Biographical Notes

- Aspired to be an artist from early childhood, despite a lack of encouragement.
- Won a national student competition run by Scholastic for the painting Shantytown, 1934.
- After serving in World War II, changed name to Ezra Jack Keats, 1947.
- Career as an illustrator for books, magazines and advertising; exhibited at Associated American Artists gallery, 1950 and 1954.
- First children’s book illustrated, 1954; illustrated some 85 books throughout his career.
- Wrote and illustrated a total of 22 published children’s books.
- Died 1983.
Books & Awards

Books Written & Illustrated by Keats

My Dog Is Lost! (Mi Perro Se Ha Perdido!) co-author Pat Cherr, 1960
The Snowy Day, 1962
- Caldecott Medal, 1963
- Venice Film Festival Lion of Saint Mark Award, for best short film for children, 1965
- New York Public Library's 150 most influential books of the 20th century, 1996
Whistle for Willie, 1964
John Henry, An American Legend, 1965
Jennie's Hat, 1966
- Children's Book of the Year, 1986
Peter's Chair, 1967
A Letter to Amy, 1968
- Children's Book of the Year, 1968
Goggles! 1969
- Children's Book of the Year, 1969
- Caldecott Medal Honor Book, 1970
Hi, Cat! 1970
- Horn Book Award for illustration, 1970
- Children's Book of the Year
Apt. 3, 1971
- School Library Journal's Best Books, 1971
- Children's Book of the Year, 1971, 1986
Pet Show! 1972
- Children's Book of the Year
Skates!, 1973
Psst! Doggie-, 1973
Dreams, 1974
- Children's Book of the Year
Kitten for a Day, 1974
Louie, 1975
- Children's Book of the Year
The Trip, 1978
- Children's Choices Award, 1977

Maggie and the Pirate, 1979
Louie's Search, 1980
Regards to the Man in the Moon, 1981
Clementina's Cactus, 1982
Regards to the Man in the Moon, 1987
- Children's Book of the Year
Posthumous:
One Red Sun, 1998
Keats's Neighborhood, 2002

Select Books Illustrated by Keats

In a Spring Garden, 1965
- Library of Congress Books of the Year, 1965
The Little Drummer Boy, 1968
Over in the Meadow, 1972
- Children's Book of the Year
Personal Honors

- Invited to design UNICEF’s first greeting cards (theme: peace), 1966; 1 million+ sets sold
- Member of White House Forum on Child Development and the Mass Media, 1970
- Guest on “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood” four times, 1971–1974
- University of Southern Mississippi, Silver Medallion for Outstanding Service in the Field of Children’s Literature, 1980
- Keats Archives established at the University of Southern Mississippi, 1985
- Society of Illustrators, Posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award, 2006
- Inducted into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame by Empire State Center for the Book and the Empire State Book Festival, 2015
- Bronze statue of Peter and Willie, a storytelling site in the Imagination Playground of Prospect Park, dedicated 1997; to be designated a Literary Landmark, 2016

Awards Endowed by the Keats Foundation

- Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition, 1986
- Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grants, 1986

Select Biographies

- Ezra Jack Keats, A Biography with Illustrations, by Dean Engel and Florence Freedman, Silver Moon Press, 1995
- Ezra Jack Keats, The Art of People and Place, DVD, 2009