

David Covell,
author/illustrator!
visits schools!



Hey!

David Covell is the author and illustrator of The New York Times Best Illustrated Book Award winner, *Run Wild*. His new picture book, *Gather Round* published this spring from Penguin Random House. It's perfect for story time ages 3 and up.

David grew up in the wilds 'round a small lake in Rangeley, Maine. Later he moved to New York City until the mountains called him back. He now lives in The Catskills. (Ah-Wooooo!) When he's not thinking about a new book, David works as a graphic designer. His work has been seen around the world and in the permanent collection of the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum (oh, my).

David tours all over the country with book events for groups large and small. He has presented twice at The Eric Carle Museum, taught week long story classes at The Center of Imagination in Pittsburgh, and has been a guest artist at the Provincetown Family Week and the Parnassus Books Teacher Conference in Nashville.



David loves working with kids.

Maybe it's because his parents were both public school teachers (*Mom, kindergarten. Dad, biology*). Or maybe it's because David spent his boyhood on the road with a traveling children's theater teaching kids when he was just a kid. (*no kidding!*) Maybe this is why working with kids feels like second nature.

A typical school visit is three 30 to 45 minute sessions per day. Sessions begin with a picture book reading followed by an Q&A and activity.

Break out sessions with smaller groups are catered to the size, interest, and age of the class. For younger ones (preK—2nd) a reading and book related craft. For older groups (3rd—8th and up) a reading and story making workshop.

Standard rate honorarium to be agreed upon.

Zoom sessions are an option for those far away.



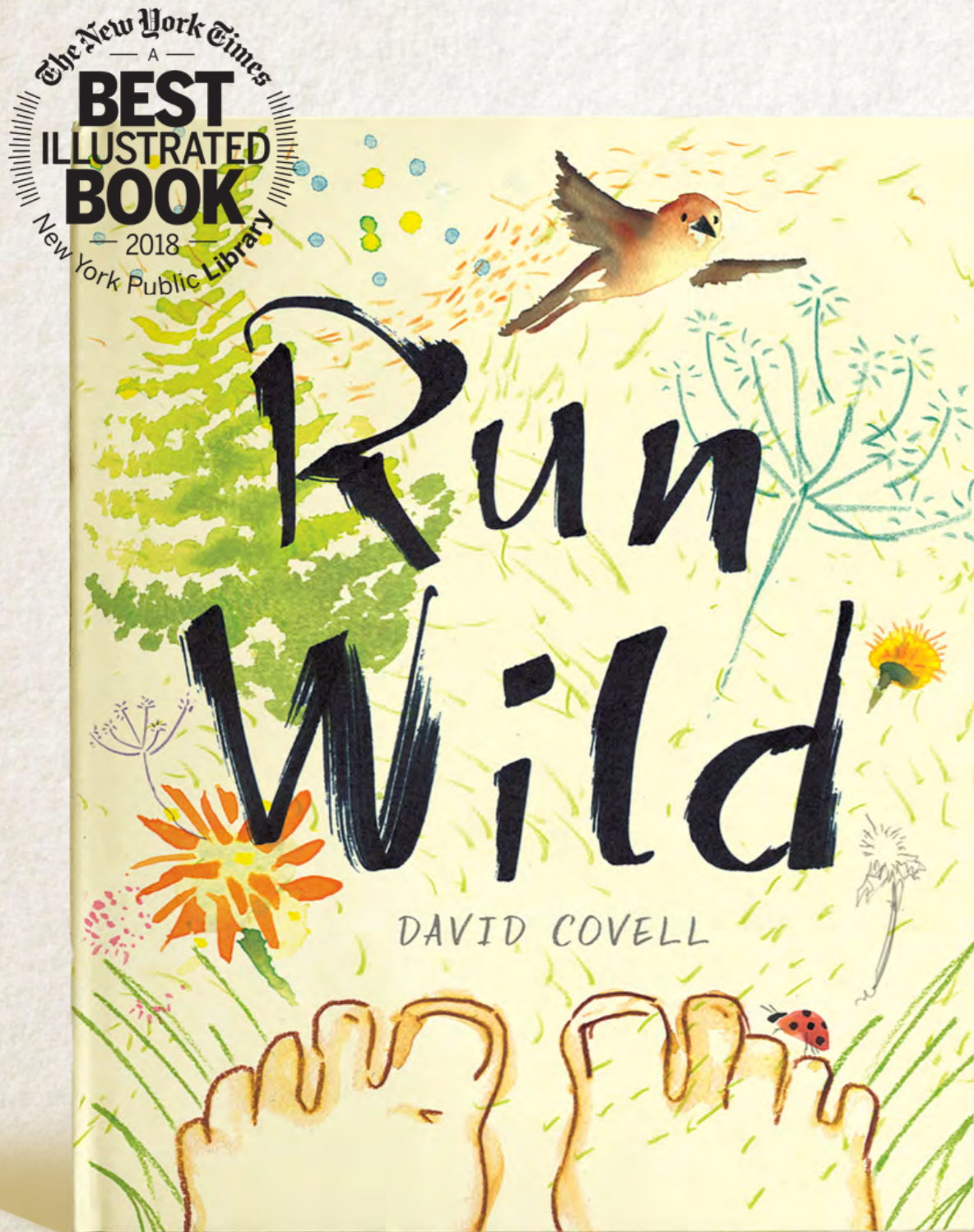
Readings

Picturebooks are for all ages. Ages 3 AND UP!
Reading them is a bit like performing on a stage.
Lean in and listen, do you hear the sound of words
making music, making a story?

Ah-Woo000!



Featured Books



Get back to nature in this gorgeous sunlit filled book that celebrates the joy of being outdoors.

“Hey, you! Sky’s blue!” a girl shouts as she runs by the window of a boy bent over his digital device. Intrigued, the boy runs out after her, leaving his shoes (and phone) behind, and into a world of sunshine, dewey grass, and warm sand.

Filled with the pleasures of being alive in the natural world, *Run Wild* is an exquisite and kid-friendly reminder of how wonderful life can be beyond doors and screens.

“EXUBERANT”

Covell’s illustrations are exuberant, projecting to readers the raw joy and wonder of exploring the natural world. [The] inclusion of brown-skinned children encouraged to run “wild” in green spaces is a hugely welcome one given their historic exclusion from same. This sweetly unruly book is destined for mud-stained and ripped pages, as it is sure to accompany many a child on wild adventures in their own parks, playgrounds, and backyards.

— KIRKUS ★ Starred Review

“POWERFUL”

“Through powerful art and punchy text, Covell celebrates freedom, the out-of-doors, the joy of movement, and the importance of paying attention to the present moment.”

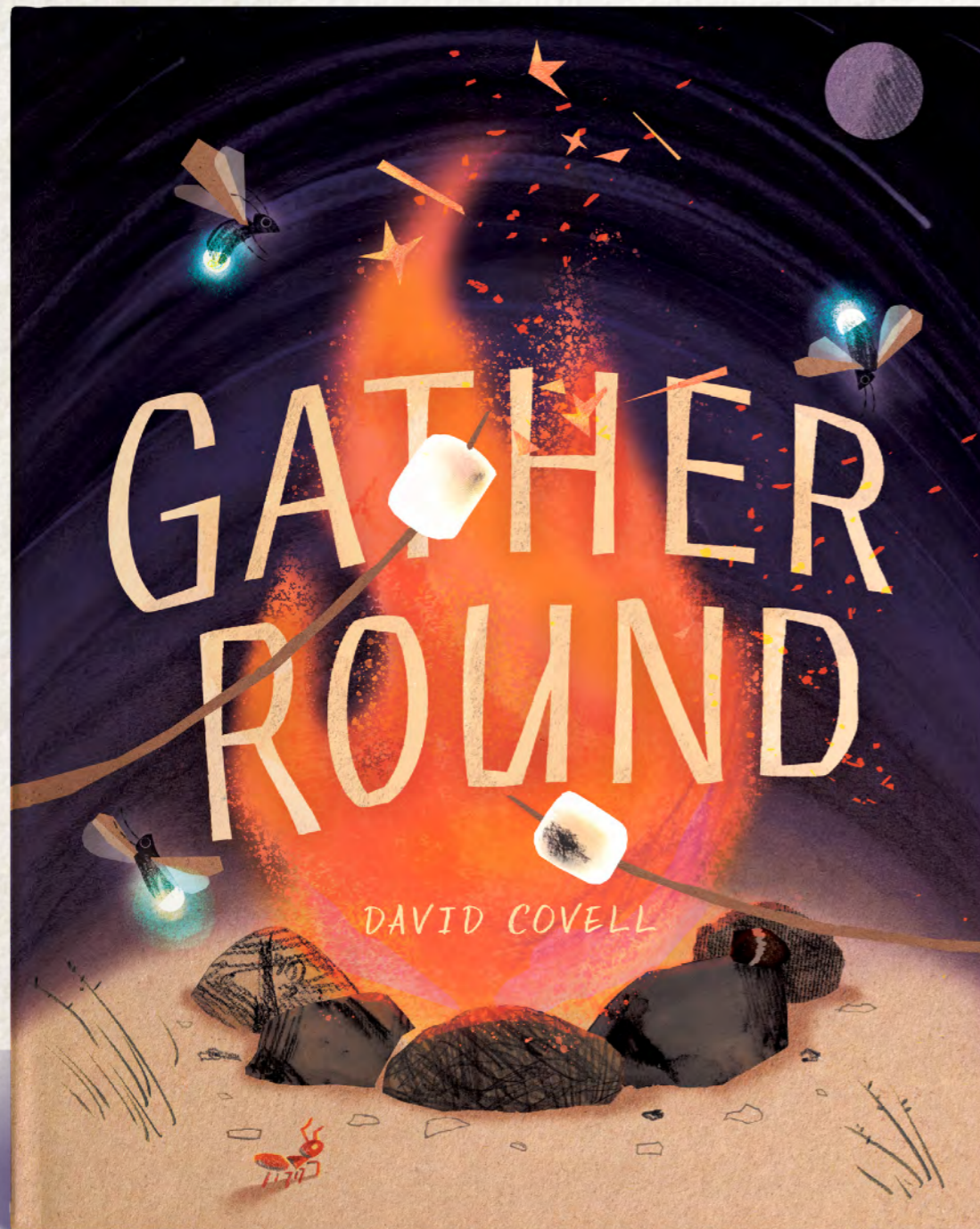
— Publishers Weekly ★ Starred Review

“CELEBRATORY”

“This lushly illustrated ode to outdoor play and nature should inspire even the most reluctant couch potato to get out and ‘run wild.’

— School Library Journal

Featured Books



New York Times Best Illustrated Book Award winner David Covell follows up *Run Wild* with a timely book about the importance of community and coming together.

Crackle. Crinkle. Sizzle. POP! Listen to the fire talk. It's telling us a story . . .

Since the magic and warmth of fire was discovered long ago, campfires have protected, aided, and inspired us. Perhaps most importantly, they've brought us together.

In this gorgeous picture book, a girl and her father build a campfire together to keep the cold at bay. But as they welcome passing travelers—from musicians to animals—they create a community, fostered by a crackling fire and its comforting warmth.

Written in sparkling, melodic prose, *Gather Round* is the perfect follow-up and companion to *Run Wild*.

"WONDERFUL"
"A wonderful start to a camping trip, whether to the great outdoors or merely to the backyard"

— THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

"PAEAN TO COMMUNITY"
"The darkness and unknown are no match for people, song, and the warmth of a good fire in this reassuring paean to community"

— KIRKUS REVIEWS

Craft Projects & Workshops



Break out sessions designed for the size, interest, and age of the class . . .



Run Wild — Bare Foot Mural



WHAT WE'LL MAKE

In this group project, a giant roll of kraft paper is rolled out in the classroom, down the hall, in a gymnasium, or on the sidewalk outside! We all take off our shoes (and socks, if you are brave) We all find a spot to stand on the paper and trace around our feet. Now we can imagine and draw our favorite outside places — like we are standing there!

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Where are you? What season? What do you see, smell, and hear and feel there? Who is with you? Animals? Friends? Friends who are animals? Draw them and show us!



Gather Round — Paper Campfires



WHAT WE'LL MAKE

On a piece of black paper, two popsicle sticks are pre-glued in a criss-cross. This is our prompt for creating a campfire (would be great for kids to glue their own, but in a short time, they may not dry.) Now we can use bright colored paper crumpled, torn or cut into shapes to make a flames. Glue stick them on. Sandpaper as the rocks is fun! Use colored chalk, pencils, and crayons to draw even more!

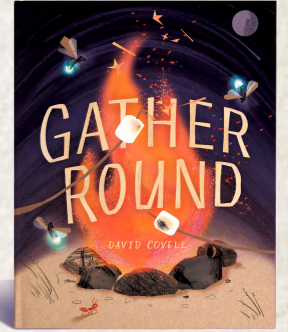
QUESTIONS TO ASK

What do you see in the flame? What's in the sky? Are we cooking? What are we making? S'mores? Soup? Who is around your campfire? Animals? Insects? Birds? Family and friends? Draw them, show us!

*Crackle, Crinkle
Sizzle, POP!*



Gather Round — Outside In



WHAT WE'LL MAKE

David travels with a guitar case. Surprise! — he doesn't know how to play the guitar. Instead, it's full of rocks. And it's full of kindling and dry stuff you might make a campfire with — pine needles, cattails, seed pods, pinecones, and yes, old man's beard. It's all collected from the forest and brought into the classroom. Kids love to touch and talk about all the scrappy, woody things.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

What could we make with these? What do they feel like? Do they have a smell? What do you suppose each are called? Can we stack these rocks?



Gather Round — Singalong!



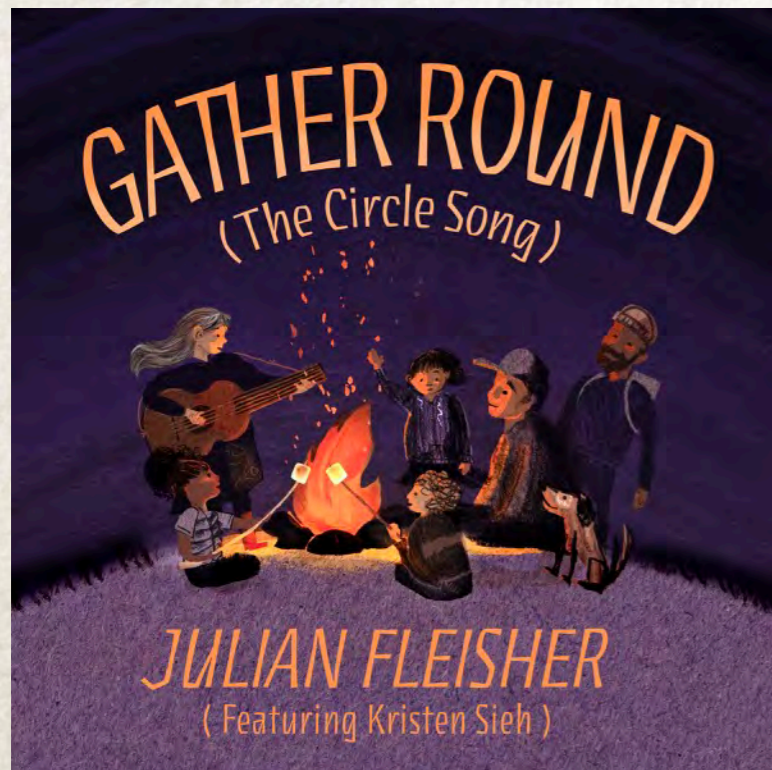
WHAT WE'LL DO

Campfires bring friends and family closer together. Especially when they sing. With *Gather Round*, David asked his old friend Julian Fleisher if he'd create an original, never-before-heard campfire song for the book. It's called *The Circle Song*!

We'll learn it and sing together. If a music teacher wants to join, all the better!

QUESTIONS TO ASK

What's your favorite song to sing? Can you sing it? Can you teach us? Do you play an instrument? If you could play an instrument what would it be? Can you sing soft? Can you sing loud? What's the longest note you can sing?



CIRCLE SONG
(sung in a round)

A . . . song!
A cir - cle's a line that ne - ver ends, and
life is a cir - cle that's made of friends, and
friends are the folks who gath - er round to
help you make a joy - ful sound! The
sound when we all sing a - long, so
gath - er to - geth - er and sing this cir - cle . . .

words and music by
JULIAN FLEISHER

Gather Round (The Circle Song) words and music by Julian Fleisher. ©2023 Rather Big Music (ASCAP). All Rights Reserved.



Story Workshop

WHAT WE'LL LEARN AND MAKE

For kids 3rd grade through 8th, David shares what it takes to get a story in print and how you can start yours! From a spark of an idea to storyboard planning, to dummies, to revisions, revisions, revisions and final art. What's it like to write and illustrate a book?

ACTIVITIES

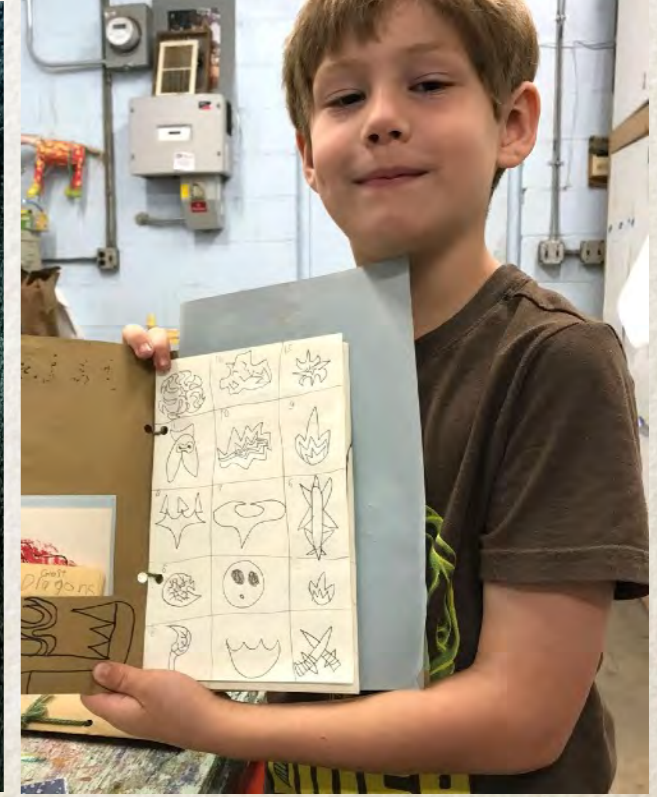
Accordion folded books are a great way to start thinking about the people, place, and plot for your book. Easy for each kid to make their own.

Draw a map of where your story takes place.

Make a portrait of your main character.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

What's your favorite book? What makes a story? Where does your story take place? Who are is the main character? Do they have friends? Is there a villain? What happens? Does your book have a title?



Let's chat and plan a visit!

Cheers!



EMAIL

davidcovell5@gmail.com

MESSAGE

917-532-8504

ADDRESS

4 Woolerton Street
Delhi, NY 13753

WEBSITE

davidcovellbooks.com

INSTAGRAM

@david_covell