

*For Immediate Release*

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## *Choose to Read Ohio includes “Once Upon an Elephant” on the 2019-2020 Booklist*

Mount Pleasant, SC (April 16, 2018) -- Author Linda Stanek and illustrator Shennen Bersani received another accolade for their collaboration on *Once Upon an Elephant* this weekend. The State Library of Ohio along with the Ohioana Library Association and Ohio Center for the Book released the 2019 & 2020 Choose to Read Ohio list and *Once Upon an Elephant* was selected as a recommended book in the Books for Young Children category.

The booklist is comprised of 20 titles for readers of all ages and honors Ohio authors and illustrators. Throughout the 10-year history of the CTRO, the organizations hope to build a community of readers and an appreciation for Ohio authors through the project.

Stanek found a deep appreciation for elephants in Ohio at the Columbus Zoo, where she wrote a book about one of the zoo’s elephants. She realized there was another elephant story to tell and wanted to highlight their importance to the environment and wrote *Once Upon an Elephant*. Illustrator Shennen Bersani brought the story to life through realistic illustrations, and the team has received several awards for their work including the Children’s Book Council Children’s Choice Award.

Stanek spent many years as an early and middle childhood educator. Through writing, she hopes to inspire young learners to read and write about things that excite them. She is excited about saving endangered animals in her own special way - through literature. Bersani shares that passion and has illustrated several books featuring the plight of endangered animals including *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion* and *Honey Girl: The Hawaiian Monk Seal* along with authoring *Achoo! Why Pollen Counts*. In addition to *Once Upon an Elephant*, this pair released *Night Creepers* in the fall of 2017 showcasing the animals that lurk in the dark. Their upcoming collaboration, *Cheetah Dreams* releases fall 2018 and takes readers to the African Savanna this time following the daily lives of the world's fastest cats.

Learn more about the CTRO booklist and the downloadable toolkits that complement each title at the Ohio Library website. Visit [arbordalepublishing.com](http://arbordalepublishing.com) to learn more about the contributors, their books and download the many educational extras for story times and classroom learning.