

**Animal Behavior Society Outstanding Children's Book Award
2016 Reviews of Winner and Finalist Books**



WINNER: The Queen's Shadow: A Story About How Animals See,
by Cybèle Young
Published by Kids Can Press, 2015

Review by Dr. Jennifer Mather, University of Lethbridge

The Queen's Shadow is an enjoyable way to learn about the many aspect of vision in different animals, through a story. The queen has played host to a diverse group of animals in the palace, but during a thunderstorm she has lost her shadow. She accuses them of stealing it and, one by one, they explain why their particular perceptual abilities eliminate them from her accusation. Well, the squid say all his arms were busy.... On each double page, we hear how they perception of each animal actually works. In the end the sea urchins reveal that she 'left her show in the loo' and they all go home, with us much the wiser. Children liked the story, and learning about how animal see.

FINALIST: Bite Into Bloodsuckers,
by Kari-Lynn Winters and Ishta Mercurio
Published by Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2015

Review by Dr. Michelle Solensky, University of Jamestown



Bite into bloodsuckers, by Kari-Lynn Winters and Ishta Mercurio (Fitzhenry & Whiteside) describes the benefits and challenges of hematophagy, or using blood as a food source, and features vivid behavioral accounts of the usual suspects (ticks, leeches, mosquitos and vampire bats) and some less familiar bloodsuckers (torpedo snail, catfish, kissing bugs). Vivid graphics pull the reader into the fascinating world of blood sucking, while the text provides an interesting and scientifically accurate and thorough description of the pros and cons of using blood as a primary or only food source. Whether you're interested in animals that may try to suck your blood, parasites that can live in your blood, or bloodsuckers that attack a variety of non-human animals, you will find fun, delightful, and disgusting stories in this book!

FINALIST: What's the Buzz? Keeping Bees in Flight,
by Merrie-Ellen Wilcox
Published by Orca Book Publishers, 2015



Review by Dr. Jean Alupay, University of Southern California

“What’s the Buzz? Keeping Bees in Flight” is a great read for young avid readers, buzzing with information about the life of bees and what we can do to help them amidst recent massive die-offs. The author approaches this in four condensed, but thorough chapters with colorful diagrams and instructive figures that bring the book to life. The author’s anecdotes of her own experiences, interspersed with quick bee facts make the book a charming, easy read with a personalized touch. Children commented on the captivating pictures of bee swarming and the inside of bee hives. They were surprised to learn how important bees are to our world, past and present, and that the bees need our help. This delightful book makes readers of all ages feel like anyone can help preserve the future of bees!

FINALIST: The Octopus Scientists,
by Sy Montgomery
Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015



Review by Dr. Michelle Solensky, University of Jamestown

The Octopus Scientists, by Sy Montgomery (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), is a thoroughly enjoyable journey through the process of science research. Readers will enjoy learning about the intelligence, diversity and behavior of octopuses, and about the adventures of four scientists who study these fascinating animals. The first challenge of studying octopuses is finding them, since they can contort their bodies to hide in very small spaces, and change their color and texture to match their background. Once these researchers find octopuses, they study their movement, their diet (53 different prey species for the giant Pacific octopus!), and many other aspects of their behavior. They also get to see the many other fascinating plants and animals that live in these ocean habitats. This book helps readers understand the challenges and rewards of science research in general, and specifically studying elusive and intelligent ocean animals. Upper elementary students who reviewed this book enjoyed the interesting information, the great photos, and the many fun facts about this fascinating animal!