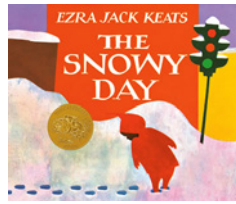


Books by Ezra Jack Keats



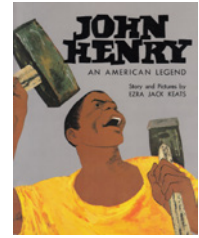
1960



1962



1964



1965



1966



1967



1968



1969



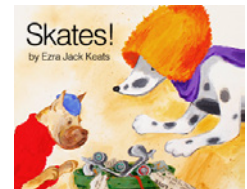
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1971



1972



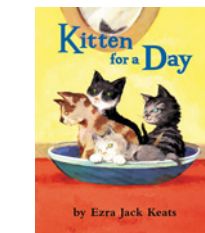
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1973



1974



1974



1975



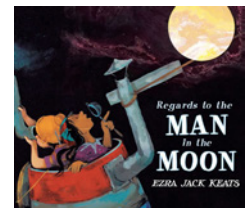
1978



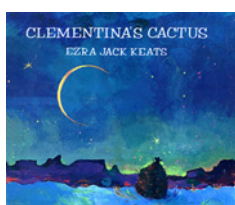
1979



1980



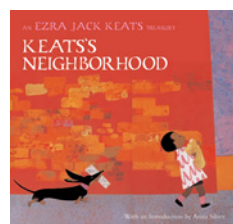
1981



1982



1998



2002

Select Books Illustrated by Keats



1978



1965



1966

Keats for All Seasons

There's a Keats book that feels just right at every time of year.



Winter

The Snowy Day

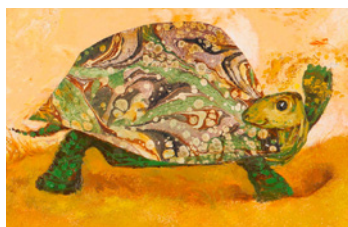
*"Snow had fallen during the night.
It covered everything as far as he could see."*



Spring

Jennie's Hat

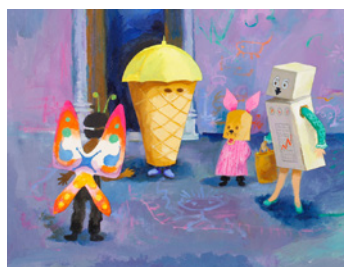
*"On Jennie's head sat the most beautiful hat.
At the very top was a nest of chirping young birds!"*



Summer

Over in the Meadow

*"Over in the meadow, in the sand, in the sun,
Lived an old mother turtle and her little turtle one."*



Fall

The Trip

*"It was time to go home. Everyone was waving.
'Trick or treat!' Louie heard from far away."*

Fun Facts about Ezra's Books



Tada! Youth Theater, in New York, has a program of one-act plays in its repertory titled “Adventures from Ezra Jack Keats.” The often-revived production, performed by actors ages 8 to 18, features **Apt. 3**, **Maggie and the Pirate**, and sometimes **Skates**—three of “Ezra’s hidden treasures.”

Did you know that Ezra was a guest on the acclaimed TV show “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood”? On one of his visits, he showed how to make marbled paper, a technique he used to create the swirling colored sky and windows in **Dreams**.

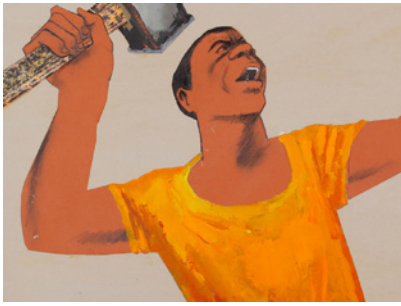


Goggles! introduces Archie, Peter’s best friend who takes center stage in **Hi, Cat!** and **Pet Show!** Ezra once said that of all his characters, Archie was his favorite. Quiet but ingenious Archie was based on Ezra’s best friend, Martin Pope.

In **Hi, Cat!** Ezra shows how important animals were to him. As a boy he desperately wanted a pet, but his family could not afford one. The grown-up Ezra fulfilled his dream: he had a dog named Jake and a cat named Samantha.



Ezra was inspired to make **Jennie’s Hat** by a very tiny picture, the size of a postage stamp, of an old couple feeding pigeons that came to rest on their shoulders and arms. As you can see, almost anything can be used to tell a wonderful story!



With all the songs and stories about **John Henry** that Ezra could have adapted, he decided to write his own version. He wanted to portray the man as well as the legendary figure. It is the illustrations that tell a bigger story, mixing history, realism and myth in a bold, graphic style.

Kitten for a Day could be called Ezra's happiest book, the sweetest of his lively and whimsical animal stories. Ezra regarded children and animals as kindred spirits—his niece, Bonnie, regularly received letters “written” by Jake, his dog.



On the back cover of **A Letter to Amy**, the graffiti on the fence includes a number of scribbled names. This was an amusing way for Ezra to give a secret shout-out to his friends.

Ezra often used details from his childhood in his books. Gussie is not just the name of puppet loved by **Louie** but also the nickname of Ezra's mother, Augusta.



The poem Ezra used in **Over in the Meadow** is a version by Olive A. Wadsworth—the pen name of Long Island artist and writer Katherine Floyd Dana (1835–1886). She published under another name because “writer” was not considered a respectable career for a married mother of three.

Peter's Chair is the only book in which Peter's father plays a central role. A devoted dad, he helps Peter adjust to his new role in the family, as big brother to a new baby. While Ezra focused on children in his stories, loving parents were never too far away.



The book title on the original cover of **Pet Show!** was not drawn by Ezra—it was the work of kids who had written to him! The cover was changed in later editions, but if you look at the first page you'll still see the original letters drawn by Ezra's fans in the early 1970s.



Louie's spaceship in **Regards to the Man in the Moon**, *Imagination I*, may be fueled by fantasy, but Ezra wanted his illustrations of space to look as realistic as possible. So he consulted a renowned scientist, Martin Pope, who happened to be his best friend.

To convey a young child's sensations in **The Snowy Day**, Ezra created a visual language with his inventive use of color, pattern and materials. He gave Peter's bedtime a shadowy background by dipping a toothbrush in ink and spattering it across white paper.



Ezra enjoyed making an appearance in several of his stories, and sometimes included a self-portrait in a scene. Look for him while you read! At the end of **Louie's Search**, Ezra joins in the happy procession. Can you spot him here?

Ezra often didn't settle on a book title until he finished the book. He felt that he had to choose carefully because the title would sum up "the experience of the book." So *The Funny Day*, which had a dog named Henry, became the more memorable **Whistle for Willie**.

