



# Bound to Stay Bound Books | Presents *Library Corner*

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## Kadir Nelson Makes His Mark

Kadir Nelson has always wanted to be an artist. Drawing since the age of three, he was blessed with having an uncle who was both an artist and an art instructor. An apprenticeship began at the age of ten yet Kadir says "I imagine I was a regular kid that liked to draw a lot." He was not a troublemaker and admits that "like most boys, I wasn't a big reader," but there was a pull to the world of books that was atypical for the majority of his classmates. "I liked to look at the artwork in books more so than read the words." He remembers that he was "always passionate about drawing."

And how long is "always?" "I've been drawing since I could hold a pencil," the artist affirms. His art has a definite arc—his first efforts were mostly cartoon characters. Yet, "I always drew for the love of drawing, not so much to give it to someone." The impetus to share came later. At the age of 16, the blossoming artist began working in oils, developing his mastery and enlarging his vision. "I guess it just came very natural to me," he remembers.

Writing is a different story. Kadir did both the luminous artwork and the engaging text for his Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award-winning *We Are the Ship*. "Creating images with paint comes very natural to me, but writing is so much harder . . . I'd never written anything outside of classwork in college," notes Kadir. But he had a plan: "I found a lot of great literature

and interviewed former players to get a firm understanding of the story and gave it my best shot." The author/illustrator also gives credit to his editors who "helped me shape the manuscript."

Both writing and painting are creative acts, however. "The process for each is similar in that there's a seed of an idea, and plenty of research to do," explains the artist. "The most important thing for me is to be relaxed when painting, and patient when writing."

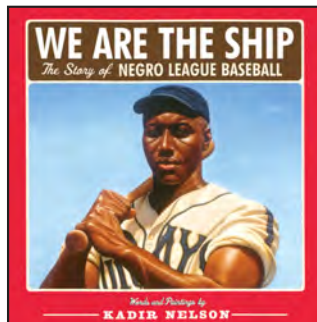
Finding subjects for his art doesn't seem to be an issue for the prolific and popular Kadir, whose passion for art manifests itself even when he has no specific goal in view. "I had begun to paint large paintings of Negro League players out of sheer inspiration. I hadn't any intentions of using them for a book until someone suggested I should." The next step was finding a publisher who was as excited about the prospect as he was. In retrospect, Nelson notes that he was pleased with the final product and thoroughly enjoyed creating something that he had both written and illustrated: "It felt complete."

*Interviewed by Ellen Myrick, February 2010*

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For more interviews with children's authors go to the Library Corner section of our Web site at [www.btsb.com](http://www.btsb.com) and select Featured Authors, or select

Author Showcase for information on over 800 children's authors and illustrators.



## Meet Children's Author



Kadir Nelson

### What's Inside

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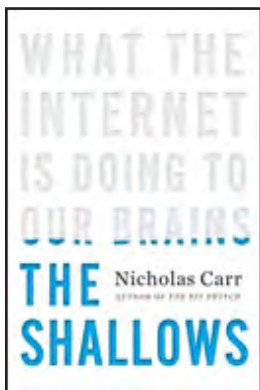
# RECENT TITLES BY KADIR NELSON

Titles with Kadir Nelson as the Author:

670346	___ <b>Change Has Come: An Artist Celebrates Our American Spirit.</b>	2009. 10-16.....	<b>15.79</b>
670323	___ <b>Heart And Soul: The Story Of America And African Americans.</b>	2011. 9-12. [AR].....	<b>20.69</b>
670492	___ <b>We Are The Ship: The Story Of Negro League Baseball.</b>	2008. 8-12 [AR/RC].....	<b>19.99</b>

Titles with Kadir Nelson as the Illustrator:

739618	___ <b>Abe's Honest Words: The Life Of Abraham Lincoln.</b>	Rappaport. 2008. 8-10 [AR/RC].....	<b>18.59</b>
805280	___ <b>Coretta Scott.</b>	Shange. 2009. 4-9. [AR].....	<b>19.29</b>
053050	___ <b>Dancing In The Wings.</b>	Allen. 2000. 4-8 [AR/RC] .....	<b>12.11</b>
805303	___ <b>Ellington Was Not A Street.</b>	Shange. 2004. 8-12 [RC] .....	<b>19.29</b>
567014	___ <b>Henry's Freedom Box.</b>	Levine. 2007. 8-10 [AR/RC].....	<b>18.59</b>
667279	___ <b>Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai And The Trees Of Kenya.</b>	Napoli. 2010. 4-8 [AR/RC] .....	<b>18.59</b>
500930	___ <b>Michael's Golden Rules.</b>	Jordan. 2007. 6-10 [AR] .....	<b>18.59</b>
924792	___ <b>Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People To Freedom.</b>	Weatherford. 2006. 5-8 [AR].....	<b>17.89</b>
709075	___ <b>Nation's Hope: The Story Of Boxing Legend Joe Louis.</b>	Pena. 2011. 6-8 [AR/RC] .....	<b>19.29</b>
501077	___ <b>Salt In His Shoes: Michael Jordan In Pursuit Of A Dream.</b>	Jordan. 2003. 4-8 [AR/RC].....	<b>12.75</b>
760773	___ <b>Testing The Ice: A True Story About Jackie Robinson.</b>	Robinson. 2009. 7-10 [AR/RC].....	<b>19.29</b>



**The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains**, by Nicholas Carr. Published by W.W. Norton & Co. 2010. 280 pp.

As the author notes, John Culkin said "We shape our tools and thereafter they shape us". Nicholas Carr points out that how the human being thinks and acts has been heavily influenced

by the tools we have created over the centuries – the clock, the map, the book. How then are we going to change as we become more heavily dependent on our latest tools, web-enabled computers? He looks at the scientific research into how our brains learn, think and remember, and how reading the printed book has strengthened and reinforced these skills in our brains. Then he looks at what the long-term effects of spending massive amounts of time online are going to be and the conclusions are not encouraging.

By spending much of their time online humans are developing "juggler's brain". We become better at cursory reading rather than deep reading. Our reading is more rushed, distracted and inefficient, rather than focused and contemplative. Our attention spans get shorter and there is cognitive overload of our working memory so that we have very poor transfer into long-term memory.

Why would we willingly come to rely on a tool that handicaps our brain and makes it

harder to carry out the complicated, creative thought processes that have helped mankind to advance so far through the centuries? Well, for one thing, the addictive entertainment value of the Internet makes it hard to resist. Then it appears that the "juggler's brain" is tapping into our species' old pattern of behavior, scanning the environment for threats and opportunities rather than focusing on any one thing closely. Then we have the Googles and Microsofts of the world that have a vested interest in pushing as much human activity onto the Internet as possible to increase their revenues. Of course there are those in academia and the media who insist that any new technology is a better technology and any who resist the latest technology are Luddites. And of course up to this point we could plead ignorance and say that we did not realize the harm we were doing to our brains by allowing the Internet to take over our lives.

But the research is stacking up and this book is a call to arms. Facebook, youtube, google, etc. are quickly taking over our home lives so the public schools are the logical place to counterbalance the effects of the Internet by effective use of print resources to help young people become strong readers and thinkers. When television took over as the popular media the schools didn't respond by replacing all their books with videos. But will the schools take the path of least resistance and replace the school library with Google and ebooks and create a generation of surfers and cut-and-pasters? Only time will tell, and at the moment it doesn't look encouraging.

-- Reviewed by Bob Sibert



# Preparing, Assessing and Responding to Book Challenges

Book challenges are not confined to a specific part of the country or to a certain size of community—they have become part of the everyday life of countless librarians, teachers and administrators.

## What to do *before* a book is challenged:

**1. Have a reconsideration policy in place.** Angela Maycock, Assistant Director for the Office of Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association, notes that a published policy helps everyone to be on the same page.

**2. Train your staff, board members, and trustees.** Devote time in staff and board meetings to talk about challenges and appropriate responses. Give talking points to everyone—even the custodial staff.

**3. Post the Library Bill of Rights.** Make it visible: “Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.”

## When a book is challenged:

Being prepared is half the battle but the response to a challenge dictates whether you and your community win the battle for freedom of information or whether you will suffer a setback. Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian and Archivist for Tennessee, faced an organized challenge many years ago when he was the director of the Cleveland Public Library just near Chattanooga. Here is Chuck’s advice on what to do when a book is challenged.

**1) Hear them out**—be a non-judgmental listener. It may enable you to defuse the situation at the best and at the very least, it will give you an idea of the scope of the challenge.

**2) Invite the individual to put his or her complaint in writing.** Encourage the individual to cite specific pages—this could help ensure that they read the book through rather than lifting passages out of context.

**3) Know the material.** If their concerns continue, Chuck Sherrill encourages the library administration to read the book through themselves. Gather reviews, citations, and other data to support its inclusion in the collection. Much of this information has already been gathered for the most challenged books including recent works such as *The Hunger Games*, notes Angela Maycock.

**4) Involve your board.** Create a committee to read the book, look at the evidence, and prepare a response. Use your board’s strengths to the library’s

advantage.

While it’s easy to feel exposed and alone on the frontlines of a book challenge, there are people eager to help you and resources at your disposal. Be prepared, train your staff, and post your policies. When those preemptive measures fail, listen attentively, build your case, and remember your responsibility to your entire community.

For more information, contact the American Library Association office of Issues and Advocacy at <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/challengeslibrarymaterials/index.cfm> You can reach Angela Maycock, Assistant Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, at 800-545-2433, ext. 4221, or via email [amaycock@ala.org](mailto:amaycock@ala.org). Please note that you do not have to be a member of ALA to contact Angela—she wants to help!

You can find the **Library Bill of Rights** at the ALA website: <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/index.cfm>

--Ellen Myrick for Bound to Stay Bound Books.  
*Special thanks to Chuck Sherrill and Angela Maycock for sharing their experience and expertise and their continued efforts on behalf of intellectual freedom.*

## AUTHOR TRIVIA Spring 2012

**What was the only live animal to be made an honorary member of the American Library Association?**

Our Author’s Showcase, a database of information about over 800 children’s authors and illustrators, has the answer. Visit the BTSB Bookstore at [www.btsb.com](http://www.btsb.com) and do a keyword search using BTSB stock number **439302** to find the answer to the above question.

Be on the lookout for our newest Showcase Magazine.



# 2011 BESTSELLERS

Here are the best-selling titles for Bound to Stay Bound Books last year. The Caldecott and Newbery books always do very well. The Wimpy Kid is anything but wimpy in sales. The Egyptian gods are not doing quite as well for Riordan as the Greek gods did.

1. Kinney, Jeff. **Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth.** (519778)
2. Stein, David Ezra. **Interrupting Chicken.** (846949)
3. Stead, Philip C. **Sick Day For Amos McGee.** (844451)
4. Vanderpool, Clare. **Moon Over Manifest.** (905522)
5. Kinney, Jeff. **Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days.** (519780)
6. Holm, Jennifer L. **Turtle In Paradise.** (460076)
7. Kinney, Jeff. **Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw.** (519787)
8. Kinney, Jeff. **Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules.** (519786)
9. Kinney, Jeff. **Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal.** (519783)
10. Riordan, Rick. **Throne Of Fire.** (754937)
11. Hill, Laban Carrick. **Dave The Potter.** (444361)
12. Angleberger, Tom. **Strange Case Of Origami Yoda.** (062728)
13. Kinney, Jeff. **Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever.** (519788)
14. Draper, Sharon. **Out Of My Mind.** (290516)
15. Osborne, Mary Pope. **Crazy Day With Cobras.** (693363)
16. Riordan, Rick. **Lost Hero.** (754944)
17. Williams-Garcia, Rita. **One Crazy Summer.** (952892)
18. DiCamillo, Kate. **Bink & Gollie.** (276764)
19. Willems, Mo. **We Are In A Book!** (949602)
20. Riordan, Rick. **Vespers Rising.** (754976)
21. Riordan, Rick. **Red Pyramid.** (754952)
22. Mass, Wendy. **11 Birthdays.** (611490)
23. Singer, Marilyn. **Mirror Mirror.** (822564)
24. Arnold, Tedd. **Buzz Boy And Fly Guy.** (070056)
25. Osborne, Mary Pope. **Dogs In The Dead Of Night.** (693360)



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