

CURRICULUM VITAE

JACK GANTOS

38 West Newton Street, #1, Boston, MA 02118

Cell: 617-875-0848

Email: gantosbooks@gmail.com

Website: www.jackgantos.com

EMPLOYMENT

Emerson College, Boston, MA. (1978-1996)

Tenured Professor: Writing, Literature and Publishing

Norwich/Vermont College (1996-1998): Faculty/MFA Writing for Children, Montpelier, VT

Self Employed Writer: 1996--Present

EDUCATION

MA Literature/Creative Writing, Emerson College, 1984

BFA Creative Writing, Emerson College, 1976

PUBLICATIONS

UPPER ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE GRADE/YOUNG ADULT

Heads or Tails, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1994

Jack's New Power, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995

Desire Lines, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997

Jack's Black Book, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998

Jack On the Tracks, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999

Joey Pigza Loses Control, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000

Hole in My Life, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002

What Would Joey Do?, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003

Jack Adrift, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004

The Love Curse of the Rumbaughs, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006

I Am Not Joey Pigza, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007

Dead End in Norvelt, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011

From Norvelt to Nowhere, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013

The Key that Swallowed Joey Pigza, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014

The Trouble in Me, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015

WRITING RADAR: Using Your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018

The Dented Head of Joey Pigza, Fall 2018, Audible Original Recorded Book

A Pain in the Pigza, Spring 2019, Audible Original Recorded Book

The Missing Half of Joey Pigza, Spring 2020, Audible Original Recorded Book

The Club of Odd Noses, (novel in progress for 2022)

GANTOS 2

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

Rotten Ralph, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1976
Worse Than Rotten Ralph, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1978
Rotten Ralph's Rotten Christmas, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1984
Rotten Ralph's Trick or Treat, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1986
Rotten Ralph's Show and Tell, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1989
Happy Birthday Rotten Ralph, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1990
Not So Rotten Ralph, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1994
Rotten Ralph's Rotten Romance, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1996
Back to School for Rotten Ralph, HarperCollins, 1998
Rotten Ralph Howls, HarperCollins, 1998
Rotten Ralph Has the Christmas Spirit, HC, 1998
Wedding Bells for Rotten Ralph, HC, 1999
Rotten Ralph's Thanksgiving Wish, HC, 1999
The Nine Lives of Rotten Ralph, Houghton Mifflin Co., 2008

ROTTEN RALPH ROTTEN READER SERIES, FSG
ROTTEN RALPH HELPS OUT, 2001
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT FOR ROTTEN RALPH, 2002
ROTTEN RALPH FEELS ROTTEN, 2004
BEST IN SHOW FOR ROTTEN RALPH, 2006
THREE STRIKES FOR ROTTEN RALPH, 2011
ROTTEN RALPH'S ROTTEN FAMILY, 2014

Sleepy Ronald, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1976
Fair Weather Friends, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1977
Aunt Bernice, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1978
The Perfect Pal, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1979
Greedy Greeny, Doubleday and Co., 1979
The Werewolf Family, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1980
Swampy Alligator, Simon and Schuster, 1980
Willy's Raiders, Parents Magazine Press, 1981

ADULT NOVELS

ZIP SIX, Bridge Works Publishing, New York, 1996
"BRASILIA" (NEA Grant)

PAPERBACKS AND AUDIO BOOKS

List upon request.

FOREIGN RIGHTS/TRANSLATIONS

Worldwide list of translations upon request.
My agent is Amy Berkower at Writer's House, NYC.

GANTOS 3

FILM AND VIDEO PRODUCTION

Two animated *ROTTEN RALPH* specials have been produced and broadcast on the Disney Channel by Disney/Italtoons Productions. Presently 52 *Rotten Ralph* episodes have been produced by the BBC for British, American and World Wide markets. *HOLE IN MY LIFE* has been optioned by Almada Productions Ltd for film. The “Joey Pigza” series of books has been optioned by AMAZON BOOKS/VIDEO.

JOURNALISM

List Upon Request

TEACHING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

I became an Adjunct Instructor at Emerson College in 1978. In 1986 I received a full-time position as Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and Literature in both the Undergraduate and Graduate divisions. In 1992 I became an Associate Professor. In 1993 I accepted the Graduate Coordinator position for the MA degree in Creative and Professional Writing. In 1995 I received full tenure and was offered the Chairmanship of the combined Creative and Professional Writing Program. I resigned my position in 1996, to gain time for writing books.

I have been on many core, all-college, and divisional Committees: Status, Faculty Council, Graduate Council, Curriculum, Library, Chair Evaluation, Presidential Search, Thesis, Readings. I was the faculty advisor for the Emerson Literary magazine.

In 1993 and 1995 I taught summer courses in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of New Mexico. In 1996 I became a core faculty member for the low residency MFA Program in Children's Writing at Norwich/Vermont College. I am also a frequent speaker at Book, Library, Teacher, Literacy and Author Conferences throughout the country and overseas.

I built the Emerson MA/MFA degree concentration in Children's Book Writing and Literature and designed the MFA degree in Children's Literature and Writing at Norwich/Vermont College.

SELECTION of COURSE TITLES

Introduction to Creative Writing: Prose and Poetry
Introduction to Creative Writing: Children's Books
Advanced Creative Writing: Prose and Poetry
Advanced Creative Writing: Children's Books
Senior Seminar: Writing the Non-Fiction Book
Senior Seminar: Fiction Writing
Senior Seminar: Children's Book Writing: Primary Picture Books to Adolescent Novels
American Novel: Rotating Topics
American Short Story: Rotating Topics
International Short Story/Novel: Rotating Topics
Graduate Literature Seminar: Rotating Nationalities/Topics
Graduate Seminar: Picture Book Lit and Writing

GANTOS 4

Graduate Seminar: Middle Grade Lit and Short Story Writing

Graduate Seminar: Adolescent Lit and Novel Writing

AWARDS/HONORS

2019 Massachusetts Reading Association Children's Author of the Year

2018 Lucy Calkins/Columbia Writing Project Scholar:

WRITING RADAR: Using Your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories

2015 Zena Sutherland Lecture, Univ. of Chicago

2014 Nominated for the Kirkus Prize : *THE KEY THAT SWALLOWED JOEY PIGZA*.

2014 Anne V. Zarrow Award: "Significant Contribution to the field of literature for children and young adults."

2012 John Newbery Award: To the author of the most "Distinguished Contribution to American Literature for Children." *DEAD END IN NORVELT*

2012 Scott O'Dell Award for Best Historic Fiction: *DEAD END IN NORVELT*

2010 NCTE/ALAN Award for "Outstanding Achievement in the field of Adolescent literature"

2009 *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*: "Booked Up" Award. United Kingdom Booktrust

2005 Library of Congress Outstanding Contribution to American Children's Literature

2003 ASTAL HONOR for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Literature

2002 *HOLE IN MY LIFE*: Winner of the MA ST. Award

2002: *HOLE IN MY LIFE*: ALA Printz Honor

2002 *HOLE IN MY LIFE*: ALA Sibert Honor

2002: *HOLE IN MY LIFE*: Parent's Choice, Gold Award

2001 Boston Public Library "Literary Lights" award for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Literature.

2001 *JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL*, NASEN AWARD: Best Book for Special Needs Education in the United Kingdom

2001 *JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL*: Newbery Honor Award

2001 *JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL*: ALA Notable Book

2001 *JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL*: Book List: Editor's Choice

2001 *JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL*: Book Links: Lasting Connections

2001, *JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL*: Parents' Choice Gold Award

2000 *JACK ON THE TRACKS*: Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Master List

2000 *JACK ON THE TRACKS*: Parents' Choice Silver Honor

2000 *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*: Best Children's Books of the Year "Dealing with Alienation"-Bank St. College

2000 *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*: Best Book of the Year state award listings: Georgia, New Hampshire, Maine, Arizona, Northwest Territories, Texas, Pennsylvania, Iowa, New Mexico, Minnesota, Florida, Washington St., California, and Virginia

1999 *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*: Notable Trade Book in Social Studies

1998 *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*: NATIONAL BOOK AWARD

Finalist in Children's Literature

1998 *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*: ALA Notable Book

GANTOS 5

1998 *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*: One of "THE BEST BOOKS OF 1998" by School Library Journal
1998 *JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY*: selected as one of "A Hundred Books to Read and Share" by the New York Public Library.
1998 *JACK'S BLACK BOOK*: Arizona and Maine Reader's Choice Awards.
1998 *JACK'S BLACK BOOK*: selected by the New York Public Library for TEEN AGE BEST BOOKS.
1997 Golden Pulcinella Award: "Best Character of the Year, *ROTTEN RALPH*." CARTOONS ON THE BAY, AMALFI INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL.
1997 Silver Pulcinella Award: "Best series for Children, *ROTTEN RALPH*." CARTOONS ON THE BAY, AMALFI INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL
1997 Silver Apple Award: National Educational Media Network, for *NOT SO ROTTEN RALPH*
1996 Parents Magazine: Best Video Award, *ROTTEN RALPH*
1995 *JACK'S NEW POWER*: "The Best Books of 1995" by THE BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE.
1995 *JACK'S NEW POWER*: selected as one of "The Best Books of 1995" by SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL.
1995 *JACK'S NEW POWER*: selected as one of "A Hundred Books to Read and Share" by the New York Public Library.
1994 *HEADS OR TAILS*: selected as one of "A Hundred Books to Read and Share" by the New York Public Library.
1994 *HEADS OR TAILS*: ALA Booklinks "A Few Good Books of 1994"
1989 Quarterly West Novella Award: "X-Rays"
1988 Massachusetts Council for the Arts Award: "Brasilia"
1988 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship for Creative Writing: Fiction
1983 Massachusetts Council for the Arts Award: "The Shadow of Elvis Presley's Hips"
1979 Emerson Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Creative Writing
1976-2013 ALA "Best Book Series for Young Readers"—*ROTTEN RALPH*

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Proprietor: The Boston Athenaeum
The Club of Odd Volumes
The Ticknor Society
The Author's Guild
Amnesty International
National Council of Teachers of English/ALAN
International Literacy Association
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

GANTOS 6

GANTOS SHORT BIO:

JACK GANTOS is the author of over fifty five books for children from the “ROTTEN RALPH” picture books, collections of “JACK HENRY” short stories, upper elementary and middle school “JOEY PIGZA” and “NORVELT” novels, to middle school and young adult books—*LOVE CURSE OF THE RUMBAUGHS*, *DESIRE LINES*, *HOLE IN MY LIFE* and *THE TROUBLE IN ME*. His work can lead readers from the cradle to the grave.

Mr. Gantos was a professor at Emerson College where he developed the master’s degree Program in Children’s Literature, Writing and Publishing. He now spends his time writing and is an active speaker at book and literacy conferences, and in schools and libraries around the world. His works have received a Newbery Award, Scott O’Dell Award, Newbery Honor, Printz Honor, Sibert Honor, he was a finalist for a National Book Award, and he is the recipient of the NCTE/ALAN AWARD for his contribution to the field of Young Adult and Children’s Literature.

DEAD END IN NORVELT received both the 2012 John Newbery Award and the Scott O’Dell award for Historic Fiction. His highly regarded book on writing for young writers is titled: *WRITING RADAR: Using Your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories*. In September of 2018 an Original Audible book, *THE DENTED HEAD OF JOEY PIGZA*, was released. *A PAIN IN THE PIGZA*, also an Original Audible, was released in the spring of 2019. *THE MISSING HALF OF JOEY PIGZA*, Original Audible, was released in the spring of 2020.

GANTOS: LETTER TO YOUNG WRITERS

Dear Readers and Writers,

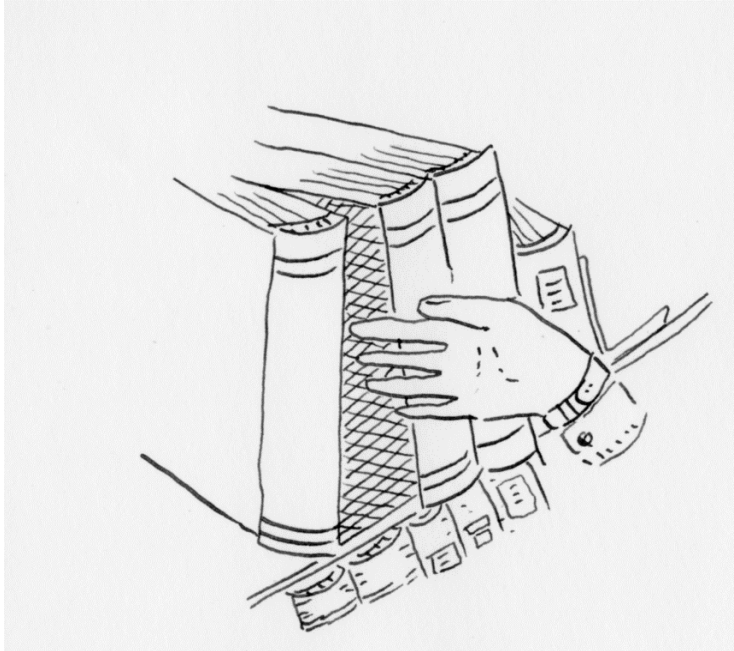
I am no different than any other writer. My desire to write came to me after I started to read great books. It is the reading that stimulates the imagination and makes you realize you have great stories of your own to tell. Plus, just imagine how proud you will feel when you hold a book in your hand that has *your name* printed on the cover.

In school I was a library helper. I shelved books and you can probably guess that the G section was my favorite. I would walk my fingers across the spines of the G authors until I came to the slot with GALDONE on one side and GEORGE on the other. I could imagine my book, with my last name fitting on the shelf between those two authors. Every school day I would pass that G shelf and imagine my book, with my name on it, proudly reaching out at me like a secret friend.

Of course, when you are young, it is easy to imagine a book with your name on it, but as I grew older I realized a bit of effort was going to go into the construction of a book. So, I bought a small black writing journal, and on the spine, I took a pen knife and carved my last name into the black cover. I wasn’t sure what to title the book and so I didn’t. After a while I just called it my “Black Book.” I took that book everywhere. I wrote very unorganized stories in it. But I did have an eye for the odd moment. I saw my dog eaten by an alligator. I wrote about

GANTOS 7

it in my Black Book. I saw an airplane crash in my neighborhood. I wrote it down. I broke my brother's arm—three times! I wrote it all down. And I kept filling up the Black Book. And when it was full of odds and ends and bits and pieces of stories, I made a fake library call number and pasted it on the spine of my book. I glued a card pocket on the inside back cover and slipped a Date Due card inside. Then I carved my title on the spine: "JACK'S BLACK BOOK". When no one was looking I went to the bookshelf and slipped it between GALDONE and GEORGE.



Each day I would pass it in the library. Weeks went by. It didn't move. I would be lying if I didn't say I was disappointed—even dejected. I almost pulled it from the shelf, but I knew I would despise myself for giving up. So, I kept waiting and then one day it was gone! I was thrilled.

But after many long weeks went by, I thought maybe it was foolish of me to put the only copy of my book on the shelf. Whoever checked it out was probably laughing at me before dumping it in the trash. I was feeling pretty ridiculous. The empty gap on the shelf where my book had been now looked like a sad missing tooth.

Then it came back! I was working in the library and found it in the BOOK RETURN bin. I quickly flipped to the back where I had written a note on the last page asking the reader if he or she liked the book. They had responded. Eagerly I read what I had hoped for: "Whoever wrote this book should seek help."

I did. But it wasn't a doctor. I went to my teacher and told him what I had done and asked for help on how to organize my stories. He did help me. He and other teachers, and reading more books made me a better writer. And that is how I got started—that little journal was inspirational!

I went to college for creative writing. I have published over fifty books from the "ROTTEN RALPH" series to the "JACK HENRY" series to the "JOEY PIGZA" series to *HOLE*

GANTOS 8

IN MY LIFE and *THE TROUBLE IN ME* and more—all the way to *DEAD END IN NORVELT*, the 2012 Newbery Medal winner and its sequel, *FROM NORVELT TO NOWHERE*. I have won many awards, but the Newbery Medal tops them all.

THE TROUBLE IN ME is a middle school book about my life a few years before *HOLE IN MY LIFE*—and it is about trouble—the trouble inside of me, and outside of me. I don't know about you, but for me reading about trouble always makes the pages turn twice as fast.

In the fall of 2018, my book on how to write stories was released—with all of my *best story writing tips!* It is titled: *WRITING RADAR: Using your Journal to Snoop out and Craft Great Stories*. I think this book will give you a head start to find *your book* on a shelf. Finally, I finished writing and recording *THE DENTED HEAD OF JOEY PIGZA*, *A PAIN IN THE PIGZA*, and *THE MISSING HALF OF JOEY PIGZA*—all three are Audible Originals.

All Best with Your Writing,

Jack Gantos