

**Bryan Collier and Jacqueline Woodson Nominated for 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award**

The United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) is pleased to announce that artist Bryan Collier and author Jacqueline Woodson have been nominated for the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award. Frequently referred to as the “Little Nobel Prize,” the Hans Christian Andersen Medal is considered the highest international recognition given to an author and illustrator of children’s books.

Susan Corapi, Chair of the USBBY Nominating Committee, explained that “both Collier and Woodson are amazing artists, crafting with words, paint and paper. Their artistry has been recognized with the many national awards, but more than that they are superb storytellers, giving readers glimpses into both the African American story and the common bonds humans share around the globe.”

Committee member Natalie Ziarnik commented that “Bryan Collier has a high purpose in his art, and he consistently shows how people strive to bring their inner beliefs into the everyday world.” Commenting on the artistic dimensions of his work, committee member Mary Ashwood notes that “Collier uses the entire picture plane to pull his readers into the worlds of his protagonists. *Uptown* is a perfect example of the colors and collage creating the vibrancy, urban beauty, and excitement of the world of Harlem, even for readers for whom Harlem was an unknown.” Collier's first published book *Uptown* received the Coretta Scott King Award and the Ezra Jack Keats Book Award. He has continued to win awards for his work, most recently the 2013 Coretta Scott King Award for *I, Too, Am America*.

Jacqueline Woodson’s books cover the spectrum of children’s literature. Committee member Natalie Ziarnik said, “Woodson’s ability to write for such a wide age range amazes me—from the fun, cuddly feeling and tone of *Pecan Pie Baby* for the youngest readers to the calm yet poignant wisdom for elementary school age children in *Show Way*, *Coming On Home Soon*, and *The Other Side*.” Her middle grade and YA books tackle difficult emotions and situations. Ziarnik added, “Woodson does not shy away from any topic, and her lyrical writing and imagery let us see the more subtle side to each character’s point of view.”

Named for the Danish author and poet famous for modern-day fairy tales such as *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Thumbelina*, the Hans Christian Andersen Medal is awarded by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) every other year “to a living author and illustrator whose complete works have made a lasting contribution to children's literature.” The 2014 jury of eleven international scholars will select from 60 candidates nominated by 34 national sections of IBBY. Winners are to be announced at the Bologna Children's Book Fair on Monday, March 24, 2014. The

2012 recipients were author María Teresa Andruetto from Argentina and illustrator Peter Sís from the Czech Republic.

For more information about the award and nominees, visit the USBBY website at [www.usbby.org](http://www.usbby.org).