

Author/Illustrator Study-Presentation

Kevin Henkes and His Works—A Congenial Invitation

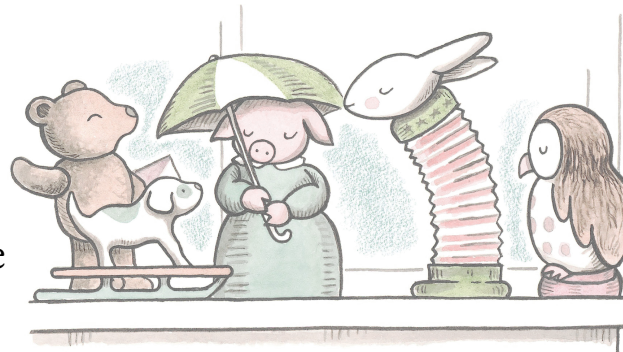


by Dachao and Caitlin

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“I feel as if I’ve been removed from ordinary time and am living in some parallel universe, a world of grace and wonder” — Kevin Henkes



EDUC 5335 Literature

for Children and Adolescents Fall 2022

Tuesday November 8, 2022

About Kevin Henkes



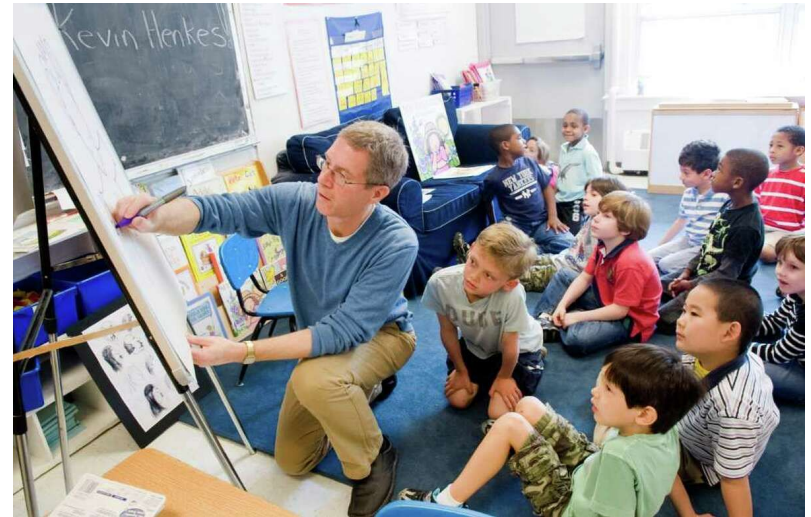
Photo of/credited The Cooperative Children's Book Center at School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, where Henkes studied in college

Career Overview:

- Written/illustrated ~46 picture books
- Authored 13 children's novels
- Caldecott Medal winner
- Writing children's books for 40+ years

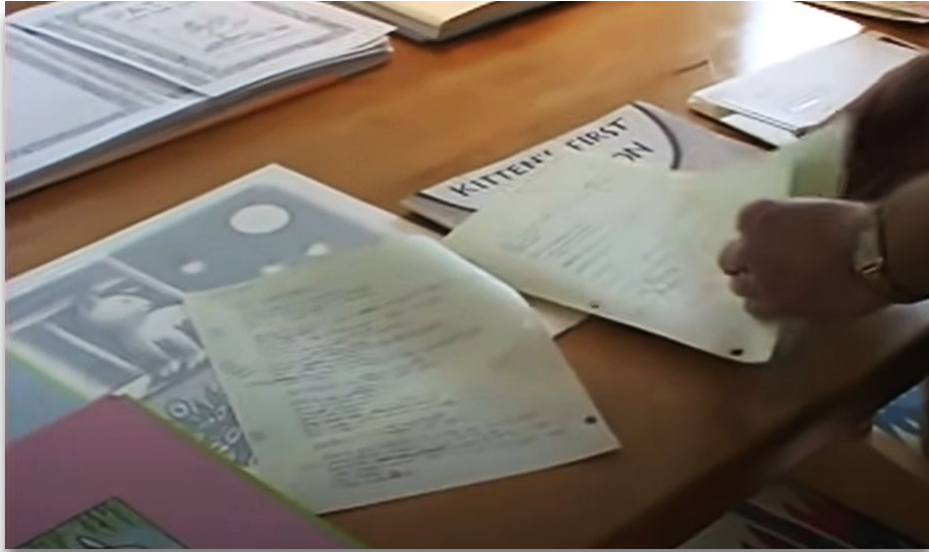
Early Influences:

- Raised in Wisconsin, in a big working-class family
- From a young age, he was **drawing cars** and **copying cartoons from newspapers**
- Frequented museums and libraries with his family



Henkes with kindergarten and first-grade students at Long Ridge School in Stamford, Connecticut (photo by Kathleen O'Rourke adapted from *Stamford Advocate*)

Writing Process



“The words always come first. But, because I’m both the author and illustrator, I often edit as I write, knowing that the pictures will provide important information.”

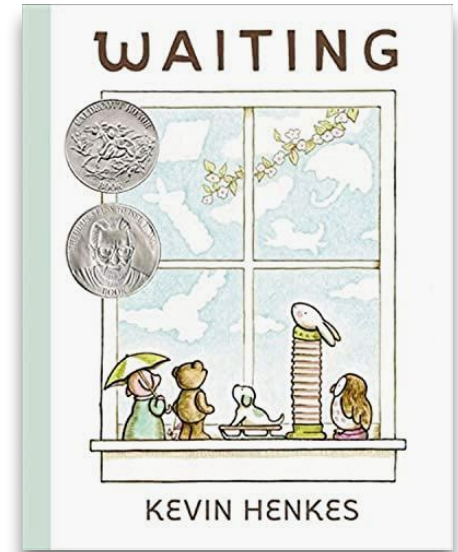
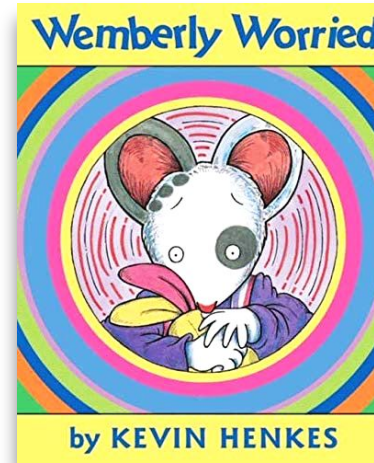
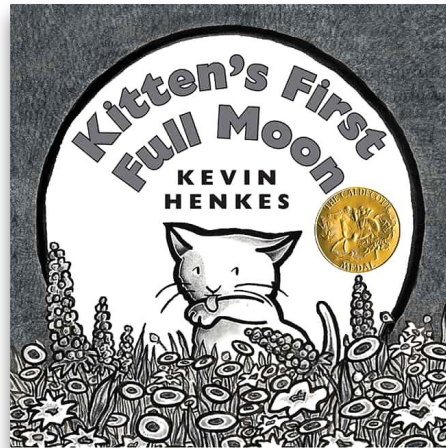
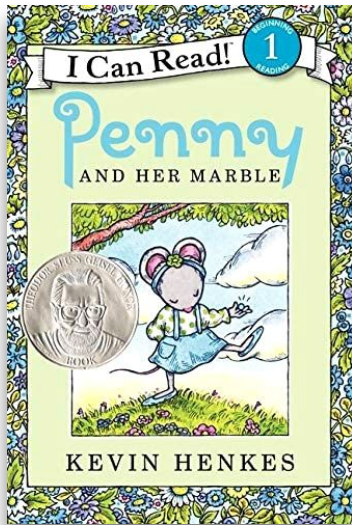
Henkes' Work

Themes

- Anxiety / Worry
- Emotions / Mental Health
- Understanding the world
- Social Cues / Morals

Choices

- Uses animals as protagonists
- Portrays realistic narratives/relationships
- Uses colored pencils, watercolor, gouache, ink
- Occasionally works with other illustrators



Advocates for artistic expression in children.

“If, as adults, we value art and books, our children will, too.”

Kitten's First Full Moon (2004) - Caldecott Winner

Plot: Follows a kitten who mistakes the full moon for a bowl of milk, and tries desperately to reach it.

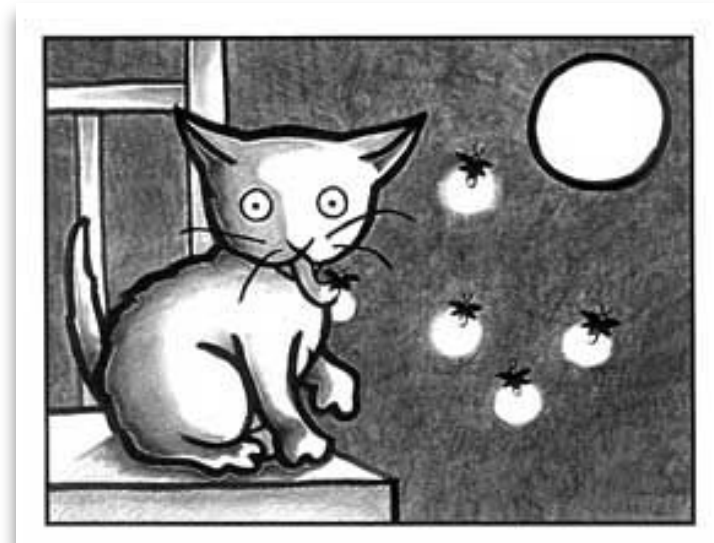
Media:

- Gouache
- Colored pencil
- Black & white monochrome



Moral:

- Freedom to fail
- Determination to persist
- Explore paths of learning



Wemberly Worried (2000)

Plot: Follows a girl who worries about absolutely everything, despite being reassured by her loved ones.

Media:

- Watercolor paint
- Black pen

Morals:

- Inquiring mind and “what-if’s”
- Worrying and social assurance
- Observation and sensitivity



Penny and Her Marble (2013)

Plot: A young mouse-girl wrestles with guilt after taking a marble she found outside her neighbor's yard.

Media:

- Watercolor paint
- Colored pencil
- Pastel color palette

Morals:

- Honesty is the best policy
- Understanding/voicing emotions
- Conscience



Penny looked around.
No one was watching.
Penny picked up the marble.
She put the marble
in her pocket.



Penny could not sleep.



She kept thinking
about the marble.



Mrs. Goodwin picked up
the marble.
She put the marble
in Penny's hand.
"And now it is *yours*,"
said Mrs. Goodwin.
"Thank you!" said Penny.
"Thank you very much!"



Why is Henkes' work important?

