



## Roger Mello

Roger Mello was born in Brasilia in 1965. Winner of the 2014 IBBY Hans Christian Andersen Award, Roger Mello has illustrated over 100 titles, 25 of which he authored. He has received numerous awards in Brazil and abroad for his work as an illustrator and writer, including the *Brazilian Academy of Letters* and the *Brazilian Union of Writers* recognition, the International Best Book of the Year award from the Swiss *Fondation Espace Enfants* in 2002 for his book *Meninos do Manque*, the *Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Award* as the Best Foreign Author in China in 2014. In addition, his book, *You Can't Be Too Careful!* was one of the American Library Association's 2018 *Mildred L. Batchelder Honor* recipients.

Roger has held solo exhibitions of his work in China, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Russia, South Korea, and Taiwan. His work has also been the focus of countless shared exhibitions, international book fairs, and commemorative celebrations around the world. His books have been published in Argentina, Belgium, China, Colombia, Denmark, France, Iran, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States, and have been translated into 15 languages.



## Margarita Engle

Margarita Engle is a Cuban-American author of verse books such as *The Surrender Tree*, *Enchanted Air*, *Forest World*, and *Drum Dream Girl*. Her many awards include the 2019 NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature, 2011, 2012, and 2015 Pura Belpré Honor Awards, a 2018 Walter Award Honor, the 2015 Américas Award, a Jane Addams Children's Book Award, and several International Latino Book Awards and Honors. She has also been awarded with the Charlotte Zolotow, PEN USA, Golden Kite, Green Earth, Lee Bennett Hopkins, Arnold Adoff Poetry Award, and Claudia Lewis Awards.

Margarita served as the 2017-2019 Young People's Poet Laureate. Her most recent books include *With a Star in My Hand*, *Dreams From Many Rivers*, and *Dancing Hands*. Forthcoming books include *Your Heart*, *My Sky*, and *A Song of Frutas*.

Margarita was born in Los Angeles, but developed a deep attachment to her mother's homeland during childhood summers with relatives on the island. She studied agronomy and botany along with creative writing, and now lives in central California with her husband.

The International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is a yearly event sponsored by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), an international, non-profit organization. Founded in 1967 by IBBY's founder, Jella Lepman, the day is observed on or around Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, April 2nd, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to Children's Books.

Each year a different National Section of IBBY has the opportunity to be the international sponsor of ICBD. It decides upon a theme and invites a prominent author from the host country to write a message to the children of the world, and a well-known illustrator to design a poster. These materials are used in different ways to promote books and reading. Many IBBY sections promote ICBD through the media and organize activities in schools and public libraries. Often ICBD is linked to celebrations around children's books and other special events that may include authors and illustrators of children's literature, writing competitions, or announcements of book awards.

The United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) is proud to be a member of the IBBY family since 1960. USBBY is thrilled to sponsor the 2021 IBBY ICBD poster with its inspirational message to children around the theme *The Music of Words*, written by internationally renowned children's author Margarita Engle from the United States, with illustrations inspired by the internationally acclaimed illustrator and winner of IBBY's 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award, Roger Mello from Brazil.



# April 2, 2021



