Adventure Guide

How to find family activities + connect to the arts

STORYBOOK CAPITAL of AMERICA

ABILENE, TX

StorybookCapitalofAmerica.com
The Abilene Cultural Affairs Council commissioned the first storybook sculpture in 1996. “Childhood’s Great Adventure” is based on the William Joyce book “Santa Calls,” which was set in Abilene, Texas. Joyce was the inspiration behind the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature. More sculptures followed over the years. Today, Abilene is home to the largest public collection of storybook sculptures in the U.S. New sculptures are added each year during the Children’s Art & Literacy Festival. The mission of the Storybook Sculpture Project is to create 3D art that brings children's literature to life.
Storybook Sculpture Map

CEDAR STREET

10 Elks Arts Center

11 Indians Village

12 Abilene Public Library

National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature

Abilene Zoo

1-6 Seuss Sculptures

7 Childhood’s Great Adventure

8 Man in the Moon

9 E. Aster Bunnymund

10 Duck on a Bike

11 No, David! and Fergus

12 Nicholas St. North (Santa Claus)

13 Dinosaur Bob

14 Jack Frost

15 Seymour

16 Sanderson Mansnoozie (Sandman)

17 Toothiana

18 Good Night Dinosaur

19 The Three Little Kittens

20 Stuart Little

21 The Three Little Pigs

22 Charlotte and Wilbur

23 The Three Bears

24 Marcel and Wilfred

25 Mr. Tiger

26 Otis the Tractor and Calf

27 Winnie

28 Evan and His Dog
**Childhood's Great Adventure**

*Installed: 1996*
*Book: “Santa Calls”*
*Author/Illustrator: William Joyce*
*Sculptor: Rick Jackson*

Santa Claus mysteriously summons three children to visit him at the North Pole by sending them a flying machine they call the Yuletide Flyer.

**Dino Bob**

*Installed: 2000*
*Book: “Dinosaur Bob and His Adventures with the Family Lazardo”*
*Author/Illustrator: William Joyce*
*Sculptor: Bob “Daddy-O” Wade*

Dinosaur Bob plays with an orange Volkswagen in this sculpture created for the 20th annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition.

**Seymour**

*Installed: 2013*
*Books: “Can You See What I See?” series*
*Author/Illustrator: Walter Wick*
*Sculptor: Randy Gilman*

Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick

Look for Seymour, the little toy man made of colorful beads! He hides amongst the objects assembled in search-and-find stories.

See sculpture sponsors at [www.storybookcapitalofamerica.com](http://www.storybookcapitalofamerica.com)
The Lorax
Installed: 2013
The Lorax speaks for the trees and warns of the dangers of disrespecting the environment.

Yertle the Turtle
Installed: 2013
Yertle the Turtle, the king of the pond, stands on his subjects in an attempt to reach higher than the moon.

The Grinch
Installed: 2013
A cold, heartless green recluse, The Grinch tries to sabotage Christmas in Whoville.
Green Eggs and Ham

Installed: 2013

Sam I am says try green eggs and ham! In a boat or with a goat, here or there or anywhere!

Horton Hears a Who

Installed: 2013

When Horton the elephant hears a small speck talking to him, he vows to protect it because “a person’s a person, no matter how small.”

Cat in the Hat

Installed: 2012

The Cat in the Hat turns a boring rainy day into unexpected fun with the help of Thing 1 and Thing 2.
Guardians of Childhood

Man in the Moon
Installed: 2014
Book: "The Man in the Moon"
Sculptor: Pedro Rivera
A little boy becomes the Tsar Lunar, the first Guardian of Childhood. He watches over the dreams of the children of Earth.

E. Aster Bunnymund
Installed: 2014
Book: "E. Aster Bunnymund and the Warrior Eggs at the Earth’s Core!"
Sculptor: Steve Neves
A philosophical warrior rabbit skilled in martial arts, he is also a chocolatier and a Guardian of Childhood best known as the Easter Bunny.

Nicholas St. North
Installed: 2014
Book: "Nicholas St. North and the Battle of the Nightmare King"
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Before he was Santa Claus, he was a daredevil named Nicholas St. North. Now he is one of the Guardians of Childhood.
Jack Frost
Installed: 2014
Book: "Jack Frost"
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick
Able to manipulate snow and ice, Jack Frost is the Guardian of Fun. He helps the other Guardians battle Pitch, the Nightmare King.

Sanderson Mansnoozie
Installed: 2014
Book: "The Sandman: The Story of Sanderson Mansnoozie"
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick
This former captain of a shooting star is the Sandman, Guardian of Dreams.

Toothiana
Installed: 2014
Book: "Toothiana: Queen of the Tooth Fairy Armies"
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick
All those teeth she collects? They contain memories. The forgotten memories of childhood … including the memories of how to fly.
Duck on a Bike
Installed: 2015
Book: "Duck on a Bike"
Author/Illustrator: David Shannon
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick

One day on the farm, Duck gets the wild idea he can ride a bike. Soon, the other animals want to ride, too!

Good Night Dinosaur
Installed: 2016
Book: "How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?"
Author: Jane Yolen
Illustrator: Mark Teague
Sculptor: Steve Neves

Dinosaur doesn’t throw his teddy bear about when it’s time to turn the lights out. He tucks in his tail and whispers, “Good night!”

The Three Little Kittens
Installed: 2017
Book: "Three Bedtime Stories"
Author: Golden Books
Illustrator: Garth Williams
Sculptor: Steve Neves

Mama Cat is not happy when her three little kittens lose their mittens. Unless they find their mittens, they shall have no pie!
No, David! and Fergus
Installed: 2015
Book: “David Gets in Trouble”
Author/Illustrator: David Shannon
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick
Everywhere David goes, he seems to get in trouble. Now he is eating Fergus’ dog treats! No, David!

Stuart Little
Installed: 2017
Book: “Stuart Little”
Author: E.B. White
Illustrator: Garth Williams
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick
Adventure follows this mouse wherever he goes, from sailing a boat in Central Park to saving a friend from Snowball the cat.

The Three Little Pigs
Installed: 2017
Book: “Three Bedtime Stories”
Author: Golden Books
Illustrator: Garth Williams
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick
Three little pigs with three different houses all encounter one big, bad wolf!
Charlotte & Wilbur
Installed: 2017
Book: "Charlotte's Web"
Author: E.B. White
Illustrator: Garth Williams
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick
Charlotte weaves astonishing words into her spider’s web to save her best friend, a pig named Wilbur.

The Three Bears
Installed: 2017
Book: "Three Bedtime Stories"
Author: Golden Books
Illustrator: Garth Williams
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Three bears return home to find someone sat in their chairs, tasted their porridge and laid in their beds and that someone is Goldilocks!

Marcel & Wilfred
Installed: 2018
Book: "This Moose Belongs to Me"
Author/Illustrator: Oliver Jeffers
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Marcel has trouble following Wilfred’s rules, such as going where the boy wants to go. Perhaps Wilfred’s pet doesn’t quite realize that he belongs to anyone.
Mr. Tiger
Installed: 2019
Book: "Mr. Tiger Goes Wild"
Author/Illustrator: Peter Brown
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick + Schaefer Art Bronze
Mr. Tiger gets bored with being proper all the time and decides to loosen up. When his friends are not supportive, he runs away to be wild.

Otis the Tractor and Calf
Installed: 2021
Book: "Otis"
Author/Illustrator: Loren Long
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Schaefer Art Bronze
When a big new tractor arrives and Otis is cast away behind the barn, who will save Calf when he gets stuck in the mud?

Winnie
Installed: 2022
Book: "Finding Winnie"
Author: Lindsay Mattick
Illustrator: Sophie Blackall
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Schaefer Art Bronze
Before she was Winnie the Pooh, Winnie was a real black bear adopted by a World War I veterinarian. At the London Zoo, she meets Christopher Robin.
Evan and His Dog

Installed: 2023
Book: “The Rough Patch”
Author/Illustrator: Brian Lies
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Schaefer Art Bronze

Evan the fox and his dog are best friends who do everything together. When the unthinkable happens, a garden and a new friend help Evan through his rough patch.

Follow the Art Adventure Trail!

Abilene is home to nearly 80 limestone benches with storybook quotes! Look for the benches with bronze medallions and create an embossing with a foil kit from the NCCIL or T&P Depot.

"Be comforted dear soul!
There is always light behind the clouds."
Little Women - Louisa May Alcott
Here’s what you do:

1. Download the free app Storybook Sculpture Audio Tour for iPhone.

2. Stand within a few feet of the sculptures in the Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden.

3. The app will recognize that you are near the sculptures.

4. The app will allow you to play a 2-minute reading from the book associated with the sculpture as well as offer details about the sculpture and book.

Special thanks to Rebecca + Eric Armstrong

Seymour Passport

Pick up your free passport and start finding Seymour! He is hidden in six locations around downtown Abilene and in the gift shop of the Abilene Zoo. Once you find him, have your passport stamped and receive a special sticker. No admission is charged to find Seymour.

The Seymour Passport Project started with the 2013 Children’s Art & Literacy Festival, which celebrated the work of artist Walter Wick. Seymour is a toy man hidden in the pages of Wick’s “Can You See What I See?” book series. Seymour, and his passport, can be found at the Abilene Zoo, Abilene Public Library, Center for Contemporary Arts, Frontier Texas!, The Grace Museum and the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature.
Here’s what you do:

1. Download the free GooseChase app for Android or iPhone.

2. Sign up and select a user name. Team members can download the app on their own phones but must use the same user name for log in.

3. Join the game by searching for Storybook Sculpture Scavenger Hunt.

4. Complete as many missions as possible by submitting creative photos within the app.

5. Do not climb on the sculptures to take photos.

6. Earn a Storybook Capital button for completing the missions! Pick up your button at the T+P Depot, 1101 N. 1st St. Open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

Sponsor: DATROO Technologies
3D Dragon Mural

Flight of the Dragon

Pose on artist Kurt Wenner’s 3-Dimensional “Flight of the Dragon” mural and it will appear that you are standing on a castle or sitting on the dragon’s neck as it flies over a city! Located on the floor of the pedestrian tunnel behind the T&P Depot in Everman Park.

Art at the Abilene Zoo

The Abilene Zoo is home to nearly 130 animal species and a place to experience art and entertainment. Climb and draw on the Madagascar Chameleon Sculpture by Steve Neves, listen to Abilene Philharmonic zoo concerts and enjoy storm damaged ash trees that were transformed by a chainsaw artist.
Children’s Performing Arts Series
Paramount Theatre, 352 Cypress St.
www.cpasabilene.org

Live professional theater presented by national touring companies for Abilene’s youngest audiences!

Each year, CPAS brings a new season that includes a combination of theater productions highlighting literature, music, STEAM and much more! Tickets are $10 for single shows or packages that start at $30. Tickets on sale now!
Little Bat: The Musical

June 20, 2023

Little Bat can’t wait for his first night of school! He’s excited about everything – new school supplies, learning, and making friends. But when he finally arrives, his world turns upside down in this new musical from McMurry University Theatre based on the Brian Lies book, Little Bat in NightSchool. Original music by Penelope Ferris. Written by Matthew Lamar. Directed by Neena McLain.

Mark Shelton Presents: The Strike, Scrape & Shake Show

July 11, 2023

Entertaining and education! This high energy, one-man show treats children to world-class percussion music. Children will enjoy the sounds of snare drum, rhythm bones, hammered dulcimer, handpan, electronic percussion and more. The audience will get into the act as Mark teaches about the history of percussion while demonstrating music.

Margaret Clauder Presents: Hooray for the USA!

July 18, 2023

Hooray for the USA is a feel-good-about-America program that will have your audience bursting with pride in the good old USA. Children will learn about Ellis island and how millions of immigrants went through there on their way to becoming a U.S. citizen. They’ll learn about the Statue of Liberty, her history and about her twin sister who stands on the Seine River in France. Puppets such as Uncle Sam will delight with patriotic songs while children learn the history of our flag from the first flag made by Betsy Ross to our current Old Glory.
Free Family Entertainment

**ArtWalk**
Second Thursday each month 5-8 p.m.
Hosted by the Center for Contemporary Arts
www.center-arts.com

Monthly downtown festival with free museum entrance, art activities, live music and performances, food trucks and more.

**Abilene Public Library**
Main Library, 202 Cedar St.
South Branch, Mall of Abilene
Mockingbird Branch, 1326 N. Mockingbird Ln.
www.abilenetx.gov/apl

Baby Steps (Ages 0-1)
Play & Learn (Ages 1-3)
Wiggles & Giggles (Ages 2-3)
Toddler Time (Ages 2-3)
Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-6)
Super Storytime (All ages)
Stories & More (All ages)
Family Fun (All ages)
Stories in the Park (All ages)
Make & Take (All ages)
STEM programs (All ages)
Historias en Espanol y Ingles (Ages 3-6)
Dungeons and Dragons Club (Teens)
Spark is a newly renovated, fully interactive space at The Grace Museum on the second floor. Children and adults are invited to explore over 30 new exhibits created to expand your knowledge of art and local history. There are wide open areas as well as cozy nooks to draw, build, paint, act, dance and make music.

Museum visitors can also enjoy problem-solving games and art activities in the Create Lab. This area offers families with children a separate space to get creative using various art mediums and a selection of projects with self-guided instructions.

Paramount Productions & Movies
Historic Paramount Theatre, 352 Cypress St.
paramountabilene.com

This historic 1930 theater is an entertainment showcase for West Texas featuring family entertainment year-round, including movies, live theater, ballet, opera and concerts. See website calendar for full schedule.
For 25 years, the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) has collaborated with award-winning illustrators to produce exhibitions of their artwork that are distinctive, appealing to museum visitors of all ages and are of the highest quality. In addition to this unique artistic partnership, following its debut at the NCCIL gallery, each exhibition travels to museums, public libraries and galleries nationwide. The mission of the NCCIL is to exhibit, tour, collect, preserve and promote original art from the finest children’s literature. For the local community, the NCCIL offers opportunities to meet visiting artists, free Saturday family art activities, Monthly Art Adventure for pre-schoolers, exhibition tours for students, workshops and book signings. The museum also has a bookstore stocked with books signed by artists who have exhibited at the NCCIL.
The four-day festival kicks off Thursday afternoon with the free Storybook Parade, Storybook Sculpture unveiling, Garden Party and Sketch with the Artist event. Register for Friday and Saturday and wear your festival pass and collect CALF buttons as you listen to dramatic readings, have fun at live performances featuring a balloon artist, marionettes, puppets, comedians, musicians and more. Free art activities after each reading. The Abilene Philharmonic Instrument Petting Zoo offers hands-on experiences. Extras you can add on to your registration: Workshops, Storybook Characters Breakfast, Young Audiences Enchanted Eatery and cool merchandise!

See the festival website for a full schedule of events. Registration opens in February. Every CALF is a new experience and you will want to make this a yearly tradition!
In Abilene, characters from your favorite children’s books come to life.

Write your own stories!

2015
STATE LEGISLATURE NAMED
ABELINE
THE OFFICIAL STORYBOOK CAPITAL OF TEXAS

2018
U.S. TRADEMARK OFFICE NAMED
ABELINE
THE OFFICIAL STORYBOOK CAPITAL OF AMERICA®

1101 N. 1st St. / 325.677.1161

Storybookcapitalofamerica.com