

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Local Illustrator, Joan Waites,  
Wins Teachers' Choice Award for Children's Book**

**MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010)** – “What’s New at the Zoo?” by D.C. illustrator Joan Waites received a 2011 Learning Magazine Teacher’s Choice Award for Children’s Books.

The prestigious Teachers’ Choice Award is determined by a nationwide panel of teacher-judges who name the standouts in children’s books each year. Winning titles are chosen based on qualities important to teachers such as instructional value, ease of use, innovation, and relevance to curriculum.

Joan Waites has been a freelance illustrator for the past 19 years. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from DeSales University in 1982. To date she has illustrated nearly 40 books for the educational and trade marketplace, work for several children’s magazines, and poster art. In addition to freelancing, the artist is an adjunct faculty member of The Corcoran Museum School of Art and Design in Washington, DC, where she teaches various classes for the College's "Aspiring Artists" programs. Joan lives and works in the metro Washington, D.C. area with her husband and three children.

“What’s New at the Zoo?”, written by Suzanne Slade, is a fun, educational picture book which helps children practice addition skills as they take an exciting journey through the zoo. Children will enjoy adding up all the animals they find while discovering the unique names of many baby animals. (Did you know a baby peacock is called a peachick?)

“This cheerful package of images and information delivers intellectual nourishment in the guise of a tasty treat for the eyes. It’s a fun introduction to early math skills and basic animal facts.”—*Alyson Low*, School Library Journal (*Sept. 2009*)

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