

Georgia ABC's

A Finding Milo Book

Written by Chris Jespersen
Art by Josie Toney

University of North Georgia Press
ungpress@ung.edu
706-864-1556

If you need this document in an alternate format for accessibility purposes (e.g. Braille, large print, audio, etc.), please contact the UNG Press at ungpress@ung.edu or at 706-864-1556.



***Georgia ABC's* sings a peachy tune for children and adults alike**

For immediate release

Jillian Murphy

706-864-1556

jillian.murphy@ung.edu

- *Georgia ABC's* uses verse and illustrations of well-known local landmarks to help reluctant readers learn their ABC's.
- *Georgia ABC's* is the first in a series. A Spanish-language translation is planned.

Dahlonega, GA—October 14, 2019—The University of North Georgia Press is pleased to announce our latest picture book release: *Georgia ABC's*, the first publication in the Finding Milo series, written by Chris Jespersen and illustrated by Josey Toney. Brown thrashers Nash and Nell explore Georgia on their search to find Milo, the playful dog who loves to hide. From the Okefenokee Swamp to the poultry capital of the world, join the state animals and travel around Georgia. Explore Georgia's curiosities and wonders with this story in verse that will help even the most reluctant reader learn their ABC's. Mixed-media illustrations will spark children's imagination as they learn about Georgia's geography.

Chris Jespersen has been a long-time reader of children's books, ever since his two sons started learning to read. He is a professor of American diplomatic history at the University of North Georgia (UNG) and has served as dean of the College of Arts & Letters since 2005. Chris and his wife adopted Milo from the Atlanta Humane Society's Mansell Road location when he was just a puppy. Milo enjoys swimming in the Chattahoochee River in the summer, a good squeaky toy, chasing squirrels, and herding the occasional deer.

Josie Vrooman Toney is a self-taught artist with a surrealistic, whimsical style. Her work is comprised of a variety of mediums including acrylic, pastels, watercolor, marker, color pencil and graphite. Josie, her husband, and her son have two dogs, a cat, and several chickens. She has a passion for education and works full-time at UNG. When she is not working, Josie enjoys yoga, the outdoors, drawing, painting, and spending time with her family. You can find her work in local galleries across north Georgia, including Elevate Sautee, Inside Out Sautee, JumpinGoat Coffee, and Yonah Mountain Village.

Printed in full-color, the *Georgia ABC's* hardback edition (978-1-940771-66-3) is \$29.99 while the paperback edition (978-1-940771-67-0) is \$19.99. *Georgia ABC's* is typeset in OpenDyslexic. It is written for ages 7–9. Its Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level is 3.8, which is equivalent to 520L–820L in the Lexile Framework. A Spanish-language translation of the series is planned. Retailers can purchase copies of our titles directly from Ingram Content Group.

The University of North Georgia Press is a scholarly, peer-reviewed press that serves as an extension of our sponsoring university, the University of North Georgia. Our primary function is to promote education and research with a special emphasis on innovative scholarship and pedagogy. ###

For media inquiries, contact:

University of North Georgia Press

ungpress@ung.edu

706-864-1556

Chris Jespersen Bio

Chris Jespersen has been a long-time reader of children's books, ever since his two sons started learning to read. Chris and his wife, Anita Nucci, adopted Milo from the Atlanta Humane Society's Mansell Road location when he was just a puppy. Milo enjoys swimming in the Chattahoochee River in the summer, a good squeaky toy, chasing squirrels, and herding the occasional deer.

Chris Jespersen is also a professor of American diplomatic history in the Department of History, Anthropology, and Philosophy at the University of North Georgia. He has served as dean of the College of Arts & Letters since 2005. He has written and edited books on U.S. diplomatic history in addition to publishing various journal articles. *Georgia ABC's* is his first children's book.

Milo Jespersen Bio

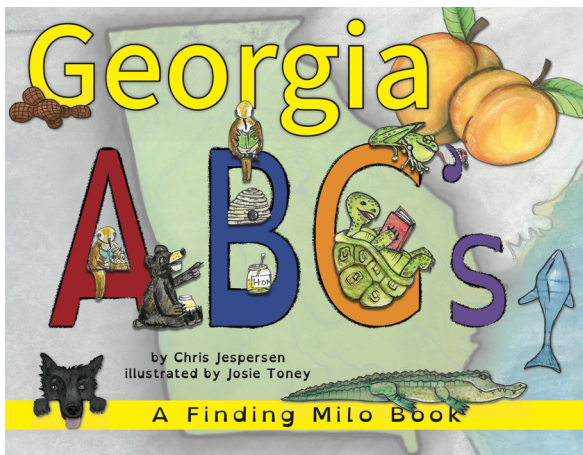
Milo is a mixed breed, medium-sized dog born in Alabama but moved to the Atlanta Humane Society's Mansell Road location where he was adopted by Chris Jespersen, Anita Nucci, and Andy Jespersen in December 2012. Part Dalmatian, part Chow, but mostly resembling a Border Collie, Milo is all black and has a long, fluffy tail. He loves going for walks, chasing squirrels, herding the occasional deer, swimming in the Chattahoochee River or in a backyard pool, riding in the car with the window open, and he really loves a good squeaky toy. Milo lives with four cats: Cleo, Dewey, Eve, and Rocky.

Josie Toney Artist Statement

A sixth generation Atlantan, Josie Vrooman Toney is a self-taught artist with a surrealistic, whimsical style. Her work is comprised of a variety of mediums including acrylic, pastels, watercolor, marker, color pencil, and graphite.

Josie was a born artist and began painting consistently in 2002. In 2016, Josie and her family relocated to north Georgia where she became an active member of the Chestatee Artists, the Bowen Center for the Arts, and the Sautee Nacoochee Cultural Center. Her work can be found in local galleries and boutiques, including Elevate Sautee, Inside Out Sautee, JumpinGoat Coffee, and Yonah Mountain Village, as well as the gift shop in the Bowen gallery.

Josie resides in Cleveland, Georgia with her supportive husband, adorable son, two dogs, a cat, and several chickens. She has a passion for education and works full-time at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega. In her spare time, Josie enjoys yoga, the outdoors, drawing, painting, and spending time with her family.



Georgia ABC's (October 2019) A Finding Milo Book



By Chris Jespersen Illustrated by Josie Toney

Brown thrashers Nash and Nell explore Georgia on their search to find Milo, the playful dog who loves to hide. From the Okefenokee Swamp to the poultry capital of the world, join the state animals and travel around Georgia. Will you help Nash and Nell find Milo?

Explore Georgia's curiosities and wonders with this story in verse that will help even the most reluctant reader learn their ABC's. Mixed-media illustrations will spark children's imagination as they also learn about Georgia's geography and history.

GEORGIA ABC'S is typeset in OpenDyslexic. It is written for ages 7-9. Its Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level is 3.8, which is equivalent to 520L-820L in the Lexile Framework. Each book includes a list of the state animals, who appear throughout Milo's journey. The familiar sites in the book act as a companion to early childhood Georgia history lessons, while the search for Milo engages children and encourages them to re-read the book.

Hardback: 978-1-940771-66-3 | \$29.99

Paperback: 978-1-940771-67-0 | \$19.99

Picture Book

11 x 8.5 | 52 pp

For media inquiries, contact:

University of North Georgia Press
ungpress@ung.edu
(706) 864-1556

Wholesalers may purchase copies from
Ingram Content Group:

Ingram Content Group
One Ingram Blvd.
La Vergne, TN 37086

(615) 793-5000
customerservice@ingramcontent.com
www.ingramcontent.com/retailers



Georgia ABC's

Interior Sample



Georgia



by Chris Jespersen
illustrated by Josie Toney

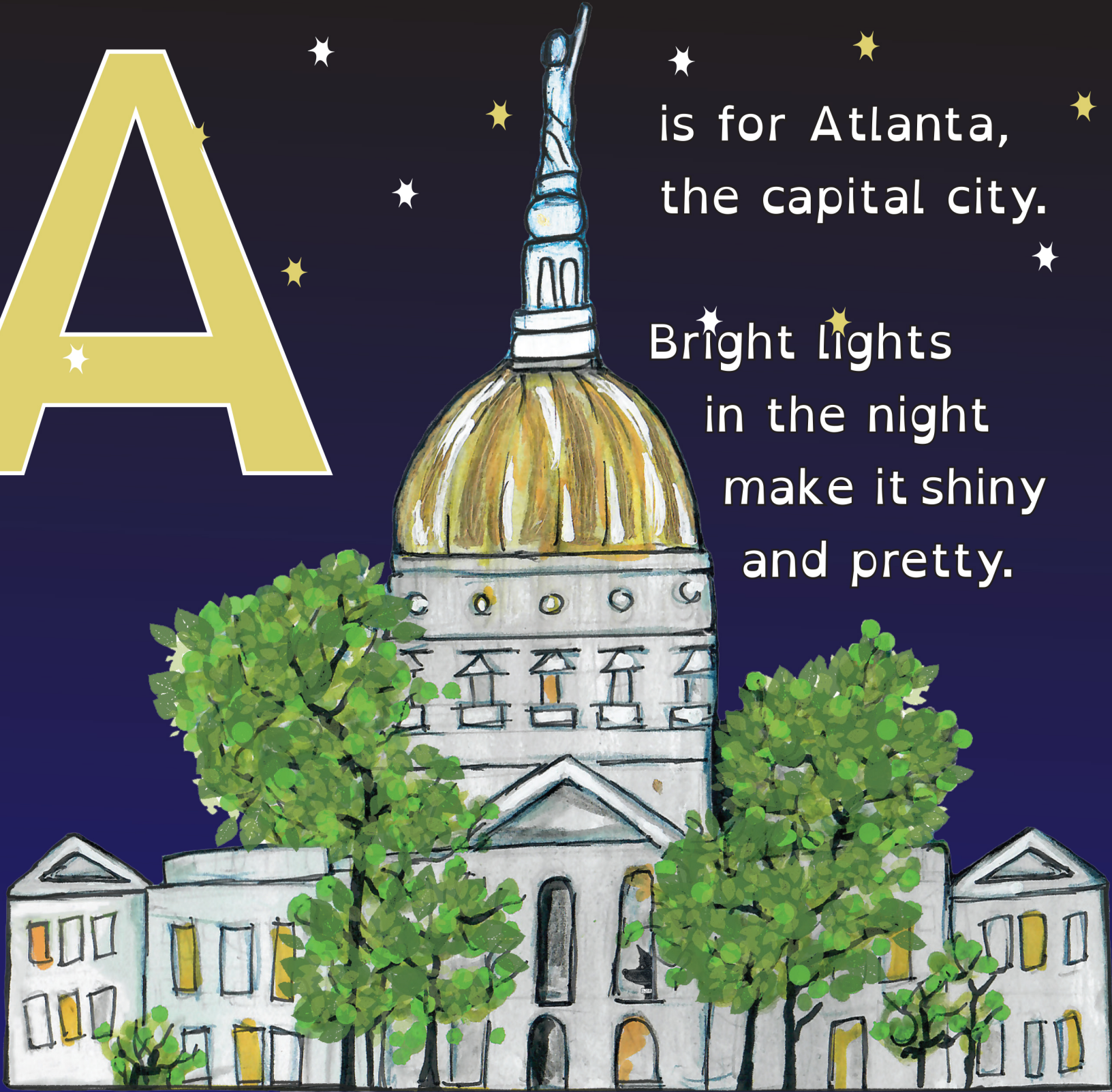


A Finding Milo Book

A

is for Atlanta,
the capital city.

Bright lights
in the night
make it shiny
and pretty.



A is for Amicalola,
in the north are the falls,

where water
tumbles
down like
glistening
walls.

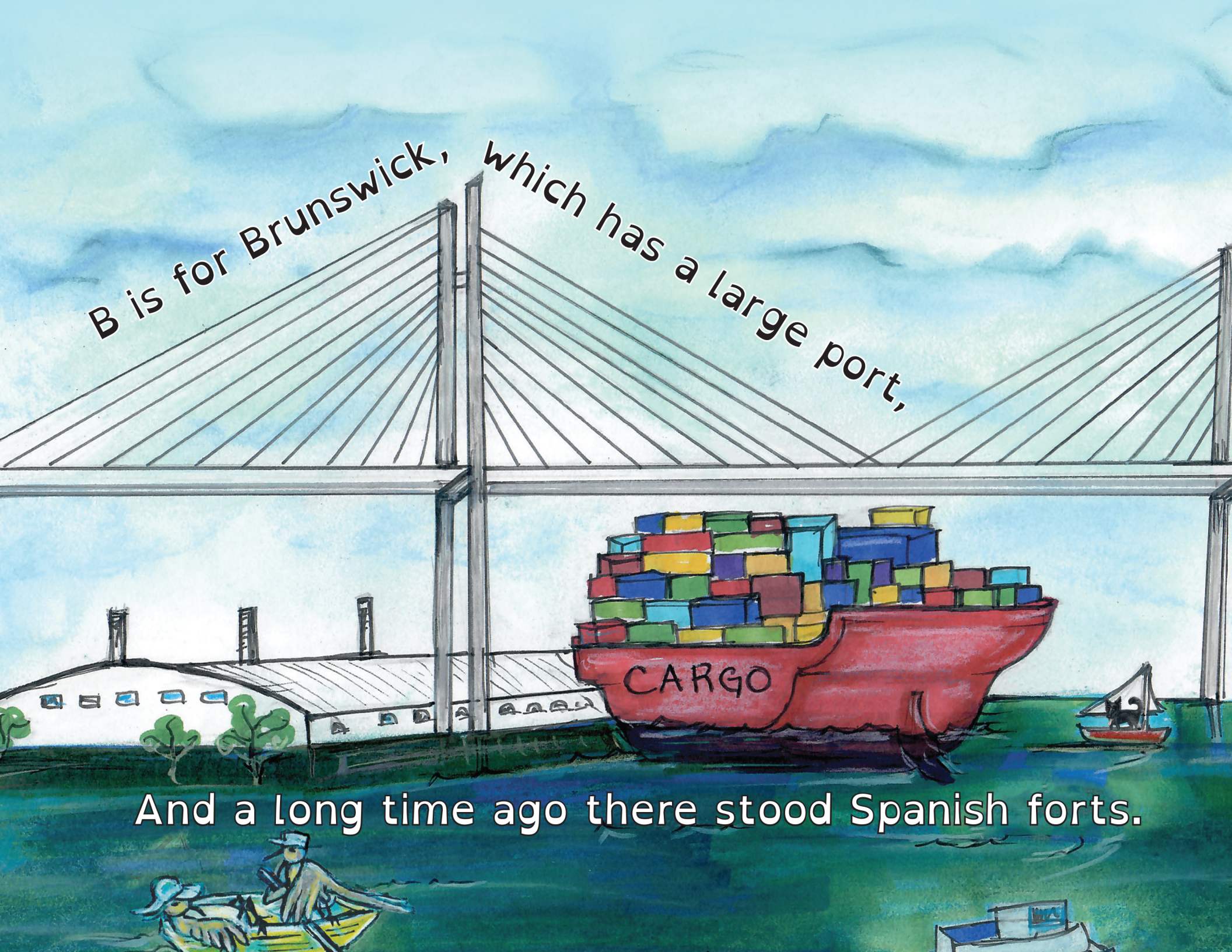


A is for Albany or Americus, but don't you forget,
Athens and Augusta, where music and golf are
great bets.



is for Bainbridge, tucked in the
southwest,
Their River Town Days are really
the best.

B is for Blairsville, up
high in the air.
Blood Mountain is near,
and so are black bears.



B is for Brunswick, which has a large port,

And a long time ago there stood Spanish forts.



C

is for Columbus,
near Alabama's
state line,

Take a walk along the Chattahoochee;
the water ripples and shines.

C is for Chattahoochee, a river long and so wide,
It's great for a kayak, canoe, or tube ride.

C is for Cumming, with its new city hall,
A clock tower from which birds look down on us
all.

C is for Cairo, Camilla, or Calhoun,
Along the Oostanaula River, birds are singing a
toon.



Text copyright © 2019 by Chris Jespersen. Illustrations copyright © 2019 by Josie Toney.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from the publisher, except by reviewers who may quote brief excerpts in connections with a review in newspaper, magazine, or electronic publications; nor may any part of this book be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or other, without the written permission from the publisher.

Book design by Corey Parson.

ISBN: 978-1-940771-66-3

Printed in the United States of America

Printing Support by:
Lightning Source Inc.
La Vergne, Tennessee

This book was typeset in OpenDyslexic.
The illustrations were created using watercolor pencils and markers.

Published by:
University of North Georgia Press
Dahlonega, Georgia
For more information, please visit: <http://ung.edu/university-press>
Or e-mail: ungpress@ung.edu



Blue Ridge | Cumming | Dahlonega | Gainesville | Oconee