



CALKINS CREEK

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Calkins Creek to Publish **THE KITE THAT BRIDGED TWO NATIONS**

Book cited as “Memorable and Dramatic” by *Kirkus Reviews*

August 2013—Calkins Creek, an imprint of Highlights, is pleased to announce the publication of **THE KITE THAT BRIDGED TWO NATIONS: Homan Walsh and the First Niagara Suspension Bridge**, written by Alexis O’Neill and illustrated by Terry Widener. This wonderful children’s picture book is a fascinating look at how one boy’s resolve led to the creation of a bridge across Niagara Falls.

Homan J. Walsh was an ordinary boy born in Ireland and raised in Niagara Falls, NY. In 1848, Homan entered a kite-flying contest. The winner’s kite string would span Niagara Falls and bridge the United States and Canada. Despite biting cold and strong winds, and against tremendous odds, Homan Walsh won the contest, earning him a place in history. His success also led to the building of the first suspension bridge across the falls, linking the two neighboring countries.

Homan’s tenacity is beautifully captured in this book that features author Alexis O’Neill’s rich text and acclaimed illustrator Terry Widener’s stunning acrylic paintings. Both O’Neill and Widener worked with experts on both sides of the falls to accurately present Homan Walsh’s story. The title also includes an extensive author’s note, timeline, bibliography, and further resources.

In addition to calling **THE KITE THAT BRIDGED TWO NATIONS** “memorable and dramatic,” *Kirkus Reviews* also says that Widener’s “acrylic paintings capture the determination of the boy, the frozen, deeply chilly landscape, and the danger and power of the falls.”

Author Alexis O’Neill will be conducting several author appearances in New York State and beyond in support of the publication of **THE KITE THAT BRIDGED TWO NATIONS**. Her schedule can be found on www.alexisoneill.com.

THE KITE THAT BRIDGED TWO NATIONS
Homan Walsh and the First Niagara Suspension Bridge

Written by Alexis O’Neill, Illustrated by Terry Widener

978-1-59078-938-4/\$16.95

Ages 8 and up/Grades 3 and up

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