Mini Fact:
National Library Week is April 15-13, 2018. Explore your local library!

Matthew Cordell
The 2018 Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children was awarded to Matthew Cordell for “Wolf in the Snow.”

A little girl in a bright red cloak starts her walk home from school, but a snowstorm turns the landscape white. As she trudges on, she discovers a wolf cub who has been separated from its pack. She carries her new friend until they find the pack. Then the wolves repay the favor by taking care of her.

Among watercolor paintings, the book’s only words are sound effects. The Mini Page® asked Cordell why he didn’t use more dialogue, or conversation, in the book. Most of the story, he said, “is set in the wilderness and takes place between a girl and a wolf pup. There would be no dialogue. The pictures... really do the job of telling the story.”

Cordell’s advice for young writers: “There will always be days when you feel like you aren’t very good. As long as you stick with it... you will only continue to get better with every day. Keep going, and learn as much as you can.”

Erin Entrada Kelly
Each year, the John Newbery Medal is awarded to an author for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. The 2018 winner of the Newbery Medal is “Hello, Universe” by Erin Entrada Kelly. Isabel Roxas illustrated the book. For kids who don’t fit together and feel like they don’t fit in weave their way into each other’s lives in this novel.

When one of them meets real danger, friendships are formed among them, in spite of their challenges and loneliness.

Kelly said she has worked as a journalist and editor. “I had a short stint at a seafood restaurant. I lasted three months,” she said. The Mini Page asked her how she became a writer. “I’ve been writing since second grade. I think I was born that way!” Some of her favorite books as a child were “Blabber,” “Sideways Stories From Wayside School” and “Halfway Down Paddy Lane.”

Kelly has a partner and a daughter, and they have a Chihuahua. Her advice to kids: “Read a lot. Write a lot. Have an open mind. Use your imagination. Be kind. Practice empathy.”

Honor books
Three Newbery Honor Books also were named this year. There are four Caldecott Honor Books.
Caldecott Honor Books
“Big Car, Little Car,” illustrated and written by Elisha Cooper
“A Different Pond,” illustrated by Thi Rui and written by Bao Phi
“A Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut,” illustrated by Gordon C. James and written by Derrick Barnes
“Grand Canyon,” illustrated and written by Jason Chin
Newbery Honor Books
“A Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut”
“Long Way Down,” by Jason Reynolds
“Piecing Me Together,” by Renée Watson

Coretta Scott King Award
The Coretta Scott King Author Book Award went to “Piecing Me Together.”

The King Illustrative Book Award was won by “Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets,” illustrated by Ekua Holmes and written by Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth.

Try ‘n’ Find
Words that remind us of award-winning books are hidden in this puzzle. Some words hide backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ART, AUTHOR, AWARD, BOOKS, CALDECOTT, CHILDREN, CORDELL, HONOR, ILLUSTRATION, KELLY, KING, LIBRARY, LITERATURE, MEDAL, NEWBERRY, PICTURE, WATERCOLOR, WEEK.

Mini Jokes
Boy: Where did Mother Goose leave her trash?
Bailey: At the Humpty Dump!

Eco Note
We can all make choices that will help our environment. For example: Using water carefully helps to preserve stocks of fresh water. Try these tips: 1. Take a shower instead of a bath. 2. Don’t leave taps dripping, and get leaks fixed quickly. 3. Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth. 4. Use the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads. Use a watering can instead of a hose to water the yard.

Mini Spy Classics
Mini Spy and her friends are looking at animal tracks in the woods. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.