

Introduction

The 2017 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture, “What Gets Left Behind: Stories from the Great Migration,” was delivered by Jacqueline Woodson on April 1, at the W. W. Hootie Johnson Performance Hall, in the Darla Moore School of Business, at the University of South Carolina.

Jacqueline Woodson is the 2014 National Book Award winner for her *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Brown Girl Dreaming*. The author of more than two dozen books for young readers, she is a four-time Newbery Honor winner, a recipient of the NAACP Image Award, a two-time Coretta Scott King Award winner, and served a term as the Young People’s Poet Laureate for the Poetry Foundation.

Woodson writes about characters from a variety of races, ethnicities, and social classes. Her books feature strong female characters and she often writes about friendship between girls.

Born on February 12, 1963, in Columbus, Ohio, Woodson grew up in Greenville, S.C.,

and Brooklyn, N.Y., and graduated from college with a B.A. in English. She lives with her family in Brooklyn, New York.

The 2017 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Committee selected the South Carolina State Library and the city of Columbia, South Carolina, to serve as the host site for the lecture.

In the application to host the lecture, Denise Lyons, deputy director of the South Carolina State Library observed, “Ms. Woodson...writes about situations and people...involving serious issues. The issues are not easy; they involve race, ethnicity, sexual abuse, and sexual orientation. Woodson herself stated, ‘I can’t write about nice, easy topics because that won’t change the world.



Arbuthnot Committee: (l-r) Jessica Tackett MacDonald; Ellen Hunter Ruffin, chair; Susan Person (on screen); Danielle Shapiro; and Barbara Genco.

And I do want to change the world—one reader at a time.”

Members of ALSC’s 2017 Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Committee were: Ellen Hunter Ruffin, chair, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Barbara A. Genco, Brooklyn, New York; Jessica Tackett MacDonald, Boston Public Library; Susan Person, Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library, Broomfield, Colorado; and Danielle A. Shapiro, Brooklyn (New York) Public Library.



The podium at the W. W. Hootie Johnson Performance Hall, location of the 2017 Arbuthnot Lecture