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CLAY CARMICHAEL is the author-illustrator of *Bear at the Beach*, *Used-Up Bear*, and *Lonesome Bear*, and a contributor to *The Secret to Their Success: How 33 Women Made Their Dreams Come True*. Her award-winning picture books are published in many languages. She teaches writing, poetry, and illustration across the state. www.claycarmichael.com

FRANCES O'ROARK DOWELL is the author of *Dovey Coe*, winner of a 2001 Edgar Award and the William Allen White Award; *Where I'd Like To Be*, an IRA/CBC Children's Choice; *The Secret Language of Girls*; *Chicken Boy*, an ALA Notable Book and NCTE Notable Book; and *Phineas L. MacGuire...Erupts!: The First Experiment*. She lives in Durham. www.francesdowell.com

CATHY EAST DUBOWSKI is a former book and magazine editor with dozens of fiction titles to her credit. Her award-winning books include *Pretty Good Magic*, a Book-of-the-Month Club selection; and *Cave Boy*, a CBC/IRA Children's Choice. *Pirate School*, *Cowboy Roy*, *Snug Bug*, *Shark Attack!* and *A Horse Named Seabiscuit* are among her many recent titles.

PANSIE HART FLOOD is the author of several books for children. *Sylvia & Miz Lula Maye*, the first novel of a southern African-American trilogy, was a 2003 Society of School Librarians International Honor Book. *It's Test Day*, *Tiger Turcotte* was a 2005 CBC Children's Choice. Pansie teaches language arts in Greenville, North Carolina. www.pansieflood.com

LOUISE HAWES has won awards from CBC, IRA, YALSA, and Bank Street College. Recent titles with Houghton Mifflin: *Muti's Necklace*, a picture book set in ancient Egypt, and *The Vanishing Point*, a young adult novel. Coming soon: *The Cinderella Files*, dark tales for teens and adults. Louise, who teaches at colleges nationwide, offers writing workshops for all ages. www.louisehawes.com

EILEEN HEYES is the author of the middle grade mystery *O'Dwyer & Grady Starring in Acting Innocent*, a 2003 Edgar Award finalist, and its sequel, *O'Dwyer & Grady Starring in Tough Act to Follow*. Eileen's YA nonfiction books have been honored by the New York Public Library, Child Study Council, and Society of School Librarians. She offers workshops for all ages. www.eileenheyes.com

BELINDA HURMENCE is a former assistant fiction editor of *Mademoiselle* magazine and editor for *Flair* magazine. Her first novel, *Tough Tiffany*, was an ALA Notable Book. Awards for her nine subsequent titles have included Parents' Choice, NCTE Teachers' Choice, *School Library Journal* Best Book, the Golden Kite Award, and Bank Street Best Books of the Year list.

ELIZABETH McDAVID JONES is the author of six historical mysteries from American Girl. Her newest release is *Peril at King's Creek* (2006). *The Night Flyers* won the 2000 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery, and *Ghost Light on Graveyard Shoal* was an Agatha Award finalist. "Liz" offers presentations for K-12 students, as well as teacher workshops. www.elizabethmcdavidjones.com

JACQUELINE K. OGBURN, a former editor, is the author of eight picture books. *The Bake Shop Ghost* was featured on NPR, is a Children's Choice book, and earned starred reviews from *Kirkus* and *Booklist*. *The Magic Nesting Doll* was a *Storytelling World* Honor Book. Earlier books include *The Reptile Ball* and *The Jukebox Man*.

CONSIE POWELL writes and illustrates picture books; edits, designs, and illustrates the young readers' section of *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine; and presents programs about nature, picture books, and the creative process. Her books include award-winning *Leave Only Ripples*, *A Bold Carnivore*, *Amazing Apples*, and *Old Dog Cora and the Christmas Tree*. www.consiepowell.com

DONNA WASHINGTON is an author, storyteller, and multicultural folklorist who appears at festivals, schools, libraries, and conferences nationwide. She has five multiple-award-winning storytelling CDs and three children's books. Her most recent book, *A Pride of African Tales*, illustrated by James Ransome, received raves from ALA Booklist and *School Library Journal*. www.donnawashington.com

CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD has authored 23 books. *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins* and *Remember the Bridge: Poems of a People* won the North Carolina Juvenile Literature Award. *The Sound That Jazz Makes* won the national Carter G. Woodson Award. Carole teaches at Fayetteville State University and tours nationwide. www.caroleweatherford.com

FRANCES M. WOOD is the author of *Becoming Rosemary*, named a Bank Street College Best Book of the Year. A North Carolina Arts Council grant helped her complete *Daughter of Madrugada*, which went on to win the Los Angeles Public Library's FOCAL Award. Before she became an author, Frances was a professional librarian. www.francesmwood.com

VIRGINIA WRIGHT-FRIERSON writes and illustrates children's books about nature. *A Desert Scrapbook*, *An Island Scrapbook*, and *A North American Rain Forest Scrapbook* have won awards from CBC, NSTA, and NCTE, among others; and all three are listed as Outstanding Nature Books for Young Readers by the John Burroughs Association. <http://home.att.net/~vmwf>

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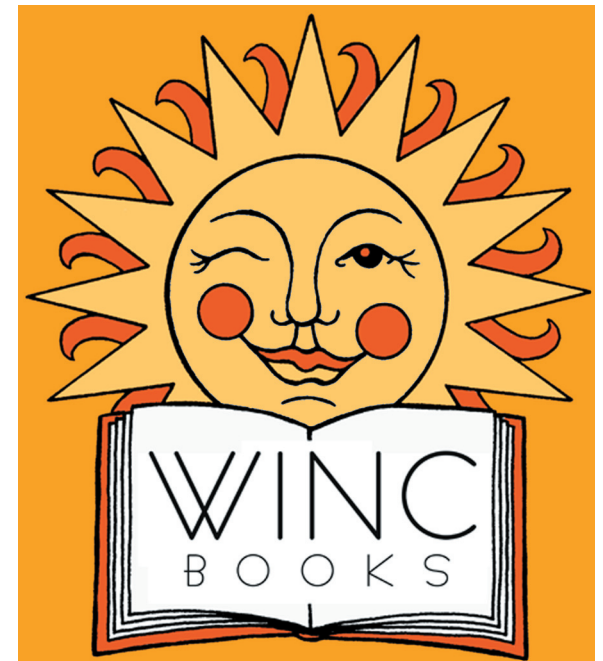
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