

MEET THE AUTHORS
14TH Annual Literacy Essentials Conference
April 25, 2020

MATTHEW DICKS



Matthew Dicks is an award-winning elementary school teacher and the internationally bestselling author of *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*, *Something Missing*, *Unexpectedly*, *Milo*, *The Perfect Comeback of Caroline Jacobs*, *Twenty-one Truths About Love*, and *Storyworthy: Engage Teach, Persuade, and Change Your Life Through the Power of Storytelling*. He's also the humor columnist for Seasons magazine and an advice columnist with Slate magazine.

Matthew is a 45-time Moth StorySLAM and 6-time Moth GrandSLAM champion and the founder and Artistic Director of Speak Up, a Hartford-based storytelling organization. In addition to performing, he teaches storytelling and communication strategies to corporations, nonprofits, religious institutions, universities, hospitals, public schools, advertising agencies, and many more. He has most recently worked with Yale University, MIT, the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, LEGO, and the Mohawk Nation of Canada.

Matthew is also a wedding DJ, playwright, minister, stand-up comic, life coach, and Lord of Sealand. Matt loves ice cream cake, golf, tickling his children, staring at his wife, and not sleeping.

PEGI DEITZ SHEA



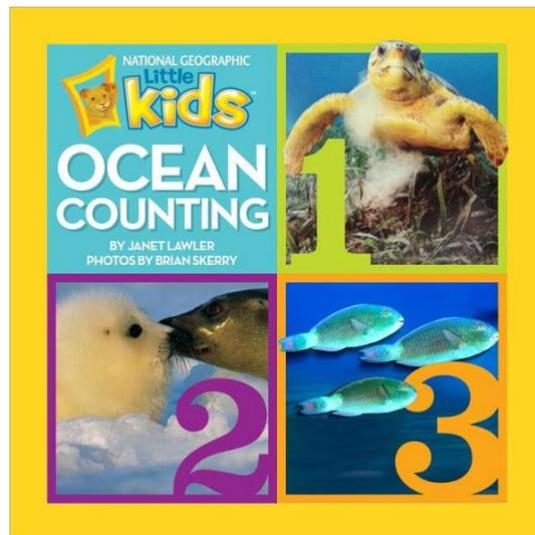
Two-time winner of the Connecticut Book Award for Children’s Literature, Pegi Deitz Shea is also the author of more than 450 published articles, essays, and poems for adult readers. She often writes about social justice issues and history, and her award-winning books for young readers include the biographies *Noah Webster: Weaver of Words* and *Patience Wright: America’s First Sculptor and Revolutionary Spy*; and the historical fictions *The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee’s Story*, *Tangled Threads*, and *Abe in Arms*. Having presented at hundreds of schools, libraries and conferences across the country, she teaches Creative Writing at the University of Connecticut and online through the Institute of Children’s Literature. She is Poet Laureate of the Town of Vernon, CT, and directs Poetry Rocks, a quarterly reading series she founded three years ago. Contact her at www.pegideitzshea.com or at pegideitzshea@gmail.com.

Please visit www.pegideitzshea.com for Pegi’s social justice and multicultural books, awards, writing workshops, curriculum guides and editing services! NEW - links to online poetry publications. SOON to come - Information on my photography exhibits, as well as sample copyrighted photographs to order.

JANET LAWLER



Award-winning children's author Janet Lawler has more than 25 fiction and nonfiction picture books and early readers published. Janet's books have appeared in Scholastic Book Clubs and Children's Book of the Month Clubs and in translation editions in several languages. Janet's recent picture books include *Kindergarten Hat* (Little Bee), *Winter Cats* (Albert Whitman), *Love Is Real* (HarperCollins), and Nat'l. Geographic's *Rain Forest Colors* and *Ocean Counting* (named an Outstanding Science Trade Book by the NSTA).



TONY ABBOTT



For the last two and a half decades, Tony Abbott has written many books for young readers aged 6 to 14, including *Kringle*, *Underworlds*, and the long-running series, *The Secrets of Droon*. He is also author of the realistic novels *Firegirl* (2006 Golden Kite Award for Fiction) and *The Postcard* (2008 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery), and the civil-rights drama, *Lunch-Box Dream*. His latest novels are *The Summer of Owen Todd* (2017), *Denis Ever After* (2018) his second Edgar Award nomination, and *The Great Jeff* (2019). Forthcoming in 2020 is his YA novel-in-verse, *Junk Boy*. Tony has been on the faculty of Lesley University's MFA in Creative Writing, is a frequent conference speaker and visitor to schools. Visit Tony Abbott's website at www.tonyabbottbooks.com.