



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Boston MA--The Associates of the Boston Public Library is pleased to announce the selection of its eighth Children's Writer-in-Residence Fellowship winner for the year 2011-2012. This year the call for applications was limited to illustrated picture books. The award goes to Sarah Winifred Searle of Danvers, Massachusetts.

Ms. Searle was chosen unanimously from over 60 applicants. In her words, "It would be impossible to express my gratitude and joy in receiving the fellowship. Thank you to the Associates from the bottom of my heart. I can't wait to become a part of the community at BPL this upcoming fall, and to finally have the resources to share [my] story with the world."



The Associates would like to thank all applicants for their efforts and interest in this position. The applications were varied, professional, charming and represented an impressively wide range of talent.

Ms. Searle got her foundation in fine arts at Maine College of Art, graduated from Southern Maine Community College with a degree in New Media, and is currently studying Humanities at Harvard Extension School. She found her professional niche as a game artist, but now she hopes to use her background to create a unique storytelling experience. Her graphic novel, *Under the Apple Tree* is, in short, a ghost story. Set during World War II, a girl must solve the dark mystery that shrouds her home, while handling the trials and tribulations of adolescence during times of great change in American history. The book will be available to read online in its entirety for free, and the website will feature a transmedia appendix to more deeply explore the research and themes of the book.

The residency at the BPL will start in September of 2011 and the Associates will welcome the winner with a reception in early fall. Created to provide an emerging children's writer with the financial support and privacy needed to complete one literary work within a nine-month period, the fellowship will provide Ms. Searle with a "room of her own" in the Central Library, plus a \$20,000 stipend.

"The Children's Writer-in-Residence Fellowship is cause for celebration for several reasons," noted Associates Chair Vivian Spiro. "First, it will provide an exciting new talent with the support and public exposure necessary for success; and second, it marks a promising new stage in the evolution of the Associates of the Boston Public Library as an organization. Through the Children's Writer-in-Residence Program, the Associates will visibly further its mission of supporting the Boston Public Library and promoting the importance of writers, books and reading in our culture." Ms. Spiro added that to the best of her knowledge, the Associates' stipend is one of the largest of its kind offered in the U.S. The fellowship is funded by an anonymous gift.

About the Associates: The Associates of the Boston Public Library is a community based, non-profit group dedicated to restoring and preserving the Library's many historic and artistic treasures while raising public awareness and appreciation of the Library and its collections. During the past thirty-four years, it has accomplished this goal by establishing two independent conservation funds and underwriting a wide array of programs, as well as sponsoring several signature events each year.

These include Literary Lights, an annual black tie dinner honoring twelve outstanding New England authors; Literary Lights for Children, a program at which four distinguished children's authors tell Boston school children why and how they became writers; a hundred year retroactive National Book Award competition, featuring a spirited debate by three former Literary Lights; and readings, musical performances and receptions designed to enhance public awareness of the Library's holdings. The organization also oversees the David McCullough Conservation and the William O. Taylor Funds, independent funds dedicated to restoring and preserving the Library's many historic and artistic treasures.

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