

The Science of Picture Books!

A new exhibit shows the art (and math) of children's books

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What's your favorite picture book? Maybe it's *Green Eggs and Ham*. Or it could be *Where the Wild Things Are*. There are all types of picture books for kids. Now a museum is making a special exhibit of them.

The show is called "Igniting the Imagination." It opened last week at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in Washington, D.C. The exhibit includes pictures from 29 different artists. And there is a theme to their work. All of the pictures have to do with science, technology, engineering, or math!

For example, one book shows a huge dinosaur next to a purple car. It's a stegosaurus — a giant leaf eater with a brain the size of a meatball. Patrick O'Brien made the 1998 book, *Gigantic*, to show how big dinos really were!

Another book featured in the exhibit is from 1995's *Wonderful Nature, Wonderful You* by Karin Ireland. Christopher Canyon was the artist. Canyon wanted to find a way to help creatures. So he made pictures of them to show their beauty! His sea turtle artwork shows the balance of nature, including corals.

JD Talasek is the director of the exhibit. Talasek said books "helped me to understand the world around me." That's not all. He told *News-O-Matic* that the great picture books "taught me to look, to ask questions, and to be curious." Talasek has been reading since he was very young.

"Picture books are the reason I still love books today," Talasek said. "And those wonderful colorful images sparked my imagination."

The NAS borrowed the artwork from the Mazza Museum in Ohio. Dan Chudzinski helped choose those pictures to show at the exhibit. He had one simple message for readers like you. "Don't judge a book by its cover," he said. "Dig deeper!"

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