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**PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF  
26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BOOK AWARD**

*2011 winners to be honored at ceremony on April 28 at Please Touch Museum, followed by book signing and author meet-and-greet*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**— 2011 marks the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Please Touch Museum’s Book Award, the only award of its kind presented by a children’s museum to honor the publication of quality books for young children. Since 1985, the Book Award has highlighted unique and innovative examples of storytelling for children in two categories based on the age of the museum’s visitors, kids ages seven and under. The award is given to books that are imaginative, exceptionally illustrated, and that help foster a child’s life-long love of reading. The founding sponsor of the Book Award is *The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation*.

“We are thrilled to announce these two outstanding children’s books as our 2011 winners,” says Please Touch Museum’s President and CEO Laura Foster. “Helping a child discover the joys of reading and storytelling by recognizing high-quality books is one of the ways we hope to start our young visitors onto the path of learning.”

**This year’s winners are:**

**Ages 3 and Under Category:**

*Brontorina*

Written by James Howe and illustrated by Randy Cecil

**Ages 4 to 7 Category:**

*Interrupting Chicken*

Written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein

*Brontorina*, is the story of how perseverance and dedication can transform any obstacle into opportunity. Even if your goal is to be a ballet dancer and you are a dinosaur! James Howe’s simple storytelling and funny dialogue are a pleasure to read for kids and parents alike. Randy Cecil’s beautiful illustrations create laugh-out-loud moments when kids see *Brontorina*’s size compared to that of the other students and even the studio they practice in!

James Howe is the beloved author of dozens of children’s books, including the *Bunnacula* series, *Harold and Chester* over-sized picture books, and many more. He was the 2007 recipient of The E.B. White Read Aloud Award for picture books for his book *Houndsley and Catina*, illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay.

Randy Cecil is the illustrator of a variety of favorite children's books, including *How Do You Wokka Wokka?* by Elizabeth Bluemle, *Here's To You!* by David Elliott and many more. He is also both author and illustrator of *Gator* and *Duck*.

***Interrupting Chicken*** is the tale of the energetic Little Red Chicken who just cannot seem to make it through a bedtime story without interrupting! Whether it's to warn Little Red Riding Hood not to talk to strangers or Hansel and Gretel about the evil witch, the Little Red Chicken's Papa is getting pretty tired of all these interruptions. With humorous story-within-a-story illustrations and a plot that all parents can relate to, this story will amuse and delight both parents and kids!

David Ezra Stein is the author of several wonderful books for children, including *Cowboy Ned and Andy*, *Monster Hug!*, and his latest *Pouch!* Stein won a Caldecott Medal this year for *Interrupting Chicken* and the Ezra Jack Keats award for his 2008 book, *Leaves*.

**This year's winners will be honored at a ceremony at Please Touch Museum on Thursday April 28 at Noon. Honorees James Howe and David Ezra Stein will be available for a meet-and-greet and book signing immediately after the award ceremony and a special story time with the authors.**

The *Kids Store* will feature a 20% discount on *Interrupting Chicken* and *Brontorina* and all previous Book Award winners during the month of April.

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**The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation** is a Philadelphia-based philanthropic organization that supports civic and community life, including education, the arts and social service programs. The Foundation is the Founding sponsor of Please Touch Museum's Book Award and literacy programming during April. These programs are designed to help children build their reading skills and help families to understand the importance—and fun—of reading and playing together.

**Please Touch Museum® at Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park** is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children's museums, Please Touch is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. -5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-581-3181, or visit our web site at [www.pleasetouchmuseum.org](http://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org).