

Growing Readers

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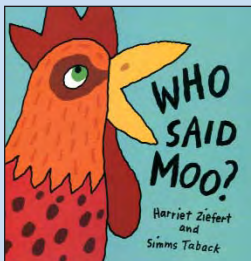
QUARTERLY

INFANTS/TODDLERS

Who Said Moo?

WRITTEN BY HARRIET ZIEFERT AND
ILLUSTRATED BY SIMMS TABACK

Red Rooster starts each morning with a "Cock-a-doodle-do!" One morning someone replies, "Moo!" "Who mooed?" This colorful lift-the-flap book has exciting illustrations that will catch the attention of even the youngest child.



PRESCHOOL

Mud is Cake

WRITTEN BY PAM MUÑOZ
RYAN AND ILLUSTRATED
BY DAVID MCPHAIL

"Mud is cake if you pretend and don't really take a bite." Whimsical rhyming verses are combined with vibrant, classic paintings to celebrate the magical treasure of children's play.

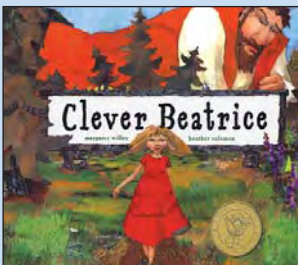


SCHOOL-AGE

Clever Beatrice

WRITTEN BY
MARGARET
WILLEY AND
ILLUSTRATED
BY HEATHER
SOLOMON

Beatrice is clever, but her family has run out of food and she must outwit the giant. This tall tale is extraordinarily illustrated with beautiful watercolors that incorporate photos of trees and flowers.



QUARTERLY THEME: Pretending and Imagination

The imagination is a passport to the possible. When I pretend, I imagine the world from the inside. Small little me can be big and powerful, fast or beautiful. When I pretend, I can escape the ties of reality, sometimes hard to understand, sometimes too harsh for me. I can take my purple crayon and put myself in outer space or behind the wheel of a car. I can close my eyes and sail away or go off to work, marry the hero or score the goal. Pretending also introduces me to reality. I can learn new ideas and how to solve problems.

If I am very small and new to the world, imitation is a forerunner to the

world outside of me. Before I can imagine and pretend, I can play and imitate the sounds and expressions and actions of the world around me. I can smile and blink, wiggle and clap, burble and squeak, and begin the journey to imagination and empathy.

Books fuel our imagination and transport us to new worlds. I can moo and bark and cock-a-doodle-do. I can be a bird or an airplane, the biggest billy goat or the fiercest troll. *Mud is cake if you pretend and don't really take a bite, and juice is tea with a fairy queen if you act it out just right.* I can outwit that giant and feed my family. This is my world and I can make my way in it.



READ IT AGAIN (AND AGAIN)

It's no surprise that children want to hear the same story read over and over again. But why? Don't they get bored? Wouldn't it be better to expand their horizons and insist on new books?

The answer is not only that they *want* to hear the same story over and over, they *need* to hear the same books read again and again. Repeated readings offer a child security. The ducklings always make it across the road, the cap seller always gets his caps back, the wicked witch always melts away, and the mother always finds her bunny. This predictability helps children feel all is right with the world.

Being familiar with a story empowers children and helps validate their sense of growing competency. The children will memorize refrains and become active participants during successive readings. This also helps them take ownership of the book.

As books become more familiar, they become part of family life; they give everyone involved shared memories and more in common. Children are more likely to take a favorite book off the shelf and "read" it by themselves.

So remember when reading *Good Night Moon* for the hundredth time, this is a good thing.

Mud Is Cake

WRITTEN BY PAM MUÑOZ RYAN AND ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID MCPHAIL, AGES 4 TO 8 (HYPERION BOOKS)



About the Author

Pam Muñoz Ryan was born and raised in Bakersfield, California. Her home was a smorgasbord of cultural diversity. As a child she spent most of the long, hot summers in the air-conditioned library.

Pam Muñoz Ryan has written more than 25 books for young people, including the novel *Esperanza Rising*, winner of the Pura Belpre Medal, the Jane Addams Peace Award, ALA Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults, and the Americas Award Honor Book.

Ryan gets asked by children, "What's the best thing I can do to become a writer?" Her response is, "Daydream every day and read often. Read lots of different types of things so you will know what you like and don't like. If you're interested in a subject or idea, be curious, ask questions, and pay attention so you can soak in all the little details. But most important, give yourself time, every day, to be alone with your own wandering thoughts. Give yourself time to imagine possibilities. That is where creativity and discovery reside."

REVIEW

Mud is Cake is a beautiful tribute to a child's imagination: a rainy day book, a bedtime delight, or a book for all those dreamy times you just want to envision a rich world where you can let your imagination run wild. "You can be most anything in dreams or wide awake, if you agree that juice is tea...if you believe that mud is cake." This is a wonderful, whimsical book for preschoolers (and parents) where a brother and sister imagine costumes as their toy animals come to life. The bathtub becomes a boat, pots become drums, and tin cans become phones.

Pam Muñoz Ryan's rhyming text establishes a gentle cadence that complements David McPhail's large, captivating illustrations — vibrant water-colors that have an appealing softness.

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

What is your work schedule like and where do you work?

I don't have a rigid schedule but I am a morning person and if I'm working on a project, I will start first thing in the morning. I work in my home office which doubles as an extra bedroom. The problem with working at home is that I don't ever really leave my work. It's always calling me, no matter what day of the week.

Where do you get your ideas or where did you get the idea for *Mud is Cake*?

I have a bachelor's in Child Development and a master's in Education. I was trained in a developmental school of thought,

which puts emphasis and value on play and how it affects children's requisite cognitive abilities and their imagination. *Mud is Cake* was an outgrowth of those philosophies and the worth that I credit to unchoreographed play.

What questions do young children ask you?

Very young children (kindergartners and younger) really like to tell me things rather than ask me questions. If I tell them that I have a dog, then they want to tell me that they have one too. As they get a little older, children ask questions with no inhibitions. What's your favorite color? How old are you? What kind of car do you drive? Are you rich? (I always answer yes to this question and tell them I consider myself very, very rich because I have wonderful family and friends who love me and whom I am privileged to love in return.)

Do you have a favorite book or illustrator?

That is like asking me which of my children is my favorite child.

Do you start with a message that you are trying to communicate to readers?

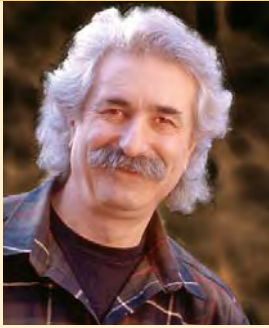
I really never sit down at my desk and consciously think about a message or moral. My desire is to write a compelling story and to write it in such a way that it inspires the reader to turn the page or read the story more than once. For me, the ultimate

compliment is when a reader writes to me or tells me that he or she read one of my books more than once. Any epiphany that a reader might feel is often a result of the experiences that he or she brings to the reading.



Who Said Moo?

WRITTEN BY HARRIET ZIEFERT AND ILLUSTRATED BY SIMMS TABACK
AGES 3 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS (HANDPRINT BOOKS)



About the Illustrator

Born and raised in the Bronx, New York, Simms Taback has illustrated more than 35 books for children, including the Caldecott Honor Book, *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*, and was the Caldecott Award winner in 2000 for *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*. Taback has been selected twice for the New York Times Best Illustrated Book Awards and has been honored with the Graphic Arts Guild Lifetime Achievement Award.

REVIEW

Red Rooster's cock-a-doodle-doo is met by silence every day. Until one day there comes a moo! You and the baby or toddler can lift the flap to search everywhere — mooing, baaing, crowing, and clucking until the mystery is solved. "Someone said moo, was it you?" Swept along by Harriet Ziefert's simple rhymes and by Caldecott Medalist Simms Taback's outrageously colorful illustrations, children will learn that everyone has their own sound. The sturdy board book edition will delight infants and toddlers and become a favorite book to pull off the shelf for daily readings.

ILLUSTRATOR INTERVIEW

Do you have a favorite book, character, or illustrator?

Right now my favorite book is *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, written by Jon Scieszka and illustrated by Lane Smith. Lane Smith is my favorite illustrator. He is very innovative and very witty.

How did you know you were an illustrator of children's books as opposed to adult books?

For years, I made my living essentially from doing advertising and editorial assignments. My agent at the time always complained that he had a hard time selling my style because it was "too kiddish" (his description, not mine). So I guess I was always a children's book artist.

What disasters have you faced on your way to success?

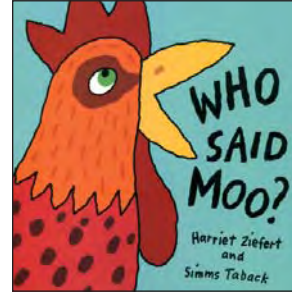
I illustrated a book once called *A Bug in a Rug* and all the artwork was lost before publication. I had to redo all the illustrations. I also once spent four months working on

illustrations for a book called *Thump, Thump, Thump* for Mister Rogers' Library, but the whole imprint was cancelled the day I delivered the artwork.

What are you trying to say with your illustrations?

I don't think that I am trying to say anything, really. I very much enjoy putting together a story like a director of a movie. A picture book is very much like an animated film with still pictures. One even goes about bringing it to life in very much the same way as making a story-

board. Most of all, I try to be entertaining and snare the parent, too. Picture book creators entice children to read. If I have done that, I've done my job.



"WHAT I FIND SPECIAL ABOUT MAKING PICTURE BOOKS IS THAT (THE) OLD WORLD CAN BE REIMAGINED AND PRESENTED TO CHILDREN IN AN APPEALING WAY. HOPEFULLY, THEY WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY IT WHILE LEARNING SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE WORLD AS IT ONCE WAS."

SIMMS TABACK

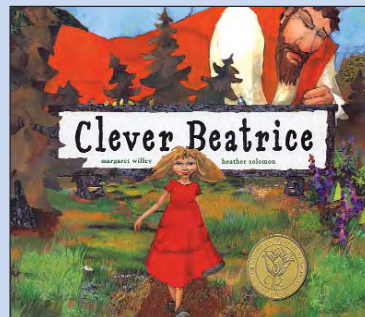
Clever Beatrice: An Upper Peninsula Conte

WRITTEN BY MARGARET WILLEY AND ILLUSTRATED BY HEATHER SOLOMON
AGES 4 TO 8 YEARS (ANTHEMUM BOOKS)

REVIEW

Author Margaret Willey's brash Beatrice is not about to be pushed around by the huge giant, and she uses her brains against his brawn (and less impressive brain) to outwit him. Beatrice is smart, spunky, and determined to be the best giant living deep in the forests of Northern Michigan and to save her family from poverty: "Good afternoon, Mister Giant, Sir. I have come to make a bet with you." The intellectually challenged giant, is of course, destined to lose his gold, but he wins our affection. Despite his losses, the giant "sat back down in the sun, smiling to himself, feeling lucky."

Heather Solomon's magical illustrations set this book apart from others by



creating a forested world both real and fantastic. The rough, hardworking world of fishing, mining, and logging are brought to life by watercolor, oils, and collage. Photographs of trees, grass, bark, and flowers add life and texture. Willey's use of dialect and humor adds richness to the book and engages both children and adults.

Reading to Children

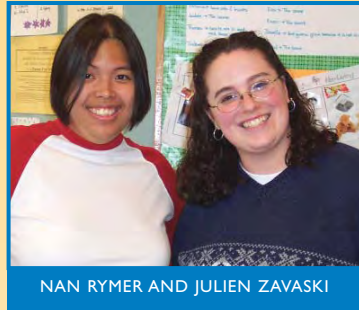
Reading is a time for adults and children to be together, to be close, and to have fun with the language, images, and the ideas that books can bring to us.

Establish reading rituals at home by:

- Reading a book at bedtime. A 20-minute bedtime reading ritual is a valuable gift to a growing reader.
- Allocating time at least once a week to read together as a family.
- Reading signs to your child when you are in the car together.

Spotlight On...

Teachers Nan Rymer and Julien Zavaski



The preschoolers in Nan Rymer and Julien Zavaski's homebase at Bright Horizons Early Discoveries - Abbott's Center for Child Development are "Rolling into Reading" with a special Growing Readers activity that has been wildly successful with children and parents alike.

With a roll of the dice, children and parents determine how many books they will read with their families for a month. After reaching their goal, children are asked to highlight one of their selected stories by creating their very own

"book report" for display at the center. Each family is asked to include the name of the book, the author and the illustrator, and the child's favorite part of the book. Children have designed book reports like dioramas set inside decorated shoeboxes, colorful drawings and writings on poster board, mobiles depicting cutouts and drawings of the story's characters, hand-made puppets of their favorite character from the book, and paintings depicting favorite scenes from the book. The children have been very proud of their book reports and parents have been pleased with their child's growing interest in reading.

Hats off to Nan Rymer and Julien Zavaski for inspiring these preschoolers to take reading to the next level!



ABOVE: EVA AND DANIELLE SHOW OFF THEIR BOOK REPORT MASTERPIECES OF PETER PAN AND RAPUNZEL

Bright Horizons Family Solutions is a leading global provider of high-quality early care and education. Our programs empower children from infancy on to become confident, successful learners and secure, caring people. We strive to grow young readers, scientists, artists, and explorers who are encouraged to reach their full potential. We are privileged to accompany children and their families on their journey of lifelong learning. Learn more about Bright Horizons and Growing Readers at www.brighthorizons.com.



Other Books by:

DAVID MCPHAIL

- *Emma's Pet*
- *Fix-It*
- *The Teddy Bear*

PAM MUÑOZ RYAN

- *Esperanza Rising*
- *Mice and Beans*
- *When Marian Sang*

MARGARET WILLEY

- *Thanksgiving with Me*
- *The Bigger Book of Lydia*

HARRIET ZIEFERT

- *39 Uses for a Friend*
- *I Swapped My Dog*
- *Sleepy-O*
- *Toes Have Wiggles, Kids Have Giggles*

SIMMS TABACK

- *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*
- *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*

Other Books on:

Pretending and Imagination



INFANTS/TODDLERS

- *Peek-a-Boo Morning*; written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora
- *Wheels on the Bus*; illustrated by Sylvie Wickstrom
- *From Head to Toe*; written and illustrated by Eric Carle
- *Itsy Bitsy Spider*; illustrated by Rosemary Wells
- *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*; written and illustrated by Charles G. Shaw

PRESCHOOL

- *Seals on the Bus*; written by Lenny Hort, illustrated by G. Brian Karas
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon*; written and illustrated by Crockett Johnson
- *Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock*; written by Eric Kimmel, illustrated by Janet Stevens
- *Pete's a Pizza*; written and illustrated by William Steig
- *Runaway Bunny*; written by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Clement Hurd
- *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*; written by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury
- *Caps For Sale*; written and illustrated by Esphyr Slobodkina
- *Hey Little Ant*; written by Phillip and Hannah Hoose, illustrated by Debbie Tilley

SCHOOL-AGE

- *My Father's Dragon*; written by Ruth Gannett
- *The Shark God*; written by Rafe Martin, illustrated by David Shannon
- *Tale of Tricky Fox*; written by Jim Aylesworth, illustrated by Barbara McClintock
- *Burger and the Hot Dog*; written by Jim Aylesworth, illustrated by Stephen Gammell
- *Kate and the Beanstalk*; written by Mary Osborne, illustrated by Giselle Potter
- *Milo's Hat Trick*; written and illustrated by Jon Agee
- *Hundred Dresses*; written by Eleanor Estes, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin
- *Pippi Longstocking*; written by Astrid Lindgren