



Book Beat

Keeping in Step with Sylvan Dell Publishing

Science and Math Through Literature

October/November 2007

A warm hello from Sylvan Dell Publishing!

We would like to introduce our first bimonthly newsletter. Our hope is that it will become a useful resource for you when planning story times, lesson plans or future purchases. Remember, our goal is to make your job easier, so if you would like to see something specific in our next issue, please don't hesitate to let us know! Enjoy our first issue of *Book Beat*, and thank you for keeping in step with Sylvan Dell Publishing.



- ◆ "Fall into the Sea" with Ron Hirschi! Pg. 1-2
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Where does the name "Sylvan Dell" come from?

No, we are not affiliated in any way with either Sylvan Learning Centers or any "Dell" company. The name itself is Latin, meaning "wooded valley." Co-owner, Donna German, had the business name picked out years ago — long before the business itself was determined. Donna's father grew up in Delaware in an old farmhouse that is actually older than the United States! When her grandfather died, Donna moved from Massachusetts into the house so they could keep it in the family. While cleaning out an old shed, Donna found a wooden, hand-carved sign that simply said "Sylvan Dell." When she questioned her father about it, he remembered the sign nailed to a tree at the end of the driveway when he was a young boy. Donna's grandfather apparently referred to the property as "Sylvan Dell." Donna determined that if she ever owned her own business, that she wanted to name it after the family property (which is, in fact, a wooded valley). Yes, the home is still in Donna's family — her sister lives in it.

Continuing with the wooded valley theme, the logo uses leaves falling into an open book (valley theme) to signify "fall into reading."

New at Sylvan Dell:

- ◆ [eBooks](#) (English & Spanish)
- ◆ [Free Audio](#) (English & Spanish)
- ◆ [Reading Comprehension Quizzes](#)
- ◆ [Online Ordering](#)
- ◆ [Stuffed Animals](#)

Fall into the Sea

Discover "Ocean Seasons" with biologist and children's author Ron Hirschi



I live on a small island. So naturally, I spend much of my time with eyes to the sea. While most of us enjoy the changing of the seasons on land, I get to walk the beach and cast a line during the best of times. Inland harvests

and color changes are wonderful, but here along the shores of Washington State, we enjoy autumn salmon runs and the return to our shores of loons, grebes and even blue whales.

Fall at sea is a time of incredible abundance.

Marine plants grew thick and heavy all summer long. Their long stems might grow more than 60 feet in just one season. Green, red and brown algae cover rocks to form a food source for many fish and shellfish. Now that the days are cooler, most of these plants die, washing into the sea to form an oozing mixture that is food for tiny shrimp and small fish.

The tiny creatures all become food for larger predators, and this fall vast schools of herring, smelt and sandlance have been straining the ooze to capture a belly full. We fish for salmon now, with these small fish as our bait. Five, ten and even 30 pound salmon are fooled by our baited hooks.

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Continued from Pg. 1

Diving to catch their meals of small fish, rhinoceros auklets swirl beneath the waves to chase the herring into a dense ball. Overhead, screaming gulls are attracted to the baitballs and dive with terns, cormorants and other birds. Mouth open wide, a minke whale cruises by to engulf hundreds of fish in a single gulp.

All the while, shorebirds flock along the shore. They fly from Alaska to Central and South America, stopping here to catch their breath and grab a meal.

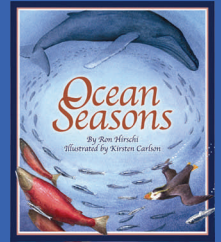
Winds will carry them southward as the same gusts begin to pound the shore, tearing the last remnants of summer plant growth from the edge of the beach. Winter is on its way.

Now is also the time when the school bus comes to take fewer than a dozen kids to the local, off-island school. They will, no doubt, go listen to teachers talk about fall on land. Some, like me, will wonder when they will get to learn more about fall in the ocean — a time of great harvests, of whales, of salmon and much more.

Can't get down to the shore?

Try these activities at home or in the classroom!

- ◆ Whale Net lets you follow whales and other large sea creatures that have tracking devices on their bodies. Visit whale.wheelock.edu and have fun tracking the whales as you learn more about their natural history.
- ◆ The Monterey Bay Aquarium is focusing its research on great white sharks this fall. They also share up-to-the-minute trip results from whale watching adventures off the California coast. Check them out at www.MontereyBayAquarium.org.
- ◆ Endangered orcas (killer whales) follow migrating fall salmon runs this time of year. You can keep track of their comings and goings and see great photos of orcas and other whales by visiting the Orca Network at www.orcanetwork.org.
- ◆ Visit a local stream this fall to learn what life forms are living in the flowing waters. Take along some small nets and viewing aquariums. Once back in the classroom, trace the path your local stream takes as it joins with others to form a river that flows into the sea.
- ◆ Make a whale! Gather enough kids to make outline representations of several whales, starting with tiny harbor porpoises and ending with giant blue whales — the largest creatures to have ever lived on Earth. Then, gather information on whale life history and ecology. You might be surprised at who eats what, where and when.
- ◆ Or learn more by checking out Ron Hirschi's 2007 release, [*Ocean Seasons!*](#)



Looking Ahead

Planning an event? A new lesson? Give it a theme!

Nov. 1: National Authors' Day

Invite your favorite authors to visit your store or classroom for fun readings, signings and projects!

Nov. 11-17: American Education Week

Throw yourself a party. You deserve it. :)

Nov. 12-18: Children's Book Week

Check out <http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbw/> to learn more or find events near you!

Nov. 15: I Love to Write Day!

Check out our teaching activities for writers' workshop ideas!

Nov. 17: Sylvan Dell's 3rd birthday!

Without your support, interest and feedback, we wouldn't be where we are today. Thank you, and we look forward to our fourth year of doing business with you!

Read Out Loud

By Craig Knowlton, Education Sales Manager

Reading to children creates a reader. The more times children hear words, the higher their comprehension becomes. Kids learn through observation and listening, so why not combine both influences for enhanced learning?

Saying and hearing stories out loud teaches how words fit together properly, how sentences should sound. Following along with parental bed-time stories or listening to a classroom story-time allows children to combine visual and aural learning as well as see their adult role models enjoy reading.

It's important that children take pleasure in reading. Frequent trips to neighborhood bookstores, public libraries, and school media centers keep kids excited and seeking out new stories.

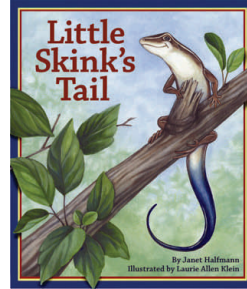
Convincing kids to read rather than watch television can be a challenge. However, turning the closed captioning on is an effective compromise. With one click of the remote, you essentially turn the TV into a read aloud machine!

Pet of the Month



This is Buddy — the Sylvan Dell dog. In his free time, Buddy enjoys romping on local nature trails and dropping tennis balls in unsuspecting victims' laps. **Want to see your pet featured?** Send a picture!

Quote of the Month



Saturday, October 06, 2007
Little Skink's Tail by Janet Halfmann and illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein was sent to me as a review copy by **Sylvan Dell Publishing** and, boy, are they going to be glad they sent me a free copy!! I immediately hopped on their website and have been telling people about them ever since!! They are so educational - I LOVE the emphasis on science, animals, math, etc. and then, to tie it in, they have great links off of their site to enhance your teaching - I am telling you - you need to go check it out!! Look especially for the "For Creative Minds", "Teaching Activities", and "Learning Links" sections. **It's like hitting the jackpot!!**

<http://inthepages.blogspot.com/2007/10/little-skinks-tail.html>

Recent Award Winners

Learning Magazine's 2008 Teachers' Choice Award:

[One Odd Day](#)
[My Even Day](#)
[The Rainforest Grew All Around](#)

NAPPA Honors Award:

[The Rainforest Grew All Around](#)

2007 FPA President's Award
BEST Children's Book:

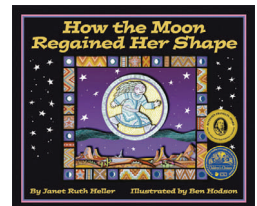
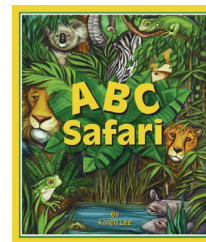
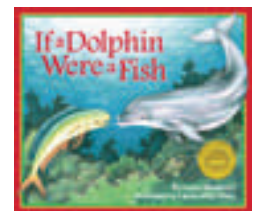
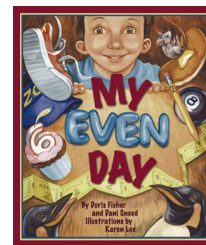
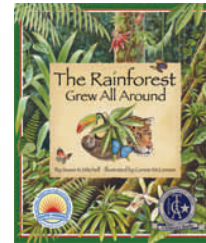
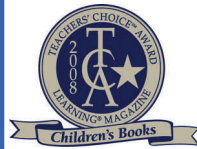
[If a Dolphin Were a Fish](#)

2007 Moonbeam Gold Award:

[How the Moon Regained Her Shape](#)

2007 Moonbeam Bronze Award:

[ABC Safari](#)



"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."

— Walt Disney

Upcoming Tradeshows at which we are exhibiting

Oct 26-28	AASL	Reno, NV	Lee German & Craig Knowlton
Nov 1-2	Connecticut Reading Association	Cromwell, CT	Dan Willing
Nov 1-3	ISLMA (Illinois School Library)	Springfield, IL	Bruce Moser
Nov 11-12	MSLA (Massachusetts School Library)	Sturbridge, MA	Peter McKee
Nov 12	Prince George's County Public School Library Media Fair	Bowie, MD	Jennifer Curtis
Nov 14-17	CAST-TX Science Teachers	Austin, TX	Rachel German

Until next month, fellow book lovers!

Thank you all so much for your interest and enthusiastic support!

Please look for our next issue of **Book Beat** in November!

Visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com for more.

Questions about something in this newsletter?

E-mail: info@SylvanDellPublishing.com.



FOR THE KIDS!

Have some fun with these fall puzzles!

Courtesy of Doris Fisher, www.abcdoris.com.



PICK A PUMPKIN!

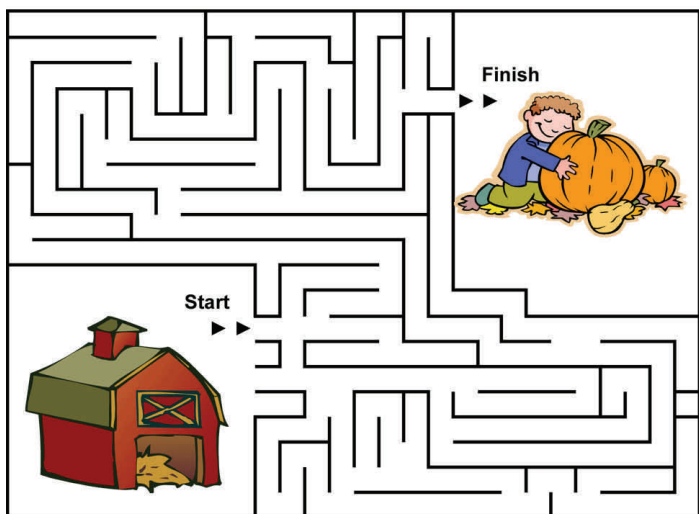
By Doris Fisher



PILGRIM PUZZLE

By Doris Fisher

Start at the barn and find your way to the pumpkin patch!



We give **THANKS** for our many blessings on Thanksgiving Day.

How many times does **THANKS** appear in this Pilgrim hat?

S	T	H	A	N	K	S	T	H	K
K	A	H	N	A	K	H	A	N	S
N	K	S	A	N	A	N	K	N	S
A	T	H	A	N	K	S	H	T	H
H	N	H	K	S	K	N	A	H	T
T	T	S	T	H	N	S	N	A	K

K	H	A	T	H	A	K	S	K	N	A	H	T	K	S	N
T	S	K	N	A	H	T	H	N	K	T	H	A	N	K	S
N	S	A	N	K	A	K	N	A	T	D	K	N	A	H	T