

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

# Mathical

## **2018 Mathical Winners Announced** Inspiring Math Stories for Youth Ages 2-18

**Berkeley, California – February 23, 2018** — The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) announced the 2018 winners today of the Mathical Book Prize, which recognizes outstanding fiction and literary nonfiction for youth ages 2-18.

The committee chose Award Winners in the three youngest age categories in 2018 (Pre-K, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-5), and made Honor Book selections in all five age categories (also Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12).

“We are trying to engage kids in the power and beauty of mathematics – power in that we want to give them confidence to consider and solve arithmetic, spatial, logical, structural, algebraic problems; beauty in that math can be employed to better understand and appreciate the wonders of nature and also human artistic expression, for example in fine art and music,” said Roger Strauch, MSRI board chair and chair of The Roda Group, a Berkeley venture capital firm.

The prize, now in its fourth year, is selected annually by a committee of PreK-12 teachers, librarians, mathematicians, early childhood experts, and others. The 2018 Award Winners are:

- For Grades 3-5, *A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars* by Seth Fishman (HarperCollins Children's Books).
- For Grades K-2, *Sheep Won't Sleep: Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s* by Judy Cox (Holiday House).
- For Pre-Kindergarten, *Baby Goes to Market* by Atinuke (Candlewick Press).

The Mathical Book Prize is awarded by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI), in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), and in coordination with the Children's Book Council (CBC).

The Mathical list is intended as a resource for educators, parents, librarians, children, and teens. The full list is published at [mathicalbooks.org](http://mathicalbooks.org).

Selected winning titles are distributed to children in need in the Bay Area with the support of First Book and the Firedoll Foundation, which also make possible the creation of reading guides for families.

**About MSRI:** The [Mathematical Sciences Research Institute](#) (MSRI) is one of the world's preeminent centers for collaborative research in mathematics. Located in Berkeley, California, MSRI's mission is to advance mathematical research, foster talent, and further the appreciation of mathematics. MSRI strives to make mathematics accessible and exciting to those outside the field through the [National Math Festival](#), sponsorship of [Numberphile](#) (YouTube's most popular informal mathematics channel, with over 2.3 million subscribers), film production for public television including the much-recognized [Navajo Math Circles](#), and the [Mathical Book Prize](#). MSRI has created a national [Math Circles](#) movement of small organizations teaching and engaging children in math as a hobby. [www.msri.org](http://www.msri.org)

**About CBC:** [The Children's Book Council](#) is the national nonprofit trade association of children's book publishers in North America, dedicated to supporting and informing the industry and fostering literacy. The CBC is the anchor sponsor of Children's Book Week, and is proud to partner with other national organizations on co-sponsored reading lists, educational programming, and literacy initiatives.

**About NCTM:** The [National Council of Teachers of Mathematics](#) (NCTM) is the public voice of mathematics education, supporting teachers to ensure equitable mathematics learning of the highest quality for all students through vision, leadership, professional development, and research. Founded in 1920, NCTM is the world's largest mathematics education organization, with 90,000 members and more than 230 Affiliates throughout the United States and Canada.

**About NCTE:** The [National Council of Teachers of English](#) (NCTE) is the nation's most comprehensive literacy organization, supporting more than 25,000 teachers across the PreK–college spectrum. Through the expertise of its members, NCTE has served at the forefront of every major improvement in the teaching and learning of English and the language arts since 1911.

**About the Firedoll Foundation:** The Firedoll Foundation is a private family foundation founded by Sandor and Faye Straus in 1998. The Foundation helps non-profits "fight the good fight" for environmental conservation and justice, immigration and human rights, community development, Middle East peace, and support for those affected by traumatic brain injury.

### **Mathical Supporters Kit**

Resources for media, educators, and librarians to use to promote and feature Mathical award winners in children's reading programs can be found on the Mathical website at [mathicalbooks.org](http://mathicalbooks.org).

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