of his creativity, he attributes his parents. "My parents sent their six children to the free neighborhood art and music classes sponsored by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression." They said, "Learn to entertain yourself."

Mr. Bryan reflects fondly on the diverse Bronx neighborhood where he grew up. His own family came from Antigua and neighbors were Jewish, Italian, German. He landed on the Normandy beaches with an all-Black Army unit then later returned to study the art and people of France - and, on a Fulbright, to study in Germany. His parents' words have always guided him: "If you are doing something creative and constructive, let no one or anything stop you." "I took this to heart," he said, "and have found ways to go forward, despite obstacles."

Bryan's artistic style varies according to the text and the materials he chooses. "The completed pictures often draw upon my studies of the art of cultures throughout the world." He travels regularly to Africa - Kenya, Uganda, South Africa - to gather the essence - the flavor - of the world for his art and writing. "I always have a sketch pad and I'm always drawing wherever I am." His picture storybooks embody techniques that reflect his study of African sculpture, masks and rock painting; other art works have been inspired by the Japanese artist, Hokusai; Bryan's block prints reflect the time period during which the first Black American Spirituals were sung, and illustrations for his books of more recent spirituals were inspired by the Medieval illuminated manuscripts.

One of the United States' most beloved illustrators, Mr. Bryan was nominated by USBBY for the 2006 Hans Christian Andersen Award and was honored with the prestigious Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, the Regina Medal, and the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award, each given for an entire body of work. In 2008 he was named one of the New York City Library Lions as a person who embodies "the highest level of accomplishment in [his] respective field." Bryan is the recipient of two Coretta Scott King Illustrator awards:

Beautiful Blackbird (2003), and *Let it Shine* (2007). He has earned six Coretta Scott King honor awards: *Beat the Story Drum, Pum-Pum* (1980); *I'm Going to Sing: Black American Spirituals*, (1982); author and illustrator honors for *Lion and the Ostrich Chicks and Other African Folk Tales* (1986); *What a Morning! The Christmas Story in Black Spirituals* (Macmillan, 1987); *All Night, All Day: A Child's First Book of African American Spirituals* (1991); and *Ashley Bryan's ABC of African American Poetry* (1997).*

"I feel that my art is a gift, a means by which I may reach out and touch the lives of others. I do so in love and thanks for the warmth of response to my work. I'm deeply grateful that I have this glowing resource of the arts in my life." Whatever the source of his inspiration, the final image is Ashley Bryan.

Mr. Bryan - storyteller, artist, author, poet, and musician - lives on Little Cranberry Island off the coast of Maine where his door is always open.

*Except where noted, all of Mr. Bryan's books have been published by Simon & Schuster/Atheneum.



PAT MORA

Pat Mora, poet and author of the 2013 International Children's Book Day message, loves children, words, and books. She grew up in a bilingual home (English/Spanish) in El Paso, Texas, a city on the U.S. - Mexico border. Ms. Mora has written over forty award - winning books for children, teens and adults. She received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Texas at El Paso, two Honorary Doctorates from North Carolina State University and SUNY Buffalo, is an Honorary Member of the American Library Association, and in 2003, received a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship to write in a castle in Umbria, Italy.

A former teacher, university administrator, and consultant, in 1996 Ms. Mora founded the family literacy initiative El día de los niños, El día de los libros/Children's Day, Book Day (Día), now housed at the American Library Association. "Día" means "day" in Spanish. The spirit of this initiative that is promoted by librarians and teachers at all levels is a daily, year - long commitment to linking all children to books, languages and cultures, and of sharing what Ms. Mora calls "bookjoy". Culminating April celebrations are held across the United States.

In works for children that include picture books, poetry, biographies, and retelling of folktales, she celebrates the Mexican - American experiences while encouraging unity among cultures. A champion of bilingual literacy, she often includes basic Spanish words in her work. Her books have been recognized with numerous awards including the Pura Belpré Award, Américas Award, the Golden Kite Award, Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Award and have been named to numerous notable children's book lists.

Some of Ms. Mora's children's books have been published in Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Arabic. Her children's books that celebrate the power and joy of reading include *Tomás and the Library Lady*, *A Library for Juana: The World of Sor Juana Inés*, and *Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children's Day, Book Day/Celebremos El Día de los Niños, El Día de los Libros*.

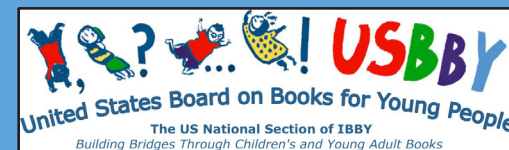
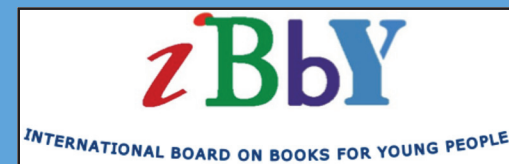
"I cherish the mystery of writing - whether poetry or prose. Words are a delight that express moods, emotions, ideas. Why do I and my fellow readers of all ages connect joy with books? What are my book memories?"

I was raised in a loving family, in a multi - generational home with books. I was fortunate to have teachers who loved poetry and a public library in my home city. When I was sick and unable to go to school, I snuggled in my bed and read. Before going to sleep and on hot summer afternoons, my sister and I relaxed on our twin beds and read. I've had the privilege of traveling to many cities in my country and to many other countries and on all those flights and in all those hotel rooms, I read. At the end of my day at home, I smile when I return to the book I'm savoring - reading, a daily pleasure in my life. I love to share that bookjoy pleasure by encouraging families and educators to nurture young readers and by writing books and poems for children."

Ms. Mora is the mother of three adult children. She is married to anthropology professor Vern Scarborough and lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

BOOKJOY AROUND THE WORLD

Since 1967, on or around
Hans Christian Andersen's birthday,
2 April, International Children's Book
Day (ICBD) is celebrated to inspire a
love of reading and to call attention to
children's books.



International Children's Book Day



Journée Internationale Du Livre Pour Enfants

Día Internacional Del Libro Infantil

Internationaler Kinderbuchtag

April 2nd, 2013



BOOKJOY AROUND THE WORLD

The Genesis of the Poster Art: Comments by Mr. Ashley Bryan

The poem is so immediate - so straightforward - and reflects so many aspects of the books we have all cherished, that it created countless mental images for me. It was a real challenge to undertake this work as a poster.

I wanted to make the art animated - bright with elements that would enhance the poem while delighting viewers. All the different things that Pat [Mora] touched on were so imaginative and playful. I wanted to infuse the poster with that spirit of play.

I knew the poem would appeal to children - to people - throughout the world. People will construct their own stories as they form impressions from the poem. But I wanted to design images that everyone could appreciate whatever their culture or background. Because the poem opened up the visual in an international way, I felt that if I could bring those features into focus, the poster would appeal and connect to everyone.



Bookjoy Around the World

We can read, you and I.
See letters become words,
and words become books
we hold in our hands.

We hear whispers
and roaring rivers in the pages,
bears singing
funny tunes to the moon.

We enter spooky gray castles,
and in our hands flowering trees climb
to the clouds. Bold girls fly;
boys fish for sparkling stars.

You and I read, round and round,
bookjoy around the world.

Poem by Pat Mora

Joie du livre ! Autour du monde

Nous pouvons lire, toi et moi.
Voir les lettres devenir des mots,
les mots devenir des livres
que nous tenons entre nos mains

Nous entendons des murmures
et des rivières qui rugissent dans les pages,
des ours qui chantent
de drôles de refrains à la lune.

Nous entrons dans des châteaux gris et effrayants
Et dans nos mains des arbres en fleurs grimpent
vers les nuages. Des filles intrépides volent ;
des garçons pêchent les étoiles scintillantes.

Toi et moi lisons, encore et encore,
Joie du livre autour du monde.

Poème de Pat Mora

Translation by Hasmig Chahinian



Bücherspaß! Rund um die Welt

Wir können lesen, du und ich.
Sehen Buchstaben zu Wörtern werden
und Wörter zu Büchern,
die wir in den Händen halten.

Wir hören Geflüster
und tosende Flüsse zwischen den Seiten,
Bären, die dem Mond
lustige Lieder singen.

Wir schleichen durch gruselig-graue Schlösser,
und in unseren Händen wuchern blühende
Bäume
bis in die Wolken hinauf. Mutige Mädchen
fliegen;
Jungs fischen nach funkelnden Sternen.

Du und ich, wir lesen, Runde um Runde,
Bücherspaß rund um die Welt.

Gedicht von Pat Mora

Translation by Claudia Söffner, Internationale
Jugendbibliothek

Alegría en los libros alrededor del mundo

Leemos juntos, tú y yo.
Vemos que las letras forman palabras
y las palabras se convierten en libros
que estrechamos en nuestras manos.

Oímos susurros
y ríos bulliciosos en sus páginas,
osos que cantan
graciosas melodías a la luna.

Entramos en misteriosos castillos
y de nuestras manos suben hasta las nubes
árboles florecidos. Vemos niñas valientes que vuelan
y niños que atrapan las estrellas.

Leemos juntos, tú y yo, dando vueltas y vueltas,
recorriendo el mundo con la alegría en los libros.

Poema por Pat Mora

Translation by Georgina Lazaro and Pat Mora

What Is Bookjoy?

Over ten years ago Ms. Mora coined the word “bookjoy” to convey the private pleasure readers experience. On writing and bookjoy, Mora explains: “I cherish the mystery of writing - whether poetry or prose. Words are a delight that express moods, emotions, ideas. The readers in the audience always smile. I also love circles (I have many loves): the earth, the moon, a circle of children holding hands and spinning round, round. I wanted this poem about bookjoy to convey how books connect us, a circle of readers. Using images I hoped children would enjoy, I included the wonders we find as, around the world, we turn pages. What an honor to have the talented artist Ashley Bryan, a generous, eloquent and inspiring man, illustrate this poem for an organization I also deeply admire.”

