

Karen Romano Young

Award-winning writer and illustrator, creating books, articles, illustrations, and science comics, and providing educational/outreach communication and materials, with a focus on ocean science. Creator/director, I Was A Kid project

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I Was A Kid project IWASAKID.COM

Multimedia profiles of STEAM professionals from marginalized communities, encompassing comics, text, graphics, photos, audio, and video, with the intention of creating science identity, inclusion, and inspiration in middle school and high schoolers. Partners, contributors, and collaborators include the National Writing Project, Exploring By the Seat of Your Pants, the International Ocean Discovery Program, Sea Grant, Harvard's Girguis Lab, and many more. Since 2021.

STEAM Outreach and Education Consultant/Marketing (Science • Technology • Education • Art • Mathematics)

This project-oriented work has featured short-term work, onsite and offsite, communicating to the public and/or school audiences. Since 2003. Recent/current clients and partners include:

- **American Geophysical Union Sci and Tell:** Education and outreach materials, profiles of NASA scientists. 2023.
- **Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution:** *Alvin* Science Verification Expedition outreach and education; supported also by an American Geophysical Union Sharing Science grant for science comics from sea. Summer 2022.
- **Colorado College:** Education and outreach materials, geology. 2021
- **International Ocean Discovery Program:** Resident artist (science comic #AntarcticLog) and communication officer aboard the JOIDES *Resolution* during Expedition 379 to the Amundsen Sea. Created associated outreach materials to represent the expedition and organization, 2019. Led a four-part webinar for all ages about science comics.
- **Exploratorium**, science museum, San Francisco: Education and outreach materials for Foldscope program, partner project with Stanford University, 2018-2019; *After Dark* program on science comics, 2019.
- **Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute:** Education and outreach materials for Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observations and Modeling (SOCCOM) Adopt-a-Float program, 2019
- **Science Friday Educational Resources:** Support materials for National Public Radio program about science, including development of program about use of comics in the classroom and researched science illustrations, 2018-2019

- **National Science Foundation:** Antarctic Artists and Writers grantee creating science comic #AntarcticLog and children's graphic nonfiction book about polar science, 2018
- **Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences:** Member of NSF grantee science team with co-principal investigators Patricia Matrai and Peter Countway, for their project on phytoplankton at Palmer Station, Antarctica, 2017-2018
- **Ocean Exploration Trust:** Lead Science Communications Fellow and Artist at Sea aboard E/V *Nautilus*, on-camera, voice communications, outreach and educational materials, including science comics, 2014-2015
- **Consortium for Ocean Leadership/Integrated Ocean Drilling Program:** Science comics posters about scientists working aboard the JOIDES *Resolution*, 2014
- **NOAA:** French Fleet shipwreck expedition. Ebook author/illustrator/designer, 2014.
- **Encyclopedia of Life:** educational materials, illustrations, and podcasts, 2008-2010
- **NASA:** ICESCAPE Project (Arctic research on climate change) aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Healy*. Print, internet, science comics, podcast, 2010
- **Cyberchase** (WNET): Children's math television program curriculum support, 2008-2009
- **The University of Delaware: Extreme Project** (deep-ocean research) aboard R/V *Atlantis* and DSV *Alvin*: Shipboard education and outreach, Internet content, photography, and curriculum materials, 2003-2008

Illustrated Writing, Visual Storytelling, and Science Comics

My artwork and graphic articles appear in books, on websites, and articles. Publishers include:

World Wildlife Fund	Odyssey magazine	NASA What on Earth?
Muse magazine	Collins Big Cat	Science and Story
Animal Planet	Discover Kids	Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Nautilus Live	Science Friday	Smithsonian Ocean Portal
Exploratorium	International Ocean Discovery Program	American Geophysical Union
Colorado College	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute	Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Science Comics

- **#AntarcticLog:** weekly digital comic focusing on polar research, especially climate science, policy, and activism, general audience, since 2017
- **Humanimal Doodles:** print comic focusing on research and interactions between people and animals, audience age 8 to 14, since 2010

Writer: Print and Web

Author of reference book articles, magazine articles, nonfiction comics, and web content, including driving web design.

Publishers/producers include:

Smithsonian Ocean Portal

Encyclopedia of Life (Harvard Museum of Natural History)

The World Almanac (children's issues worldwide)

Climate Central (climate change)

The Extreme Project (University of Delaware)

University of Chicago

OCEANUS (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

News-o-Matic

Magazines include:

CRICKET, PARENTING, ART AND MAN, INSTRUCTOR, CREATIVE CLASSROOM, SCHOLASTIC NEWS, SUPERSCIENCE RED/BLUE, 3-2-1 CONTACT! , ODYSSEY, MUSE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WORLD

Author/Illustrator: Children's Nonfiction Books

- ***Diving for Deep-Sea Dragons***, graphic nonfiction, Chronicle Books, 2025, author/illustrator
- ***Galápagos: The World's Living Laboratory***, nonfiction, What on Earth, 2024 author
- ***Antarctica: The Melting Continent***, nonfiction, What on Earth, 2022 author
BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION Best Books of 2023
NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY Best Books of 2022
NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION Outstanding Science Trade Book
GREEN EARTH AWARD short list
- ***Shark Quest*** 21st Century Nonfiction, 2018 author/illustrator
JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD SELECTION
CONNECTICUT BOOK AWARD, children's nonfiction

- **Whale Quest** 21st Century Nonfiction, 2017, author

JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD SELECTION

Bank Street Center for Children's Literature Best Books of the Year

GREEN EARTH AWARD short list

CONNECTICUT BOOK AWARD short list

- **TRYTHIS series**, National Geographic Kids, author/producer

TryThis! Extreme 2017

JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD SELECTION

AAAS/SUBARU Science Books & Films PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE BOOKS, HANDS-ON SCIENCE

BOOKS short list, 2018

TryThis! 2014

- **Mission: Sea Turtle Rescue**, National Geographic Children's Books, 2015

GREEN EARTH AWARD for children's nonfiction (environmental stewardship book award), 2016

- **SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS SERIES**, National Geographic Children's Books

BOOKLISTTOP TEN NONFICTION SERIES, 2010

Experiments to Do on Your Family, 2010

Junkyard Science, 2010

Crime Scene Science, 2009

Bug Science, 2009

- **Across the Wide Ocean: The Why, How, & Where of Navigation for Humans and Animals at Sea**, Greenwillow, 2007 author/illustrator

- **Small Worlds: Maps and Mapmaking**, Scholastic, 2002

OPPENHEIMER TOY PORTFOLIO GOLD MEDAL, SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE BEST CHILDREN'S BOOKS,

- **Arctic Investigations: Exploring the Frozen Ocean**, Turnstone/Steck-Vaughn/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 2000

Author/Illustrator: Children's Fiction Books

- **A Girl, A Raccoon, and the Midnight Moon**, Chronicle, 2020, middle grade novel

AMAZON BEST BOOKS OF 2020

• **Hundred Percent**, Chronicle, 2016 *middle grade novel*
MULTIPLE AWARDS including Amazon Best Books of 2016, Kirkus Best Children's Books of 2016

• **Sybil Ludington: Revolutionary War Rider**, Feiwel & Friends, 2015, *middle grade historical novel*

THE DOODLEBUG SERIES

• **Stuck in the Middle (Of Middle School): A Novel in Doodles**, Feiwel & Friends, 2013,
graphic novel author/illustrator

• **Doodlebug: A Novel in Doodles**, Feiwel & Friends, 2010, *graphic novel author/illustrator*
MULTIPLE AWARDS, including Kirkus Best Children's Books of 2010

Connecticut Book Award, fiction

• **Cobwebs**, Greenwillow, 2004 *young adult novel*
Starred review
Connecticut Book Award, shortlist

• **Outside In**, Greenwillow, 2002 *middle grade novel, author/illustrator*

• **Video**, Greenwillow, 1999 *young adult novel*
Starred review

• **The Beetle and Me: A Love Story**, Greenwillow, 1999 *young adult novel*
MULTIPLE AWARDS, including Top Ten First Novels, 1999

Teacher/Presenter to Adults and Children

- I teach writing as an adjunct professor in the Masters of Fine Arts program and undergraduate fiction at Western Connecticut State University.
- I lead workshops on visual storytelling comics, writing, and images to writing peers, teachers, and students (adults and children).
- I make educational presentations surrounding writing, art, education, and science, to such audiences as:

National Science Teachers Association

International Reading Association

Illustrators Connecticut Library Association

Manhattanville College

Western Connecticut State University

Anyseed Conference, Vassar University

American Geophysical Union

Society of Children's Book Writers and

National Marine Educators Association

Connecticut Science Teachers Association

University of Denver

Texas Library Association

Kindling Words West
University of Southern California
Manhattan College
National Council of Teachers of English
New England Aquarium
New Rochelle Public Library

New York State Reading Association
National Council of Teachers of English
Weir Farm National Historic Site
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
The Maritime Aquarium
Cyrenius H. Booth Library

EDUCATION

Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, Bachelor of Science, Education major, English academic concentration

Continuing education courses in art and graphics: Pratt Institute, School of Visual Arts, (both) New York, NY

MEMBERSHIPS and AFFILIATIONS

American Geophysical Union
National Marine Educators Association
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
National Association of Science Writers
Antarctic Artists and Writers Collective
American Association for the Advancement of Sciences
National Science Teachers Association
Society of Women in Marine Science

HONORS, RESIDENCIES, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Numerous awards, lists, and starred reviews for my books, notably:

Connecticut Sea Grant, 2023

Connecticut Artist Fellowship, 2023

American Geophysical Union Sharing Science grant, 2021

NASA Social, 2020

International Ocean Discovery Program artist-at-sea, 2019

National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Grant, 2018

Waypoint Fellow (science and art residency), the Waypoint Foundation, 2014-2018

Ocean Exploration Trust artist-at-sea, 2014-2015

Ocean Science Journalism Fellow, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Creative Nonfiction Award, University of Connecticut

Junior Library Guild selections

Connecticut Book Award, twice

Connecticut Book Award honoree, twice

Connecticut Council for Culture and Tourism Grant for Fiction

Green Earth Book Award and shortlist

Oppenheimer Award

American Association for the Advancement of Science/Subaru Science Book and Film prize honoree

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Work-in-Progress Grant, Nonfiction

Publishers Weekly Flying Starts, showcase of debut children's authors, 1999

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