

ARTS

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Milton author wins four awards for children's book 'Zoom In, Zoom Out'

JULIE SLACK

jslack@metroland.com

Amy Leask is a philosopher who likes to encourage kids to think beyond the surface of things.

One of her efforts, a softcover children's picture book, has netted her four industry book awards.

The Milton resident, who co-founded Enable Education with her husband Ben Zimmer, an online learning solutions company in town, is thrilled that her book *Zoom In, Zoom Out*, is garnering this much attention because it's truly a book she feels strongly about - and not just because she is the author.

As a philosophy and English major, teaching kids to ask questions and think critically is what this book is all about.

One of her employees - Octavian Ciubotariu - was the inspiration behind the book. A macro-photographer, he often brought photos into work, and hung them near his desk.

For instance, zooming in on a raspberry, or a cactus, makes it difficult to

figure out what the actual object it. That became the basis for her book.

Hence, the book's title.

She said it's a fun book because adults have as much fun reading it and guessing what the objects are, as children do.

It's also available as an interactive ebook version, complete with voices, including Leask's eight-year-old daughter.

"I write philosophy books for kids, it helps with critical thinking and inquiry skills, along with gaming apps," she said. "As a philosopher, I'm always encouraging kids to think beyond the surface of things."

As such, she said "I'm really happy about the book."

She's getting all kinds of great feedback from a variety of people, including librarians.

Zoom In, Zoom Out won the International Book Award for Children's Non-fiction Softcover Picture Book, garnering a medal that the couple picked up in New York City; Reader Views Reviewer's Choice, honourable mention; Inde-



Julie Slack/Metroland

Milton resident and business owner Amy Leask has won four awards for a children's book she wrote that challenges kids to see and think.

pendent Publishers Award, bronze medal and Nautilus Awards, silver medal.

Leask also loves that

book was a collaborative effort. A former animation intern, Jane Li is also the book's illustrator, while Zimmer is the editor

and it was produced in whole by the Milton company. In fact, Enable Education was the 2017 Milton Chamber of Commerce

annual award winner, in the medium-sized business category.

Leask met her husband while studying in school, and they both became teachers and taught at the college level for more than a decade. They then got into the publishing industry, opening Enable Education eight years ago.

The business creates entertainment for the digital space and the small screen, along with books, apps, and web content. The material sparks inquiring minds and encourages them to play and laugh their way through big questions, using a wide variety of innovative, engaging mass media.

They've moved around town a number of times, and because of growth they're on the move again, this time to Country Heritage Park.

To learn more, go to RedTKids.com, and a trailer for the book can be found here: goo.gl/kEiWja.

The book is available at amazon.ca, and the ebook is available through the App store and Google Play.

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