



125 S. Prospect Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 279-8696 • www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org

NEWS RELEASE

June 12, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:
Rita Perona, Head of Marketing
Office: 630-279-8696
Email: Rita.Perona@elmlib.org

Jacob Grant, Children's Author/Illustrator Comes to Elmhurst Public Library

ELMHURST, IL — Jacob Grant, picture book author and illustrator of *Bear Out There*, visits Elmhurst Public Library on Saturday, June 22.

Grant is based in Chicago and has published several children's book, including *Cat Knit*, *Little Bird's Bad Word*, and *Bear's Scare*. *Bear Out There*, published in 2019, is a story about the friendship between Spider, who loves the outdoors, and Bear, who does not.

Recently, Jacob Grant took a moment to talk with Elmhurst Public Library about his books and weigh in on creativity, the topic of EPL's Common Connection summer programming:

EPL: *When did you realize you wanted to be a writer/illustrator?*

JG: Going back to the days I studied graphic design and illustration in art school, I remember thinking about what a dream job it would be to make art for children's books. But, at the time I had never met anyone who had done such a thing. It seemed impossible. After five years of working professionally as a graphic designer, rarely making art, I found inspiration while book shopping for our baby niece. There were so many wonderful children's books on the shelf, and I thought to myself, I should make one of these! Of course, it would take another several years of getting my skills up to snuff, to finally attempt writing and illustrating a picture book – and some years after that to finally have one published!

EPL: *When did you write your first book and how old were you?*

JG: I'm fortunate enough to have a couple books from first grade that my parents stowed away in storage. One about a pet seal that could live in my Grandparent's swimming pool, and another about a sandwich so big it had to be assembled with trucks and cranes.

EPL: *How many books have you written? Which is your favorite?*

JG: Up to now, I've written six published picture books, illustrated 1, and have 3 more coming out over the next couple years. My favorite? It's like choosing your favorite child! Though, I'm especially partial to *Through With The Zoo*. I worked on the book throughout the year I spent at home with our first baby. If you look at the back cover, you'll find a little toddler following all of the other children – that's my boy!

EPL: *Do you have any tricks to get your creativity flowing?*

JG: No tricks here! Just old-fashioned, unexciting discipline. I find the best way to come up with a creative idea is to simply show up to work. If I'm at my desk, I'll be ready when the good idea happens. When deadlines allow, I set aside an hour of the day to sketch and write without an objective. To experiment and see where it takes me.

EPL: *What do you think makes a good story?*

JG: A good story can be a very subjective thing, so instead, I'll say that the best way I know how to make a story is to start with a character who wants something. It doesn't even matter what it is! As long as your character wants something. That's the start of any good story.

EPL: *As a child, what did you want to do when you grew up?*

JG: Make art, and be a marine biologist. Halfway there!

Event Info:

Out of This World with Jacob Grant

Saturday, June 22 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Elmhurst Public Library

For families

FREE • Tickets available at the Library the morning of the program

elmhurstpubliclibrary.org

