

STORYBOOK CAPITAL of AMERICA®

ABILENE, TX

StorybookCapitalofAmerica.com

What's Inside



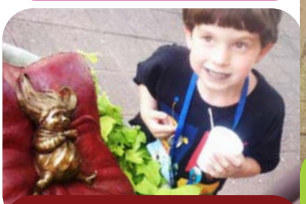
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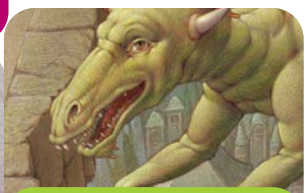
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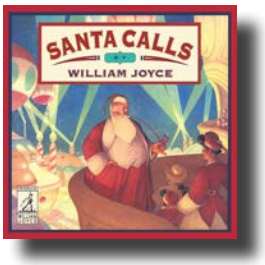
William Joyce, center, with the "Toothiana" sculpture at CALF 2014

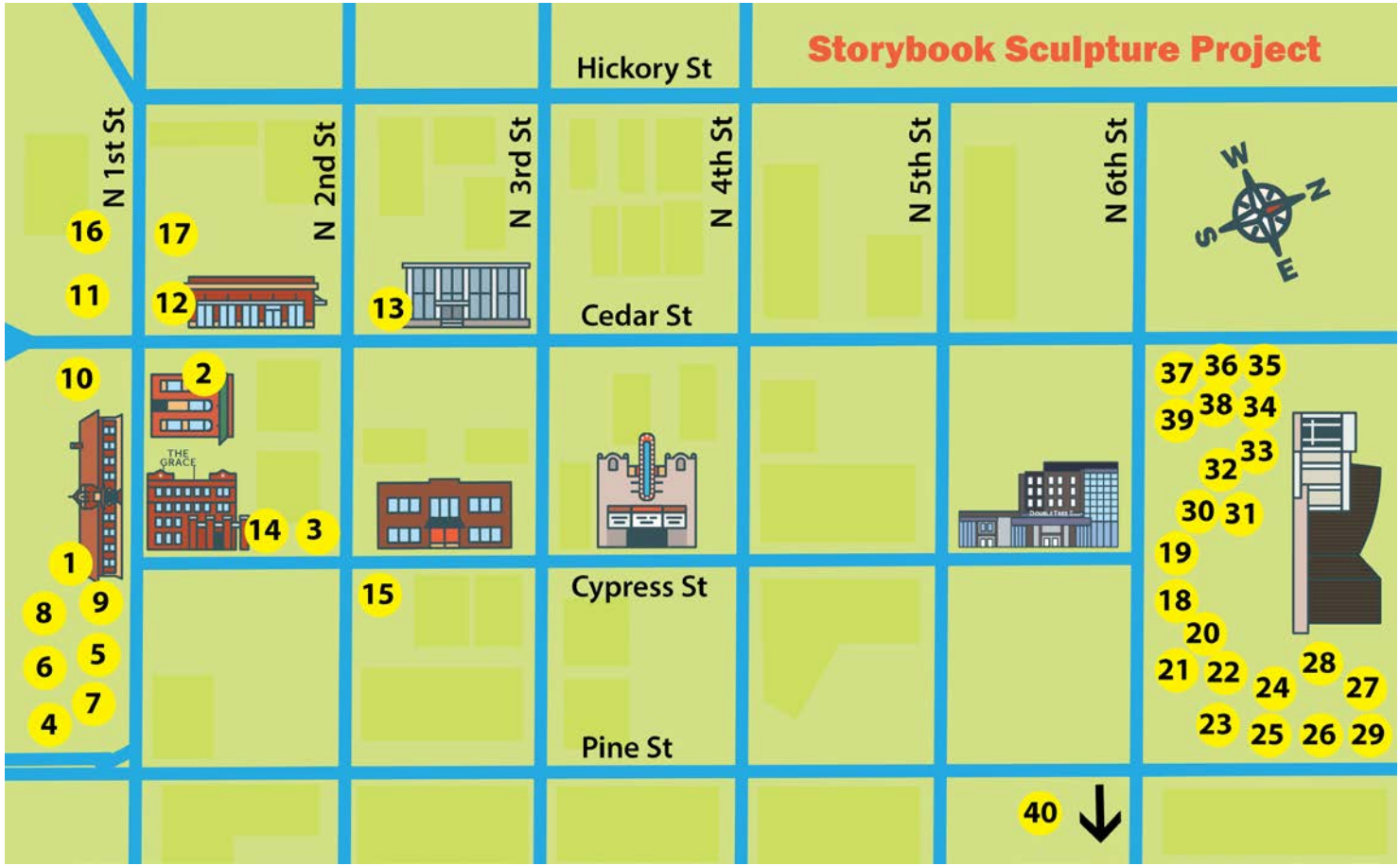
Storybook Sculpture Project

Downtown Abilene

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 collection of public storybook sculptures in the U.S., if not the world. 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 Project
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1. Childhood's Great Adventure

Installed: 1996
Book: "Santa Calls"
Author/illustrator: William Joyce
Sculptor and Bronze Casting: 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.



2. 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.



3. 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.



Dr. Seuss Sculpt



☐ 4. The Lorax

Installed: 2013
Book: "The Lorax"

The Lorax speaks for the trees and warns of the dangers of disrespecting the environment.



☐ 5. Yertle the Turtle

Installed: 2013
Book: "Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories"

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



☐ 6. The Grinch

Installed: 2013
Book: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

A cold, heartless green recluse, The Grinch tries to sabotage Christmas in Whoville.

ures

LOCATION: Everman Park
SCULPTOR: Leo Rijn
AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR: Dr. Theodore Seuss Geisel

☐ 7. Green Eggs and Ham

Installed: 2013
Book: "Green Eggs and Ham"

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



☐ 8. Horton Hears a Who

Installed: 2013
Book: "Horton Hears a Who"

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."



☐ 9. Cat in the Hat

Installed: 2012
Book: "The Cat in the Hat"

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

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR: William Joyce







☐ 10. 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. The sculpture was inspired by an earlier Joyce book, "The Leaf Men and the Brave Good Bugs."

☐ 11. E. Aster Bunnymund

Installed: 2014

Book: "E. Aster Bunnymund and the Warrior Eggs at the Earth's Core!"

Sculptor: Steve Neves

Bronze casting: Schaefer Art Bronze

A philosophical warrior rabbit skilled in martial arts, he is also a chocolatier and the Guardian of Hope known as the Easter Bunny.

☐ 12. Nicholas St. North

Installed: 2014

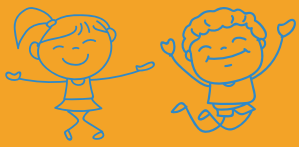
Book: "Nicholas St. North and the Battle of the Nightmare King"

Sculptor: Steve Neves

Bronze casting: Shidoni Foundry

Before he was Santa Claus, he was a daredevil named Nicholas St. North. Now he is the Guardian of Wonder.

Sculptures



☐ 13. 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.



☐ 14. 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.



☐ 15. 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. She is the Guardian of Memories.





☐ 16. Duck on a Bike

Installed: 2015
Book: "Duck on a Bike"
Author/illustrator: David Shannon
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Geoff Broderick

Duck gets the wild idea he can ride a bike. Soon, the other animals want to ride bikes, too!

Adamson-Spalding Storybook



☐ 18. 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 kittens lose their mittens. Unless they find their mittens, they shall have no pie!

Bronze casting: Schaefer Art Bronze



☐ 19. Good Night Dinosaur

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

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!"

☐ 17. 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 gets in trouble. Now he is eating Fergus' dog treats. No, David!



Garden

LOCATION:
Abilene Convention Center



☐ 20. 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.



☐ 21. 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!



Adamson-Spalding







☐ **22. 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.

☐ **23. The Three Bears**

Installed: 2017
Book: "Three Bedtime Stories"
Author: Golden Books
Illustrator: Garth Williams
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Schaefer Art Bronze

Three bears return home to find someone sat in their chairs, tasted their porridge and lay in their beds!

☐ **24. Marcel & Wilfred**

Installed: 2018
Book: "This Moose Belongs to Me"
Author/illustrator: Oliver Jeffers
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Schaefer Art Bronze

Marcel has trouble following Wilfred's rules, such as going where the boy wants to go. Perhaps Marcel doesn't quite realize that he belongs to Wilfred.

Storybook Garden

LOCATION:
Abilene Convention Center

☐ 25. Mr. Tiger

Installed: 2019
Book: "Mr. Tiger Goes Wild"
Author/Illustrator:
Peter Brown
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

Mr. Tiger gets bored with being proper all the time and decides to go wild ... but does he go too far?



☐ 26. 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?



☐ 27. 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.





☐ 28. Evan and His Friend

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.

CLEAR FORK BANK STORYBOOK GARDEN



☐ 30. Plum the Peacock

Installed: 2025
Book: “Leave it to Plum”
Author/illustrator: Matt Phelan
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

Plum can solve any problem, especially with help from his friends! This is the first book in a chapter book series about this delightful, kind-hearted peacock.



☐ 32. Storybook Giving Tree

Installed: 2025
Book: “The Giving Tree”
Author/illustrator: Shel Silverstein
Sculptor: Nic Noblique

This contemporary metal sculpture reinterprets a famous story for all ages about the gift of unconditional love.

☐ 29. Itty-Bitty Kitty-Corn and Unicorn

Installed: 2024
Book: "Itty-Bitty Kitty-Corn"
Author: Shannon Hale
Illustrator: LeUyen Pham
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

A delightful story that celebrates the magic of friendship.



LOCATION:
Abilene Convention Center across from DoubleTree by Hilton

☐ 31. Turtle Walk

Installed: 2025
Book: "Turtle Walk"
Author/illustrator: Matt Phelan
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

What a beautiful day! Time for a nice, slow walk with a turtle family. Where are they going? Be patient. Here we go...





Hundred Acre Wood

AUTHOR: A.A. Milne ILLUSTRATOR: E.H. Shepard



☐ 33. Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet

Installed: 2026
Book: "The House at Pooh Corner"
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

Pooh and Piglet share a friendship defined by unwavering loyalty and quiet comfort in being together. Piglet often finds courage to face his fears because he is with Pooh.



☐ 35. Rabbit

Installed: 2026
Book: "The House at Pooh Corner"
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

Rabbit is a natural leader, organizer and practical thinker. He is unique because he is a "real animal," unlike the other characters, which are stuffed toys.



☐ 37. Kanga and Roo

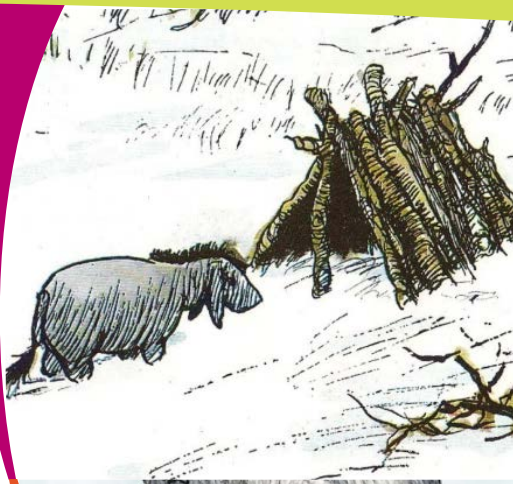
Installed: 2026
Book: "The House at Pooh Corner"
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting: Schaefer Art Bronze

Kanga is a kind and maternal presence in the Hundred Acre Wood. Roo exhibits boundless energy and a child's adventurous spirit. They are the perfect harmony of protection and freedom.

☐ 34. Eeyore

Installed: 2026
Book: “The House at Pooh Corner”
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

The “Old Grey Donkey” of the Hundred Acre Wood has quiet resilience, a thoughtful nature, and a deep capacity for gratitude



☐ 36. Christopher Robin

Installed: 2026
Book: “The House at Pooh Corner”
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

This gentle guardian is a bridge between reality and imagination, serving as the protector of the Hundred Acre Wood.



☐ 38. Tigger

Installed: 2026
Book: “The House at Pooh Corner”
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

With his “springy tail” and endless energy, Tigger relishes being different - the “only one.” He is always up for adventure and bouncing. He likes to say, “That’s what Tiggers do best!”



Hundred Acre Wood

AUTHOR: A.A. Milne ILLUSTRATOR: E.H. Shepard



☐ 39. Owl

Installed: 2026
Book: "The House at Pooh Corner"
Sculptor: Steve Neves
Bronze casting:
Schaefer Art Bronze

Owl is the oldest soul in the forest. He is a distinguished intellectual and, like Rabbit, one of only two "real" animals in the Hundred Acre Wood, as the rest are stuffed toys.

City Hall

LOCATION: 555 Walnut St.



☐ 40. Locomotive

Installed: 2023 Book: "Locomotive" Author/Illustrator: Brian Floca
Sculptor: Steve Neves Bronze casting: Schaefer Art Bronze

A family rides a transcontinental train in 1869. Though not a CALF book, this Storybook Sculpture was commissioned by the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council on behalf of civic leaders who wanted to celebrate the city's railroad heritage.

Abilene Public Library

Locations:

Main Library
1699 S. 1st St. at Abilene Heritage Square (NEW!)
South Branch Library
4310 Buffalo Gap Rd.
at the Mall of Abilene
G.V. Daniels Branch Library
532 W. Washington St.
Branch Library
2250 Ambler Ave.





Children's Programming

Storytime
Toddler Time
STEM Programs
Teen Programs
Crafts
Skills Workshops
Holiday Activities
Movies
Clubs

Check website for schedule!

Summer Reading Program

Every summer, the library puts together a Summer Reading Challenge for all ages to participate in. A new theme is selected each year.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

This free program delivers children's books to families each month for ages 0-5. United Way of Abilene has made it possible for this program to be offered to families in Taylor, Jones, Fisher, Shackelford, Runnels, Coleman and Callahan counties.





Abilene Storybook Experience App

How to Play!

- Download the free app for iPhone or Android
- Follow the map to find animated Storybook Sculptures, Storybook Quote Games and Character Buttons
- Collect them all virtually on your phone and take your photo with them!



Scan QR code to download

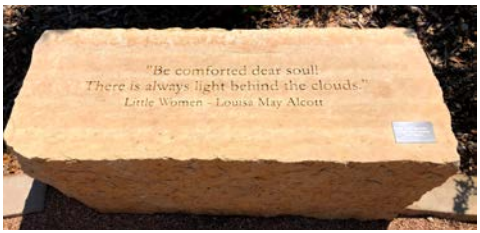
Google Play

Apple Apps

What you'll find!

Look for Storybook Sculptures in augmented reality and nearly 80 limestone benches with Storybook Quotes as you play the **Abilene Storybook Experience app.** Fill in the missing words in the quotes to virtually collect all the book covers!





Abilene Storybook Experience App made possible by genereous donors and the TCA

Texas Commission on the Arts

LOCATION:
1100 N. 6th St.

3D Dragon Mural



Flight of the Dragon

Installed: 2021

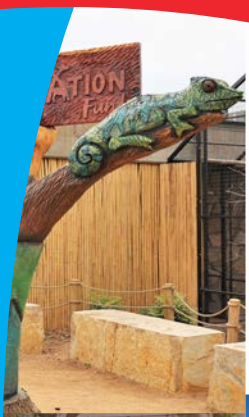
Pose on artist Kurt Wenner's 3-Dimensional "Flight of the Dragon" mural and it will appear that you are standing on a castle or sitting on the dragon's neck as it flies over a city! Located on the sidewalk between the Abilene Convention Center and DoubleTree by Hilton.

Abilene Zoo

LOCATION:
2070 Zoo Lane

Art at the 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 artist Steve Neves, listen to Abilene Philharmonic zoo concerts, and enjoy art made from storm damaged ash trees by a chainsaw artist.









Live Children's Theater

Children's Performing Arts Series (CPAS)

Paramount Theatre, 352 Cypress St.
www.cpasabilene.org

Live professional theater presented by national touring companies — created especially for Abilene's youngest audiences!
Tickets are only $12 for single shows or packages that start at $36. Tickets on sale now!

Todd Oliver and Irving the Talking Dog
Nov. 8, 2026



Nationally known ventriloquist and comedian Todd Oliver and his amazing talking dog are joined on stage by a rotating cast of ventriloquist characters. Clean, contemporary humor for all ages!

Mark Nizer's 4D Theatre
Feb. 7, 2027



Mark Nizer delivers the only live 4D show in the world! In this high energy show, viewers wearing special glasses will be blown away as Mark merges technology and mind-blowing skills with juggling and LED light manipulation. Premium family entertainment!

Lightwire's The Ugly Duckling
Apr. 4, 2027



This classic tale is brought to the modern stage in an unforgettable theater experience using costumes lined with electroluminescent wire. With dazzling visuals, poignant choreography and the creative use of music ranging from classical to pop, this production brings the story into a new and brilliant light.

Young Audiences of Abilene

Every summer, Young Audiences partners with the Abilene Public Library at Heritage Square for a series of free children's programs.

Show times are 10:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Community Room.

Young Audiences Arts for Learning Abilene

Elizabeth Kahura and African Folktales

July 7, 2026



Elizabeth Kahura, educator, storyteller and performer, will introduce children to folktales, fables and myths from different parts of Africa.

Magic in the Library

July 21, 2026



Bronson Chadwick will bring his literacy-themed magic show to our beautiful new library at Heritage Square this summer. This magic show's performance is a spellbinding experience designed to elevate the library's presence, captivate young minds, and leave the patrons raving long after the final applause.

Music with Mr. Will

July 28, 2026



Mr. Will taps into the developmental and interactive aspects of raising kids through fun songs while showcasing a rambunctious spirit in live concerts for all ages. For his library show, he discusses all the different instruments he has learned over the years and features an "instrumental petting zoo!"

Storybook Sculpture Hunt



1. Download the free GooseChase app for Android and 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 Abilene**

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

5. Do not climb on the small 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. Monday-Thursday and until 12 p.m. on Friday





Seymour Passport



Inspired by Walter Wick's
"Can You See What I See?" Book Series

Pick up your free passport at the T&P Depot or the locations listed below and start finding Seymour! He is hidden in six locations around downtown Abilene and in the gift shop at 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 was introduced at the 2013 Children's Art + Literacy Festival. Find Seymour at:

- Abilene Zoo
- Center for Contemporary Arts
- Abilene Public Library at Abilene Heritage Square
- Frontier Texas!
- The Grace Museum
- National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature

More Children's Activities

The Grace Museum

102 Cypress St.
325.673.4587
www.thegracemuseum.org



Spark is a fully interactive and creative space on the second floor. Children and adults can explore 30 plus hands-on activity stations designed to inspire and expand 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.

Visitors can also enjoy problem-solving games and art activities in the Create Lab. This area offers children a separate space to get creative using various art mediums and a selection of projects. Thursday nights are free!



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. Summer Familly Film Series tickets are only $2!

See website calendar for full schedule.

National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature

LOCATION:
102 Cedar St.



Exhibit

A Journey Through the Hundred Acre Wood

June 11 - Sept. 12, 2026

Exhibit

Shawn Harris

Fall 2026

For nearly 30 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. Museum admission is free!

Following its debut at the NCCIL gallery, exhibitions travel to museums, public libraries and galleries nationwide. The NCCIL's mission is to exhibit, tour, collect, preserve and promote original art from the finest children's literature. The NCCIL offers opportunities to meet visiting artists, free Saturday family art activities, monthly art adventure for pre-schoolers, school tours, workshops and book signings. The museum gift shop is stocked with books signed by artists who have exhibited at the NCCIL.

FREE!

Contact:
325.673.4586
www.nccil.org

Hours:
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday - Saturday

Children's Art + Literacy Festival (CALF)



CALF 2027 FEATURED ILLUSTRATOR

Molly Idle

JUNE 10-13, 2027

TEXAS Festivals & Events Association
tfea.org

CALF was voted BEST IN TEXAS in Children's Festival Programming!

The four-day festival kicks off Thursday afternoon with a free costume contest, CALF Kick-Off Party and the unveiling of new storybook sculptures at Clear Fork Bank Storybook Garden. This is followed by Sketch with the Artist and a book signing at Paramount Theatre. The theme is inspired each year by the nationally recognized children's storybook illustrator on exhibit at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature.

Register to attend Friday and Saturday events such as dramatic readings, live performances with balloon artist Kornpop, marionettes, The Singing Zoologist, musicians and more. Wear your CALF pass Sunday and get into the Abilene Zoo for free for additional CALF programming! Every CALF is a new experience, and you will want to make this a yearly tradition for your family the second weekend of June!







Start Planning Your
Storybook Adventure Now!

In Abilene, characters from your favorite children's books come to life.

2015 STATE LEGISLATURE NAMED ABILENE THE OFFICIAL STORYBOOK CAPITAL OF TEXAS

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



ABILENE
Abilene Cultural Affairs Council

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