



Contact: Debbie Zagorski
800-369-6283, ext. 3612
dzagorski@ncte.org

Joyce Sidman Honored with the 2013 Excellence in Poetry for Children Award

Urbana, IL—November 17, 2012 – Joyce Sidman has been chosen as the winner of the 2013 Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children, given by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

NCTE, through its Poetry Award Committee, recognizes and fosters excellence in children's poetry by encouraging its publication and by exploring ways to connect teachers and children with poetry through such means as publications, programs, and displays. As one means of accomplishing this goal, NCTE established the Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children in 1977 to honor a living American poet or anthologist for his or her aggregate work for children ages 3 thru 13.

Joyce Sidman is the author of many award-winning children's poetry books, including the Newbery Honor-winning *Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night*, and two Caldecott Honor books: *Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems* and *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors*. She teaches poetry writing to schoolchildren and participates in many national poetry events, including the annual "Poetry Blast" at the American Library Association meeting. Her recent book, *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature*, has been critically acclaimed and is a Junior Library Guild Selection.

Sidman will be honored at the Books for Children Luncheon and at a Poetry Award session during the NCTE Annual Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, in November.

This prestigious award was given annually until 1982 and every three years until 2009. In 2008, the Poetry Award Committee updated the criteria and changed the time frame to every other year; the next award will be given in 2015. The criteria include literary merit (art and craft of aggregate work); poet's or anthologist's contributions; evolution of the poet's or anthologist's work; and appeal to children.

A collection of poetry books of all winners of the Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children is preserved at the University of Minnesota Children's Literature Research Collections (CLRC)/Kerlan Collection at the Andersen Library.

For more information about the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children, including past winners, see <http://www.ncte.org/awards/poetry>.

###

The National Council of Teachers of English, with 35,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. For more information, please visit <http://www.ncte.org>.

National Council of Teachers of English
1111 W. Kenyon Road
Urbana, Illinois 61801-1096

Phone: 217-328-3870 • 800-369-6283
Fax: 217-278-3761 • Web: www.ncte.org
Email: public_info@ncte.org