



Claire's Day Authors and Illustrators 2018

Defiance Authors

Lyn Ford

Meaghan Fisher

Jennifer Swanson

Toledo Authors/Illustrators

Rachele Alpine

Shutta Crum

Kirbi Fagan

David FitzSimmons

Jennifer Maschari

Paul Orshoski

Kyle Prue

Shawn Reid

Maumee Authors/Illustrators

Kirbi Fagan

Meaghan Fisher

David FitzSimmons

Michelle Houts

Paul Many

Paul Orshoski

Julie Rubini



Rachele Alpine is a lover of sushi, busting a move on the dance floor, and Michael Jackson. One of her first jobs was at a library, but it didn't last long, because all she did was hide in the third-floor stacks and read. Now she's a little more careful about when and where she indulges her reading habit. By day she is a high school English teacher, by night a wife and mom, and finds any time in between to write. Her words are almost always created with the companionship of the world's cutest dog, Radley, a big cup of coffee, and a full bag of gummy peaches. She lives in Cleveland, Ohio, but dreams of moving back to Boston, the city she fell in love with while attending graduate school there.

Books Include: Canary, You Throw Like a Girl

Website: www.rachelealpine.com

Grades Appropriate: 4-8

Toledo Availability: May 11



Shutta Crum writes books for children and poetry for adults. She is also a storyteller, an energetic and humorous public speaker, and a librarian. In addition to her current fifteen published books she has more forthcoming. Several of her articles about teaching and writing have appeared in professional journals. In 2005, she was honored by being one of eight authors invited to the White House for the Easter Egg Roll. In 2010 she was invited to tour Department of Defense American military base schools across Japan.

Books include: Mouseling's WORDS, Thunder-Boomer!, William & the Witch's Riddle, Dozens of Cousins, The Bravest of the Brave

Website: blog.shutta.com

Grades Appropriate: Pre-3

Toledo Availability: May 11



Kirbi Fagan is a Metro Detroit based illustrator who specializes in creating art for book covers and comics. Her illustrations are known for their magical themes, nostalgic mood and feminine heroines. Some of her clients include Marvel Comics, Disney, Simon & Schuster, Penguin Books, Orbit Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt & Dark Horse Comics. Currently, she teaches illustration at College for Creative Studies in Downtown Detroit. Kirbi enjoys writing stories, spending time with her family and rollerblading with her dogs.

Books Include: Dark Waters Series, Survive! Series, Billy Bobble Makes a Magic Wand, Marvel Comics, Dark Horse Comics

Website: www.kirbifagan.com

Grades Appropriate: 2-12

Toledo Availability: May 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Maumee Availability: May 14, 15, 16, 17, 18



David FitzSimmons is an award-winning free-lance photographer and writer. His books have sold over 150,000 copies and won 15 national book awards, including IBPA best first picture book (2012) and best picture book (2016). He holds a Ph.D. in English from Ohio State University, with a specialty in narrative theory—investigating the components of storytelling—something that influences his photography and writing.

Books Include: Curious Critters Series, Wakem the Rooster Up All Night, Salamander Dance

Website: www.davidfitzsimmons.com www.curious-critters.com

Grades Appropriate: Pre-3

Toledo Availability: May 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Maumee Availability: May 14, 16, 17, 18



Meaghan Fisher is a Children's Author who has over ten years experience working with children as a former Nanny. She has a BS in Psychology and a Minor in Women's Studies and lives in Ohio with her husband and two children. Her hope is to inspire children through the moral lessons in her books. Meaghan's Awards: Creative Child Magazine 2015 Book of the Year: If I Could Pull the Moon from the Sky, Readers Favorite 2014: Silver & Bronze, Creative Child Magazine 2014 & 2015 Preferred Choice, Creative Child Magazine 2014 & 2015 Seal of Excellence, Literary Classics Seal of Approval, 2013 Best Picture Book : Mousekabitz, Mom's Choice Silver: Tyler the Fish, REBA Award: Tyler the Fish, & Santa's Choice Award: Tyler the Fish and Mousekabitz.

Books Include: Tyler the Fish and the Lake Erie Bully, Owlie Learns To Fly, Pip the Possum

Website: <http://www.meaghanfisher.com/books/>

Grades Appropriate: K-3

Defiance Availability: April 30, May 1, 2, 3, 4

Maumee Availability: May 14, 15, 16, 17, 18



Lynette Ford an American storyteller, was the first storyteller in the state of Ohio to be nominated for a Governor's Award for the Arts. She is a regular performer at regional and national storytelling festivals, including the National Storytelling Festival, Hawaii's Talk Story Festival and the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival. Lyn's first publication as an individual author was published in 2012. She writes folklore adaptations, spooky tales and original stories rooted in her families multicultural Afrilachian storytelling traditions. Her programs are often enriched with call and response, choral response, rhythm and rhyme, humor and heart.

Books Include: Beyond the Briar Patch, Hot Wind, Boiling Rain

Website: www.storytellerlynford.com

Grades Appropriate: K-12

Defiance Availability: April 30, May 1, 2, 3, 4



Michelle Houts lives on a family farm in West Central Ohio with her three children, the farmer of her dreams, some cattle, a few hogs, a whole lot of barn cats, a few goats and a Great Pyrenees named Hercules.

An award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction for readers age 4 -14, Michelle sparks the imaginations of young readers and writers everywhere with lively and engaging school and library presentations. With Lucy's Lab, a new chapter book series for science-minded kids, Michelle encourages readers to observe the wonderful world in which we all live.

Books Include: Lucy's Lab Series, When Grandma Gatewood Took A Hike, Winterfrost, The Practical County Drama Queen

Website: www.michellehouts.com

Grades Appropriate: K-8

Maumee Availability: May 14, 15, 16, 17, 18



Jennifer Maschari is a classroom teacher and the author of THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF CHARLIE PRICE and THINGS THAT SURPRISE YOU. She is hard at work on her next middle grade novel with Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins. Jennifer lives in Ohio with her husband and stinky (yet noble) English bulldogs, Oliver and Hank. She loves to read anything she can get her hands on. She likes to sing songs loudly and off-key and make up accompanying dance moves. She likes to travel to new locations and spend time outside...But her favorite thing to do is write stories for kids.

Books Include: Things That Surprise You, The Remarkable Journey of Charlie Price

Website: www.jenmaschari.com

Grades Appropriate: 3-7

Toledo Availability: May 11



Paul Many has written three books for teens and three for younger readers as well as numerous short stories and poetry for adult audiences. His books have been a Los Angeles Times Best Children's Book selection, selected for a statewide reading program and for the Read Aloud America program, and performed numerous times in a production that incorporates music and dance. They've been republished in paperback and translated into three languages and are found in libraries from Maine to Melbourne. He lives in Toledo, Ohio.

Books Include: My Life Take Two, Big Cool City, Great Pancake Escape

Website: <https://www.amazon.com/Paul-Many/e/B000APU30C>

Grades Appropriate: K-5

Maumee Availability: May 14, 15, 16, 17, 18



Paul Orshoski an international children's author and poet, is a former school teacher, coach and principal from Sandusky, Ohio. He writes witty, humorous, rhyming children's books and poems. Paul is the author of thirteen children's books published by Treasure Bay, Inc. of Novato, California. Each book combines a fun story with simple games for phonics and sight words. He also writes the "We Both Read" series and several poems that appear in poetry anthologies published by Meadowbrook Press, Scholastic, Inc., and Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. Paul enjoys making kids giggle during school visits by enthusiastically performing his poems and books in small or large group settings wherever he is asked to present.

Books Include: Where Is My Frog, Bugs on the Bus, Robot Man, Sports Dream, My Sitter is a T-Rex

Website: <http://paulorshoski.com>

Grades Appropriate: K-5

Toledo Availability: May 7, 9, 10, 11

Maumee Availability: May 16, 17, 18



Kyle Prue is the 21-year-old Award Winning Author of the Feud Trilogy. Kyle is also an Actor and Stand Up Comedian. Kyle's first two books, *The Sparks* and *The Flames* have won numerous national and international awards Including **Best Fiction** and **Best Fantasy** for Young Adults from the Florida Author's and Publishers Association, the New England Book Festival, Midwest Book Festival, Southern California Book Festival, and the International London Book Festival. Kyle also won prestigious International Moonbeam and IndieFab awards for **Best Young Author**.

Books Include: The Fued Trilogy

Website: www.kyleprue.com

Grades Appropriate: 6-12

Toledo Availability: May 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 18



Shawn Reid is from the Midwest (Ohio) and currently resides in Florida. He has served in various capacities of early childhood education for the past 20 years. He is currently a Fiscal Specialist with the Head Start National Center for Program Management and Fiscal Operations which provides direct support to every Head Start program in the country.

Shawn is known for creating characters that are memorable and identifiable to the audience. His natural ability to transform real life situations to family values, relationships, and memorable moments is unparalleled. Shawn creates characters that are relatable to multi-ethnic, multi-racial people; particularly those who identify with their rich heritage. Shawn writes predominantly children's stories, but also has written several film screenplays and treatments.

Books include: Fogo the Frog: Stranger Danger, Sunny's Peach Cobbler

Website: www.duschangt.com

Grades Appropriate: K-5

Toledo Availability: May 10, 11



Julie Rubini and her husband Brad established our very own Claire's Day Book Festival in honor of their daughter Claire. Julie's works are included within the Biographies for Young Readers series published by Ohio University Press. Julie loves encouraging children to learn to read, and currently volunteers with Creating Young Readers. Julie and Brad received the Maumee Chamber of Commerce Hometown Hero Award (2010) Julie was honored with the prestigious Toledo Area Jefferson Award (2015), and selected by a committee from the national offices to attend the convention in Washington D.C. Julie is also the recipient of the UT Outstanding Alumnus Award (2015) and the YWCA Milestones Award in the category of Education (2016).

Books Include: Hidden Ohio, Missing Millie Benson: The Secret Case of the Nancy Drew Ghostwriter and Journalist, Her Story: Virginia Hamilton

Website: www.julierubini.com

Grades Appropriate: K-8

Maumee Availability: May 14, 15, 17



Jennifer Swanson is an Award-winning author and her love of science began when she started a science club in her garage at the age of 7. While no longer working from the garage, Jennifer's passion for science resonates in the fascinating 25+ nonfiction and fiction books she has written for children. Her book, SUPER GEAR: Nanotechnology and Sports Team Up (Charlesbridge) was selected as an NSTA Best STEM book for 2017. Jennifer has received awards from the Pennsylvania TriState Young Adult Review Committee and her books in the "How Things Work" series by The Child's World were named to the 2012 Booklist's Top 10 Books for Youth: Series Nonfiction. Top reviews include a starred review in Booklist, and recommended reviews from School Librarians Workshop, Library Media Connection, School Library Journal, and the National Science Teacher Association. Jennifer's new books include releases with National Geographic Kids, Charlesbridge Publishing, and Rosen Publishing.

Books Include: Astronaut Aquanaut: How Space Science and Sea Science Interact, Zoology: Cool Women Who Work With Animals, How Hybrid Cars Work

Website: <http://jenniferswansonbooks.com/>

Grades Appropriate: 1-7

Defiance Availability: May 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11