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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Celebrating 30 Years of the Milner Award for Children's Literature  
with 2013 Winning Author Jeff Kinney**

Atlanta – Best-selling author Jeff Kinney is the 30<sup>th</sup> annual winner of the Milner Award for Children's Literature. The Milner Award winner is chosen each year by Fulton County and City of Atlanta elementary school children who vote for their favorite living author and then get an opportunity to meet the winner in person. On Thursday, October 3, over 1,600 children got to see Jeff Kinney talk about his life as an author at the Rialto Center for the Arts.

Jeff Kinney is the #1 *New York Times* best-selling author and illustrator of the wildly popular *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. There are seven books in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, and two additional books: *The Wimpy Kid Do-It-Yourself Book*, and *The Wimpy Kid Movie Diary*. In 2009, Kinney was named one of the 20 Artists & Entertainers in the *TIME* 100, the magazine's list of The World's Most Influential people. There are now more than 75 million copies of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books in print in 41 different languages. The 8<sup>th</sup> book in the series, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid Hard Luck*, will be out on November 5, 2013. Kinney lives in Plainville, Massachusetts with his wife and their two sons.

The Milner Award was created in 1982 by the Friends of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System using a gift from Vera Milner, a former Atlanta school teacher. The Milner Award was envisioned as a creative way to get young children excited about reading by allowing them to vote for their favorite author and then get the chance to meet the winning author. Winners have included Judy Blume, R.L. Stine, Louis Sachar and Rick Riordan. The fact that the winner is selected exclusively by the children makes the Milner Award one of a kind.

For more information, call 404-730-1865 or visit [www.themilneraward.org](http://www.themilneraward.org).

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