Where Books Come Alive!
We have been privileged to work with most of the best authors and illustrators of children’s books around the world.

Morton Schindel
Weston Woods’ success over the years has largely been due to the wonderful quality of the books on which our productions are based. Additionally, our production team has sought out the best animators, composers and narrators whose talents have contributed a high level of artistic creativity that has brought award-winning stories to life for children.

Featured in the following pages are some of the people that have made a significant contribution to our legacy. We wish to thank them, along with countless others not listed here, for helping us to fulfill our dreams for children everywhere.
Doreen Cronin says her first book idea came to her in the middle of the night. She woke up with the phrase, “Click, clack, moo” stuck in her head, which made her laugh. That made her think of her recently deceased father, who loved to laugh. The book was published on her father’s birthday. Besides being the author of these two books, she is also a lawyer.

Betsy Lewin has created over 20 children’s books and illustrated countless stories. Lewin attributes her love of books to her mother, who was a kindergarten teacher. She also creates books with her husband, author/illustrator Ted Lewin.

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin:
Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type – Caldecott Honor Book (Simon & Schuster)
Giggle, Giggle, Quack (Simon & Schuster)
Gene Deitch

“For 35 years now I’ve been working with Weston Woods. Together we were able to win over a hundred prizes in children’s film festivals all over the world. Even pushing 80, I’m still happy to be able to take one beautiful children’s picture book after another, each with a different graphic style, each with a different kind of point of view, each one a new challenge, a new way to make a film. I hope I can continue as long as I can stand up!”

Gene Deitch is also known as the creator of the Tom Terrific cartoon series for the Captain Kangaroo TV show. His films have received countless awards, including an Academy Award for Munro, written by Jules Feiffer. Since 1959, Deitch has been living and working with his wife, producer Zdenka Deitchova in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Tomie dePaola

“I remember visiting the Weston Woods complex in Connecticut to meet Morton Schindel and to discuss turning Strega Nona into a film. It was in the late sixties and was an astounding experience – Happy Birthday!”

Tomie dePaola has illustrated over 200 books, 90 of which he also wrote. DePaola says his dream is that at least one of his books or pictures “will touch the heart of some individual child and change that child’s life for the better.”

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Tomie dePaola:
“Charlie Needs a Cloak” (Simon & Schuster)
The Clown of God (Harcourt)
Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution written by Jean Fritz, illustrated by Tomie dePaola (Putnam)
Strega Nona (Simon & Schuster)
Born in Hankow, China, the daughter of a minister and missionary, Jean Fritz has become the most respected, engaging and informative author of biographies and historical fiction for young people in the twentieth century. The winner of countless awards and prizes, including a Christopher Medal, a Regina Medal and a Newbery Honor, Jean Fritz is currently at work on three different books.

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books written by Jean Fritz:

- *And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?* illustrated by Margot Tomes (Coward-McCann)
- *Can’t You Make Them Behave, King George?* illustrated by Tomie dePaola (Coward-McCann)
- *George Washington’s Mother* illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan (Grosset & Dunlap)
- *Just A Few Words, Mr. Lincoln* illustrated by Charles Robinson (Grosset & Dunlap)
- *Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution* illustrated by Tomie dePaola (Putnam)
- *What’s the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?* illustrated by Margot Tomes (Coward-McCann)
- *Where Do You Think You’re Going, Christopher Columbus?* illustrated by Margot Tomes (Putnam)
- *Where was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?* illustrated by Margot Tomes (Coward-McCann)
- *Who’s That Stepping on Plymouth Rock?* illustrated by J. B. Handelsman (Putnam)
- *Why Don’t You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?* illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman (Putnam)
- *Will You Sign Here, John Hancock?* illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman (Coward-McCann)
Kevin Henkes

“I’ve thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone at Weston Woods. Remaining extremely faithful to the book while bringing it brilliantly to life is what they do so well. Neither an author nor illustrator could ask for more. Happy Anniversary!”

The creator of characters such as Lilly, Julius, Chrysanthemum, Owen, and Chester, Kevin Henkes has quietly become one of the most beloved young author/illustrators today. His first book, *All Alone*, was released in 1981. Since then, he has written and illustrated over 30 picture books and children’s novels and won numerous prestigious awards.

Steven Kellogg

“After having had a productive and enjoyable relationship with Weston Woods for over 30 years, and having heard their praises sung by educators during approximately 2,000 school and library visits, it is a pleasure to deliver a resounding roar of gratitude for their immense contribution to the world of children’s literature!”

Since 1967, Steven Kellogg has illustrated over 100 books for children, 30 of which he also wrote. He has been honored with many major awards for his books and for his lifelong dedication to stirring the imaginations of children.

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Steven Kellogg:

*Chicken Little* (Morrow)
*How Much is a Million?* written by David M. Schwartz, illustrated by Steven Kellogg (Lothrop)
*If You Made a Million* written by David M. Schwartz, illustrated by Steven Kellogg (Lothrop)
*Is Your Mama a Llama?* written by Deborah Guarino, illustrated by Steven Kellogg (Scholastic)
*The Island of the Skog* (Dial)
*The Mysterious Tadpole* (Dial)
*Pinkerton, Behave!* (Dial)

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Kevin Henkes:

*Chrysanthemum* (Greenwillow)
*Owen* – Caldecott Honor Book (Greenwillow)
*A Weekend with Wendell* (Greenwillow)
John Lithgow

“Weston Woods picks wonderful kids’ books and I’m a connoisseur, so I’ve been very proud to be asked to do them. It’s a great sales job for great books for kids. They’re like advertisements — it just makes you more curious about the other books that these authors have done and these illustrators. And they’re just wonderful to watch. My own kids were crazy about them when they were small, and it was a good thing too because that was their father’s voice!”

The remarkable acting career of John Lithgow has earned him a Tony Award, a Golden Globe, several Emmys and two Oscar nominations, plus a starring role in the hit television series, Third Rock from the Sun. He is now an award-winning author in his own right of best-selling children’s books.

Weston Woods’ adaptations narrated by John Lithgow:
- **The Amazing Bone** — Caldecott Honor Book written by William Steig (Farrar, Straus)
- **Bark, George** written by Jules Feiffer (HarperCollins)
- **Officer Buckle and Gloria** — Caldecott Medal Book written by Peggy Rathmann (Putnam)
- **Sylvester and the Magic Pebble** — Caldecott Medal Book written by William Steig (Simon & Schuster)
Robert McCloskey

“To several generations of children in his community, children across the country and throughout the world, Morton Schindel has sold the importance of reading through the medium of film. It has been a happy association for all of us: authors, publishers, libraries and people in the field of education. Mort, I am proud to celebrate your tremendous achievement and to have been an integral part of it. Thank you for our long and warm association.”

The creator of some of the most beloved children’s books of all time, McCloskey has won countless awards, including two honorary doctorates. He was recently named a Living Legend by the Library of Congress, for his contribution to children’s literature, and for “…advanc(ing) and embod(ying) the quintessentially American ideal of individual creativity, conviction, dedication, and exuberance.”

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Robert McCloskey:
- Blueberries for Sal – Caldecott Honor Book (Viking)
- Burt Dow: Deep-Water Man (Viking)
- The Case of the Cosmic Comic from Homer Price (Viking)
- The Doughnuts from Homer Price (Viking)
- Lentil (Viking)
- Make Way for Ducklings – Caldecott Medal Book (Viking)
- Time of Wonder – Caldecott Medal Book (Viking)
Jerry Pinkney

“I wish I had a voice because I’d like to sing, ‘Happy Birthday, Weston Woods!’ But I don’t, so I’m saying it. I think the challenge for us involved with providing a young child with the opportunity to read is to deal with the challenge of the video itself and television. What Weston Woods has done through the vehicle of the video (is) to lead that child back into the front door to reading. What they have done so successfully is frame that book in such a way, and with the drama of music, narration, that it actually makes the book I think much richer and much deeper and certainly much more interesting.”

Jerry Pinkney has created over 75 children’s books over the past 40 years and won countless awards for illustration and exemplary dedication to children’s literature. With his wife, Gloria, also a writer, he produced four supremely talented children, all writers and/or visual artists, who are making their own names in the world of children’s books.

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Jerry Pinkney:

**John Henry** – Caldecott Honor Book
written by Julius Lester, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Dial)

**Noah’s Ark** – Caldecott Honor Book (SeaStar)

**Rikki-Tikki-Tavi** – Caldecott Honor Book
written by Rudyard Kipling, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Morrow)

**The Ugly Duckling** – Caldecott Honor Book
written by Hans Christian Andersen, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Morrow)
Maurice Sendak

“I think Weston Woods was an amazingly ingenious idea for utilizing all the forms – there was television, there was movies – children’s books were always a very isolated world – and what (Weston Woods) did was bring it all together. The films were a whole new way… that brought you back to the book so that it was an exploration and an emancipation of the book and also was done so beautifully…”

Considered by many to be one of the most consistently inventive and challenging voices in children’s literature, Sendak has been recognized with countless honors, medals and prizes, including, along with Robert McCloskey, designation as a Living Legend by the Library of Congress. He is a long-time friend and neighbor of Weston Woods, living up the road in rural Connecticut.

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Maurice Sendak:

Alligators All Around (HarperCollins)
Chicken Soup with Rice (HarperCollins)
In the Night Kitchen (HarperCollins)
A Kiss for Little Bear written by Else Holmelund Minarik, illustrated by Maurice Sendak (HarperCollins)
Little Bear’s Visit written by Else Holmolund Minarik, illustrated by Maurice Sendak (HarperCollins)
Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present written by Charlotte Zolotow, illustrated by Maurice Sendak (HarperCollins)
One Was Johnny (HarperCollins)
Pierre (HarperCollins)
Where the Wild Things Are – Caldecott Medal Book (HarperCollins)
David Small

“Book illustrators get accustomed to having more-or-less complete freedom in their creative work. When Weston Woods called and told me they wanted to make an animated film of my book, I was prepared for the film to look nothing like my book. I was delighted when I saw the first rough cuts, and to see this film really brought my work to life. I got involved. I made hundreds of new drawings. The Weston Woods crew made me feel included every step of the way. The film turned out to be wonderfully rich and funny, and they made me feel it was all because of me (These people are very smart!). I would work with them again in a heartbeat; I would work with them again with a nosebleed, with a busted foot, in a sandstorm. That would really hurt, but I would do it all for Weston Woods!”

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books illustrated by David Small:

So You Want to Be President? – Caldecott Medal Book written by Judith St. George, illustrated by David Small (Philomel)

The endlessly inventive illustrator David Small began drawing at the age of two. It was not until he reached college, however, that he decided to pursue visual art as a career. Since then, he has illustrated over 30 books, several in collaboration with his wife, author Sarah Stewart, and won many prestigious awards.
William Steig

“It was always a delight to see my books animated by Weston Woods, especially Doctor De Soto. For 50 years this great company has successfully transformed wonderful books into films that children love. Happy Anniversary!”

William Steig is also known for his career as a cartoonist for The New Yorker magazine, for which he has created over 1,600 drawings and 177 covers. Now approaching the age of 100, he is still publishing new material. Steig’s greatest achievement is his ability to create unforgettable characters, like Sylvester, Pearl, Doctor De Soto and Shrek, that speak to the hearts and minds of children and grown-ups everywhere.

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by William Steig:
The Amazing Bone (Farrar, Straus)
Brave Irene (Farrar, Straus)
Doctor De Soto – Newbery Honor Book (Farrar, Straus)
Pete’s A Pizza (HarperCollins)
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble Caldecott Medal Book (Simon & Schuster)

Meryl Streep

“A few years ago, I had the opportunity to record the voice of Chrysanthemum for Weston Woods. At the time, this was one of my daughter’s favorite books, and we were both excited to see it transformed into such a beautiful film. I am proud to have worked with a studio that has brought wonderful stories to so many children. Happy Birthday, Weston Woods!”

Film actress Meryl Streep has received two Academy Awards and thirteen nominations, a Golden Globe and an Emmy, although her earliest ambition was to become an opera singer. When asked who has been her greatest influence, she replied it is her “greatest producer,” her mother. Streep is herself quite well-known as a devoted parent to her four children.

Weston Woods’ adaptations narrated by Meryl Streep:
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow)
Simms Taback

“It’s so satisfying to see your book come to life when Weston Woods turns it into an animated film. I am impressed with the care that Weston Woods takes in their choice of talent – animator, composer and performer. I was especially thrilled with their production of There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly with pop singer Cyndi Lauper.”

Simms Taback had quite a full career as a graphic designer, art director for an advertising agency, and partner in a design/illustration office, before he had any success as a children’s author/illustrator. His perhaps most surprising accomplishment was designing and illustrating the very first McDonald’s Happy Meal box!

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Simms Taback:
- Joseph Had a Little Overcoat – Caldecott Medal Book (Viking)
- There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly – Caldecott Honor Book (Viking)
- This is the House That Jack Built (Viking)

Jane Yolen

“Weston Woods gave me my first opportunity to be a voice over for my own work. As a nascent storyteller and a lover of radio plays, it was heaven being at the Weston Woods studio. In fact, I remarked to my husband when I returned home, ‘When I die, I hope to go to Weston Woods.’”

Jane Yolen is the recipient of some of the most prestigious awards and prizes for children’s literature, and in fact, has been given the nickname “America’s Hans Christian Andersen” for her all her varied talents.

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books written and narrated by Jane Yolen:
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? illustrated by Mark Teague (Blue Sky Press)
- Owl Moon – Caldecott Medal Book illustrated by John Schoenherr (Philenel)
Rosemary Wells

“Weston Woods takes the very best of children’s literature and makes it into exquisite little works of art. They do a magnificent job of promoting and preserving our very best children’s books. I love Weston Woods and look forward to a further relationship and more books and more films. Thank you, congratulations and Happy Birthday!”

Rosemary Wells has written and illustrated over 60 books for children. She has won numerous awards, and continued to reach new audiences in print and on television, with her lively artwork, good humor and knack for creating characters that are not always perfect, but always endearing.

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Rosemary Wells:
- Benjamin & Tulip (Dial)
- Max’s Chocolate Chicken (Dial)
- Max’s Christmas (Dial)
- Morris’s Disappearing Bag (Dial)
- Noisy Nora (Dial)
- Timothy Goes to School (Dial)

Paul O. Zelinsky

“It’s been quite a treat to see my books reborn. I’ve always imagined that designing and illustrating a picture book is a lot like directing a movie, and when I got the chance to look at and comment on the storyboards for Rapunzel, I was delighted to have that hunch confirmed. Weston Woods has done some wonderful things and I’m happy to be part of the list!”

Caldecott winner Paul O. Zelinsky took the first class Maurice Sendak ever taught while he was a student at Yale University. Before his career as a book illustrator he dreamed of being an astronomer, a ventriloquist, a scientist or a great architect. To date, Zelinsky has illustrated more than a dozen award-winning picture books and novels for young people.

Weston Woods’ adaptations of books by Paul O. Zelinsky:
- Rapunzel – Caldecott Medal Book (Dutton)
- Swamp Angel – Caldecott Honor Book
  written by Anne Isaacs, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky (Dutton)
Weston Woods is the world’s largest producer of audiovisual adaptations of classic children’s picture books, providing schools, public libraries and consumers with enduring children’s films. Weston Woods materials are used in more than 50,000 schools and libraries nationwide, and are distributed in more than 20 countries. They are available on home video through the Scholastic Video Collection.

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