



Fun Fact Sheet

Will Hillenbrand

Author & Illustrator



WHO IS WILL HILLENBRAND? Will Hillenbrand is an author and illustrator who has written and illustrated over 80 books for kids just like you!

WHAT DOES HE DO? He writes stories and draws pictures for children's books. Sometimes he does both for the same book!

WHERE IS HE FROM? Will Hillenbrand was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He still lives in Ohio (Terrace Park) today.

WHAT ARE SOME OF HIS BOOKS?

Will Hillenbrand has created and illustrated many beloved children's books. Some of his most popular titles include *Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep!*, *Down by the Station*, *What a Treasure*, *The Voice in the Hollow*, *Light as a Feather*, and *Cub and Bat*.

AWARDS AND HONORS Will has earned multiple awards throughout his internationally recognized career, including the Gold Medal from The Society of Illustrators, the Ohioana Book Award for **The Voice in the Hollow**, the Ohio Governor's Award in the Arts, the Please Touch Museum Book Awards, the Irma Black Award by the Bank Street College of Education, and The Horn Book Fanfare. His books have been chosen as Notable Books by the American Library Association and have won state reading honors from many children's book groups. Will's books are often selected for reading lists and celebrated by schools and libraries around the world.

WORLD WIDE REACH Will Hillenbrand's books are enjoyed by children all around the world. Print editions of his stories have been distributed to readers in many countries and translated into 13 different languages. As a bestselling author and illustrator, Will has reached millions of readers, making his stories and illustrations a beloved part of childhood for kids.

FAVORITE FOOD Freshly picked high bush blueberries.

FUN FACT Will started drawing when he was a little boy, creating pictures and telling stories to his family. His passion for art began early, and he still draws every single day. This lifelong love for drawing helps him bring wonderful stories and characters to life.

IDEA JOURNAL Will keeps an Idea Journal and draws in it every day. Keeping an Idea Journal is important because it helps save your thoughts, ideas, and drawings. You never know when a great idea will come to you!

LITTLE KNOWN TRUTH Will has dyslexia, which makes reading and writing harder for him. He believes challenges can hold you back or help you grow. Will uses his dyslexia to become kinder, more creative, and determined. He shows that overcoming hard things can make your storyline even better.

THE PROCESS Making a story is a process that does not happen instantly. Will creates many small drawings, called thumbnail sketches, to plan the pictures and create a sequence that tells a story. He also does a lot of revision to improve his books. During the process, the book idea gets stronger and simpler.

WHAT INSPIRES HIM? Will says he gets ideas from his own life and the world around him. He loves animals and nature, so you will see lots of them in his books!

willhillenbrand.com



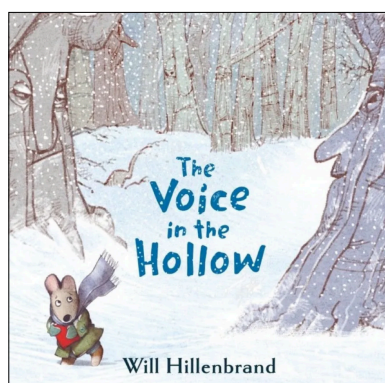
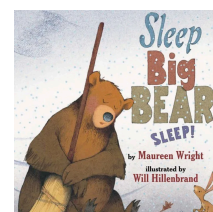
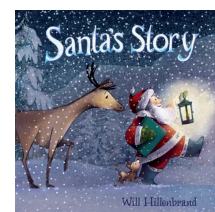
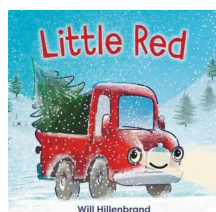
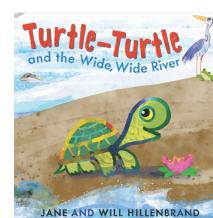
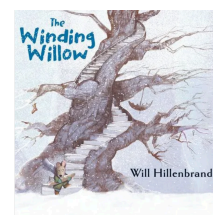
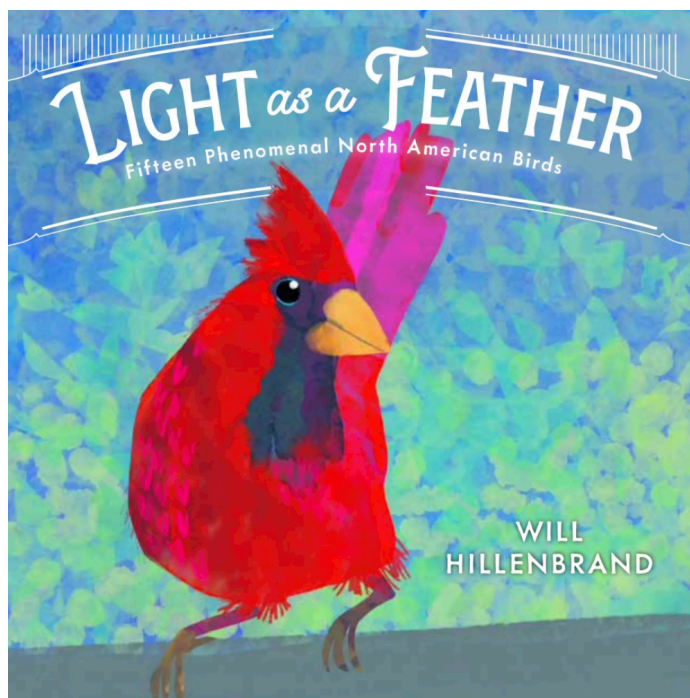
Scan QR code to sign up for **Will's Weekly**, a weekly insight featuring original art, picture books, events, and musings.



Light as a Feather

In these pages you'll meet North America's most fascinating birds, like nature's drummers (the woodpecker) to its most dynamic dancers (the sandhill crane) and flashiest fliers (the blue jay), and more. Explore the bird's habitats, and bright, accessible infographics invite readers to experience every part of the birds' world, from the brown pelican's seven-plus foot wingspan to the light waves that make bluebirds so blue. In this vibrantly-illustrated nonfiction picture book, the sky's the limit on what there is to learn.

★ **STARRED REVIEW** This charming pictorial work will be devoured by budding ornithologists and nature lovers alike. Highly recommended for all nonfiction collections.
—School Library Journal



Will Hillenbrand
Children's Book
Illustrator & Author

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Author Visit Overview



The Voice in the Hollow

★ **STARRED REVIEW** "A memorable, enchanting ghost story with sumptuous snowy landscapes and a surprise that will delight readers." — Kirkus Reviews

★ **STARRED REVIEW** "A masterful winter tale, blending cozy adventure with striking illustrations." — School Library Journal

★ **STARRED REVIEW** "A thrilling adventure that is both frightening and reassuring."—Publishers Weekly

★ **STARRED REVIEW** "A beautifully crafted picture book that perfectly balances scary and safe."—Booklist

★ **STARRED REVIEW** "Highly detailed, charming artwork with a touch of menace—an excellent wintertime read."—Bulletin

"Charming, mysterious, and a tiny bit chilling—perfect for a snowy night."
— BookPage

"Soft art and spare text create a dramatic, atmospheric story."—The Horn Book

Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book of the Year
BCCB Blue Ribbon Book
Winner of the **Ohio Book Award** for Juvenile Literature