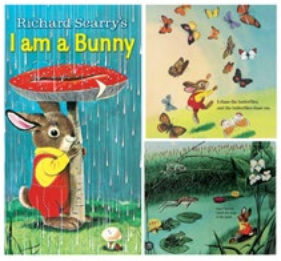
Q&A WITH ERIN KRAAN

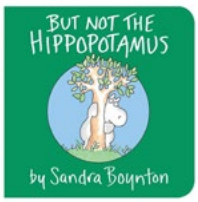
What children's books do you think helped form your style?



The illustrations in picture books I was super drawn to as a kid were Richard Scarry's *I Am a Bunny*. If you compare those illustrations with my current style today, you can't see similarities. But as a kid, I loved the tender and quiet moments he created for this little bunny character. I remember spending a lot of time staring at this little world he created. In my own work, I try to create inviting & peaceful environments that a child would want to also spend time in.

What was your favorite read-aloud book growing up? What is one of your favorite read-aloud books now?





My favorite book to read-aloud as a kid was *Mortimer be Quiet*. I loved to yell "Mortimer BE QUIET!" in the different character's voices.

My favourite read aloud today is *But not the Hippopotamus* by Sandra Boynton. The simplicity and hilarity is perfect!

What are some of your favorite colors to work with when you're illustrating?



I am obsessed with layering yellows, brown and green. You can see this obsession in Buffalo Fluffalo and Puffalo's world. I love to create patterns in the grass grass and hills and add shades of yellow, brown and green to them. Drool!

Tell us about something you love and love to share with others.

I am currently obsessed with collecting different colored tins and toolboxes. I have collected tins in purple, pink, different shades of green, and dark blue and am currently on the hunt for butter yellow.

Explore more videos and resources for young readers from this year's winners at everychildareader.net/anna.

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