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SMART Announces 2012 Book Award Winner

Portland, Ore.—The results are in! With 2,004 votes, the winner of SMART’s 2012 Book Award is *Hi! Fly Guy* by Tedd Arnold. Coming in at second place, *Miss Nelson is Missing!* by Harry Allard received 1,511 votes.

Additional nominees included *Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes, *Mrs. McNosh and the Great Big Squash* by Sarah Weeks, and *The Dinosaur Who Lived in My Backyard* by B.G. Hennessy. In total, nearly 5,900 students across Oregon voted in SMART’s 13th annual Book Award.

The first in a series of four, *Hi! Fly Guy* tells the story of a boy and a fly who develop an unlikely friendship. Here’s what some SMART students had to say about why *Hi! Fly Guy* got their vote:

- “Because he can fly and go up to space.”
- “Because everybody said the Hi Fly Guy wasn’t a pet, but they changed their mind.”
- “Fly Guy was so smart. The boy caught him, but he knew the boy’s name.”
- “Hi Fly Guy is the best. He brings the family home safe.”
- “Because they named the Fly Guy and he made fancy patterns in the air.”
- “Because it had more details in the story.”
- “Because he ate a hotdog!”

About the SMART Book Award

SMART initiated the SMART Book Award in 2000 to further inspire an interest in books and reading. While the nominees are selected by SMART staff and volunteers, the SMART Book Award is 100 percent kid-selected. Each February, thousands of children in the SMART reading program read five nominated books and vote for their favorite. Voting is conducted by secret ballot and the results are revealed in March.

About SMART® (Start Making A Reader Today)

SMART is a statewide nonprofit organization that envisions an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed. We engage community volunteers to read one-on-one with PreK-3 children, helping strengthen literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. Children in the program receive 14 new books throughout the school year to keep and read with their families. Visit www.getSMARToregon.org or call 877-598-4633 to learn more about SMART.

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