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Doreen Rappaport Wins the Third Annual Cardozo Award for Children's Literature

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For Immediate Release

Doreen Rappaport's *Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln* has been selected by the public as the winner of the third annual Whitney and Scott Cardozo Award for Children's Literature. The passion for humanity that defined Lincoln's life shines through in this exceptional book on one of America's most revered presidents, with an emphasis on Lincoln's growing opposition to slavery.

Rappaport majored in music at Brandeis University and taught music and reading in junior high schools in New York. Teaching at a freedom school in McComb, Mississippi—a civil rights—era project of the [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee](#)—changed her life and inspired her to be a writer. She was moved by the courage of the African Americans who were denied basic rights and who were threatened daily with death.

The author of numerous nonfiction and historical fiction books for children, Rappaport draws heavily on primary sources and integrates historical figures' own words into the text. In researching *Abe's Honest Words*, she read and reread Lincoln's letters, newspaper interviews, and speeches.

Award-winning African American artist and illustrator Kadir Nelson is responsible for the book's gorgeous artwork. He has won the [Caldecott Honor Award](#), the [Coretta Scott King Author Award](#), and the [Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award](#). A graduate of the Pratt Institute, he has exhibited his artwork in galleries and museums throughout the United States and abroad.

The Cardozo Award, now in its third year, is given to an author of children's literature who published a book for children ages three through eight, with a publication date of 2008. A juried panel reviewed 21 nominated titles from the greater mid-Atlantic region.

Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln was chosen by children and parents voting at the Library of Virginia, the Children's Museum of Richmond, in public libraries across the state, and online at the Library of Virginia's Web site. On Saturday, October 17 at 11:00 AM. Rappaport will lead the story hour program at the

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Children's Museum of Richmond. Please call 804-474-7000 or visit www.c-mor.org/ for more details about this special story.

The winning book and author will be officially recognized at the 12th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration that takes place at the Library of Virginia on the evening of Saturday, October 17, 2009.

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