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**NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE**  
Abilene, Texas

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Cultural Affairs Council, the City of Abilene, Taylor  
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### **SOME BOOKS ILLUSTRATED BY ROBERT SABUDA:**

The Adventures of Providence  
Traveler, 1503: Uh-Oh, Leonardo!  
Arthur and the Sword  
The Blizzard's Robe

Cookie Count: A Tasty Pop-Up  
The Paper Dragon  
Saint Valentine  
Tutankhamen's Gift  
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

*To learn more about Robert Sabuda  
and his innovative artwork, visit*

[www.robertsabuda.com](http://www.robertsabuda.com)

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*Two-time recipient of both the Golden Kite  
and Meggendorfer Awards*



# ROBERT SABUDA

I grew up in the small rural town of Pinckney, in southeastern Michigan. Every night in our humble home by the lake, my mother would read a story to my older brother and me before we went to bed. Reading was very important and promoted at every opportunity. Apparently it worked because I don't even recall

learning how to read. My father was a mason and a carpenter so I learned (or perhaps inherited) the ability to create with my hands.

With the ability to hold a crayon, came the discovery that I was an artist. I spent hours, days and weeks drawing, painting, cutting and gluing. My bedroom was a constant whirlwind of pencil shavings, drippy paint brushes and mounds of paper scraps.

At school my teachers asked me to create their bulletin boards because they knew how much I loved art. This was the first time I discovered that paper could be used for more than just drawing and painting on. At home I started to fold and glue paper together to make little model houses. But the best discovery was when I folded together many pieces of paper, stapled them down the middle and created a book. I immediately began making books of all sizes filled with simple stories and happy pictures.

My passion for books took an unexpected twist after a frightening visit to the dentist's office. Noticing a wicker basket filled with books my mother suggested I bring one over for us to share while we waited. I went to the basket and realized right away that these books were special. They were very thick and had hard covers, which to me meant they were expensive. I opened the first one and was shocked and delighted when something leapt right off the page. It was a pop-up book! I was so excited I forgot all about the dentist.

Shortly after that, my mother brought home some old, manila filing folders from work. The folders were perfect for making pop-ups. Everyone started giving me pop-up books as birthday or holiday gifts and soon I was able to make simple pop-ups by carefully examining these books.

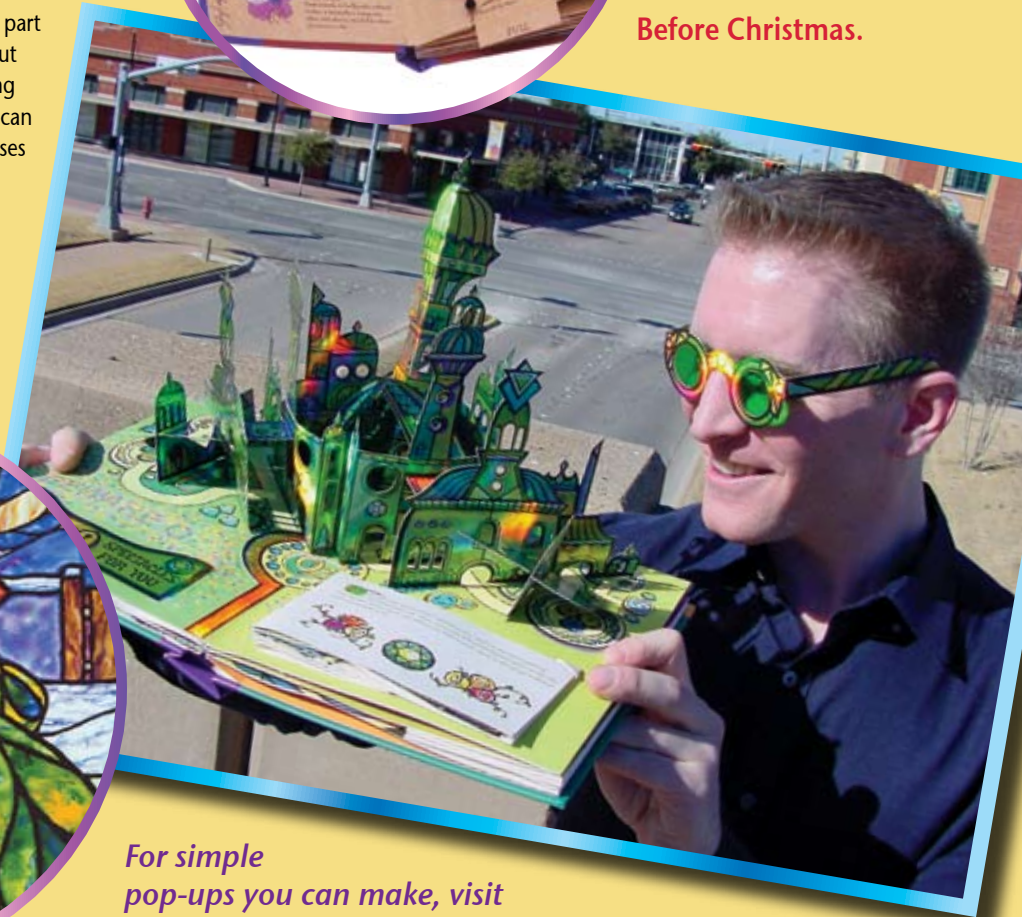
Throughout middle school and high school I continued to improve as an artist and left Michigan after graduating to attend Pratt Institute in New York City to study art. During my junior year at Pratt I did an internship at Dial Books for Young Readers. I learned everything about how a children's book is created, but more importantly I fetched the mail. I'm sure this may not seem very exciting but

it is when the mail you're opening is original artwork from Barbara Cooney, Thomas Locker and James Marshall! I decided then and there that I would be a children's book illustrator.

Today I work in my studio in New York City that I share with my partner, children's book creator Matthew Reinhart. We love making books. It's hard work but the best part is not having to worry about making a mess. When being an artist is your job, you can make as many messes as you want to!



*Often referred to as the "Prince of Pop-ups," Robert Sabuda is the best-known pop-up book artist working today, and is the creator of the remarkable Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, and The Night Before Christmas.*



*For simple pop-ups you can make, visit [www.robertsabuda.com/popmakesimple.html](http://www.robertsabuda.com/popmakesimple.html)!*