Ezra Jack Keats
Growing Up

- DOB March 11, 1916
- Jacob Ezra Katz
- First generation Polish descent
- Brooklyn, New York
- Always a talented artist
  - Won medal in Jr. High for drawing
- Father was skeptical, but proud
- Won 3 art scholarships
  - Could not attend
- Had to work to support family
Work History

- Won national fine arts contest
- 1937 WPA painting murals
- 1940 comic book illustrator
- 1942 background Capt. Marvel
- 1943 enters army
  - Designs camouflage patterns
- Painted for major magazines
- Easel paintings sold in galleries
- After WW II changed name
  - Ezra Jack Keats
  - Due to anti-Semitism
Creative Process

- Sketchbook
  - Visualizes characters
    - Lines walls of studio with pictures
- Storyboard
  - All pages on one sheet
Publication Process

- Dummy
  - Mock up of book
- Manuscript of text
- Revises and refines
- Finalizes and publishes
Unique Illustrations

- Painting
  - Gouache
  - Watercolors
    - Over pen or pencil
  - Acrylic
- Drawing
  - Pencil and charcoal
Best Known for Collage

- Collage
  - Cut paper
  - Torn paper
  - Watercolors
  - Marbled paper
Books for Adults

- Religious
  - Quotations with his artwork
- Poetry
  - Oriental poetry with his artwork
- Compilations
  - Quotations and photographs
Books for the Very Young

- Counting Books
  - *One Red Sun*
- Familiar songs
  - *Over in the Meadow*
- Wordless
  - *Clementina’s Cactus*
- Limited Text
  - *Kitten for a Day*
Multicultural Picture Books

- First for multicultural protagonist
  - Hispanic
    - Dreams
  - Middle Eastern
    - The Little Drummer Boy
  - Caucasian
    - Jennie's Hat
  - African-American
    - Peter Books
Based on pictures in Life Magazine 1940
Peter Books

- Everyday activities
  - Exploring snow
  - Learning to whistle
  - Siblings
  - Pets
Peter Books

- Growing Up
  - New sibling
  - Boy/girl friendships
  - Competition
Major Awards

- Caldecott
  - 1963 The Snowy Day
  - 1970 Goggles
- Boston-Globe Horn Book
  - 1970 Hi, Cat!
- NY Public Library 150 most influential books of the 20th century
  - 1996 The Snowy Day
- Child Study Association of America’s Children’s Books
  - 14 times
A Master Storyteller and Artist

- Died 1983
- Written/Illustrated
  - Over 85 children’s books
  - 24 children’s classics
The Snowy Day