



***A Virtual Conference Presented by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
March 24, 2021***

Keynote: Debbie Reese

Tribally enrolled at Nambé Pueblo in the state currently known as New Mexico, Dr. Debbie Reese has studied representations of Native peoples in children's and young adult books for over 30 years. Her book chapters, journal articles, and professional writings are taught in Education, Library Science, and English courses across the United States and Canada. Her blog, *American Indians in Children's Literature*, is widely recognized as a go-to resource for writers, reviewers, editors, teachers, librarians, and parents. The American Library Association selected Dr. Reese to deliver its prestigious 2019 May Hill Arbutnot Honor Lecture. In July of 2019, Beacon Press published *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People*, adapted by Dr. Reese and her long time friend and colleague, Dr. Jean Mendoza.

Authors:

Jabari Asim

Jabari Asim hopes his books can help young people become “aware of wondrous new possibilities and lead them inevitably toward them.” A poet, playwright, professor, and essayist, Asim has authored books for both adults and children including *A Child's Introduction to African-American History*, *Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis*, and *Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington* which won a Carter G. Woodson Award. Asim recently adapted the memoir *Mighty Justice: The Untold Story of Civil Rights Trailblazer Dovey Johnson Roundtree* for young

readers. A former editor at the *Washington Post*, he received a 2009 Guggenheim fellowship in Creative Arts.

Ann Bausum

Ann Bausum seeks to make history “relevant, engaging, alive, and irresistible” for young people. Her award-winning books include *Stonewall* and *With Courage and Cloth: A Woman’s Right to Vote*. In 2017, the Children's Book Guild recognized the body of her work by presenting Bausum with its venerable Nonfiction Award. She has also received the Anna Cross Giblin Nonfiction Research Work-in-Progress grant, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, 2003, for *Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement*.

Doreen Rappaport

Doreen Rappaport is the author of many nonfiction books that celebrate multiculturalism, history, the lives of world leaders and the stories of those she calls ‘not-yet-celebrated.’ Her books have received critical acclaim and awards for her unique ability to combine historical facts with intimate storytelling, and for finding ‘new ways to present the lives of well-known heroes,’ like Frederick Douglass, Wilma Mankiller, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the subject of her most recent picture book biography, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She has been a featured author at the National Book Festival, the Smithsonian Museum of American History and the White House.

Moderator: Vicky Smith

Vicky Smith is the children's editor of Kirkus Reviews, a position she's held for over 10 years. A former children's librarian and director of an independent public library in Maine, she has served on the Newbery, Caldecott, and Sibert committees. She is an adjunct instructor at Simmons University, and once held a Guinness world record for a team read-aloud marathon (which proves only that anyone who can read can break a record).