



## Editor's Note Meeting My "Rock Stars"

By Sharon Verbeten

Most of the time, they're just really good guys (and gals). Good sports. Nice people. I don't know why we should think otherwise of children's book authors.

But sometimes we can all get a bit star struck at the sight of one of our faves. Since I've been fortunate to attend the ALA conferences for the past 11 years, it's happened with me many times.

There was the time I spotted Avi waiting in a shuttle bus line but was too nervous to say hello and introduce myself. Then just this past June, I saw Kate DiCamillo from afar, noting how short she looked in person (I just imagined someone taller!).

This June, I was lucky to personally meet many of my idols, as you can see by the photo here. I saw Caldecott Award winner Jon Klassen standing by himself on the floor and leapt at the opportunity to tell him *The Dark* was one of my favorite books of the year—and that I felt he was my personal "rock star." Gracious as ever, he obliged having his photo taken with me, perhaps a bit of an overzealous fan!

In my other fan experience, I was first in line for Caldecott Honor winner Patrick McDonnell, who signed the very first copy of his new book—he hadn't even seen it yet!—for my daughter.

I have an immense respect for these authors who not only work so hard to give our children the best literature out there, but also take time to greet the fans and librarians who get their work into those children's hands.

With awards and accolades among them, they could be aloof and unapproachable, but I have yet to meet one who was anything less than the rock star—and humble at that—I perceived them to be. ☺



Editor Sharon Verbeten with her author "crush" Jon Klassen.

# Children & Libraries

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