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CONVENTION RELEASE

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Julianna Baggott: A life of reading between the lines
Author is dedicated to making sure the arts keep enlarging the lives of children

SACRAMENTO – Julianna Baggott is a literacy superstar. She has published 16 books over the past 10 years (her first book was published when she was just 22), and she co-founded a nonprofit organization focused on literacy for children in Florida. Baggott, who is the mother of four children, knows a bit about the magic of reading to children – and writing for them, too, as the author of the acclaimed children’s book series, “The Anybodies.” She even has a couple of pen-names: N.E. Bode and Bridget Asher.

Baggott put the focus on the way the literary arts – and all arts – nourish young minds, during a presentation Friday evening before several thousand attendees of the 111th annual convention of the California State PTA.

“When learning characterization, students practice empathy. When learning plot, they practice strategic thought. When learning sensory writing, they practice close observation. When learning grammar, they practice exact language. When learning how to invent worlds, they practice imagination,” she said. “These skills will be needed for every worthwhile endeavor they undertake in their lives, whether they go into teaching or science, the arts or the art of politics.

The California State PTA is a dedicated champion of the arts as an integral part of a complete education.