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Mayor Thomas M. Menino endorses the new children's book *Lily + the Imaginary Zoo*

BOSTON, Mass.: Boston Mayor **Thomas M. Menino**, who has spearheaded literary initiatives through his **ReadBoston** program, has offered his endorsement for *Lily + the Imaginary Zoo*, a children's book by **Seneca Clark** and **Sandy Giardi** and illustrated by **Julie Decedue**. Set in Boston, *Lily + the Imaginary Zoo* is the story of a spirited little girl with a big imagination who encounters some of the city's most beloved sites of public art. Through the power of her imagination, when Lily approaches the lovable landmarks—such as the Public Garden's statues of Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings and Louis St. Gaudens' stone lions in the Boston Public Library—they spring to life. The fun-loving message and adventurous spirit of Lily, as well as the vibrant manner in which the city of Boston is captured, clearly resonated with Mayor Thomas M. Menino. He states:

"*Lily + the Imaginary Zoo* conveys one of ReadBoston's key concepts: the importance of the imagination and the heights to which it can take young readers. If kids can read they can dream, and if they can dream, anything is possible. This story about a little girl and her experiences with notable Boston animal sculptures will hopefully encourage other children to read and dream as well."

—**Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino**

Lily + the Imaginary Zoo also includes background information on the public art featured, as well as a map to encourage children and their families to explore Boston and unleash their own imaginations. The book is available at **threebeanpress.com** and at stores nationwide.

Further information about *Lily + the Imaginary Zoo* and **Three Bean Press's** other titles, as well as downloadable images of the book, authors and illustrator, are available at threebeanpress.com.

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