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START MAKING A READER TODAY®

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**SMART Announces 2014-15 Book Award Winner:
*Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!***

Portland, Ore. – [SMART](#) (Start Making A Reader Today), the statewide early literacy nonprofit organization, has announced the results of its annual SMART Book Award – the only kid-selected book award program in Oregon.

SMART's 2014-15 Book Award winner is ***Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!*** by Mo Willems, who clinched the win with 1,742 votes. Released by Disney-Hyperion in 2006, the book is part of Willems's "Pigeon" series. It won a National Parenting Publications Award in 2006 and was named one of the top three books for kindergarteners and first graders in a 2006 poll by Scholastic Books.

In *The New York Times* Book Review, Bruce Handy called the book, "one of this decade's contributions to the pantheon of great picture book characters." He added, "The Pigeon is whiny, shortsighted, narcissistic, needy, relentless and nakedly manipulative; in short, the Pigeon is a thinly veiled 4-year-old, drawn by Willems with a sure, simple line and a keen sense, as the pages turn, of comic timing."

A 3-time nominee in the SMART Book Award program in years past, this is Willem's first win. Rounding out the competition the kids ranked the following in their votes:

- 2nd: *Who Would Win? Polar Bear vs. Grizzly Bear* by Jerry Pallotta
- 3rd: *Sharks!* (National Geographic Kids) by Anne Schreiber
- 4th: *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
- 5th: *Corduroy* by Don Freeman

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.

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.

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