

Friday Dinner at the Kids' Table



6:45 - 8:15 pm

Dinner at the Kids' Table
Courtyard Downtown Tacoma

Cascade Ballroom



Jay Asher



Carson Ellis



Brandon Mull



David Shannon

This event features four authors who each have up to fifteen minutes to discuss their book, the writing or illustration process or their inspiration. A buffet dinner will be provided offering both vegan and meat options. As the attendees leave the room, they will pick up a previously signed copy of each author's book. (*Tickets required*)

Jay Asher's first novel, *Thirteen Reasons Why*, has appeared regularly on the *New York Times* bestseller list for the past 9 years, and remains a favorite handsell for many booksellers. *What Light* (Razorbill/Penguin Random House), is Asher's third novel for young adults. Set on an Oregon Christmas tree farm, *What Light* is a holiday story with lots of heart, described by author Stephen Chbosky as "A beautiful story of love and forgiveness." In addition to his career as bestselling author, Jay Asher has worked in independent, chain and outlet bookstores and several public libraries. He currently lives in California.

Oregon writer and illustrator **Carson Ellis** creates a truly magical world in her new picture book *Du Iz Tak?* (Candlewick), a unique look at the natural world through the eyes of some very adventurous bugs, told in beautifully detailed art and playful made-up language. Carson Ellis is well known as an illustrator for magazines (*Poetry, New Yorker*) as well as children's books, including *The Wildwood Chronicles* and *The Mysterious Benedict Society*, and her own debut picturebook, *Home*, a *New York Times* bestseller. She lives on a farm outside Portland with husband (and author) Colin Meloy.

Brandon Mull's Fablehaven series for middle readers has sold more than 3.5 million copies, making his new *Fablehaven Book of Imagination* (Shadow Mountain) a natural for holiday gift-giving. This fun activity book guides young fans to use their own imaginations through writing, drawing and even origami folding to explore the magical world of Fablehaven. Brandon Mull is the author of several other bestselling series, including Beyonders and Five Kingdoms. He lives in Utah, "in a happy little valley near the mouth of a canyon," with his wife and four children.

Caldecott Honor winner **David Shannon** has created many memorable (and book-seller favorite) characters over his career, including disaster-prone David and everyone's favorite daredevil, Duck. Shannon's new picturebook, *Duck on a Tractor* (Scholastic) is a veritable riot in the barnyard, when Duck decides to joyride on Farmer O'Dell's red tractor. Shannon is the creator of more than thirty picturebooks, earning numerous awards and placement on a variety of "Best Of" lists. Although born in the other Washington, David Shannon grew up in Spokane, and currently lives in Southern California.