

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A YEAR OF STORMY WEATHER Local Author Introduces Newest Picture Book

Mount Pleasant, S.C. (Aug. 1, 2011) –Award-winning author Darcy Pattison introduces a new learning experience with *Prairie Storms*, the latest in a series of educational picture books from Sylvan Dell Publishing. *Prairie Storms* includes exceptional prose, detailed illustrations from Kathleen Rietz, and extensive educational resources in the back of the book and on the publisher’s website.

When asked about her writing, Pattison responded, “My goal is to help kids enjoy playing with language. Of course, that means a story and I hope they enjoy the story, too. And since *Prairie Storms* is a non-fiction book, it also means facts. I want kids to have fun learning about the animals and the storms and how living creatures interacts with the weather and climate of their area. But mostly, this is meant to be a great read aloud that an adult can share with a kid, and enjoy a moment of shared pleasure in the words, the art, the sound of literature, the joy of knowing something.”

Prairie Storms offers a front row seat to learn about a year of ever-changing prairie weather, and how the animals living in these grasslands adapt and survive in this harsh climate. Each month, read about a new animal, and learn about everything from how a prairie grouse can survive the January snows to how an earless lizards escapes the harsh, unrelenting drought of August. Told in lyrical prose, this story is a celebration of the great American prairies.

Pattison is the 2007 recipient of Arkansas Governor’s Arts Awards for her work in Children’s Literature. She established the Society of Children’s Books Writers and Illustrators Arkansas Chapter, and speaks often at writing, reading or library conferences throughout the nation. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Children’s Program for the Arkansas Literary Festival. Published in eight languages, Pattison's other books include the fantasy novel, *The Wayfinder* and the picture book, *Searching for Oliver K Woodman*. *Desert Baths*, a companion book to *Prairie Storms* will be released by Sylvan Dell in 2012. As a writing instructor, Darcy teaches professional development, writing retreats and conducts writing workshops for students from K-12.

For more information about Pattison visit www.darcypattison.com. For more information about *Prairie Storms* visit www.prairiestorms.com or www.sylvandellpublishing.com.

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Visuals & Other Requests: For cover art or Pattison’s headshot, visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm. For all interview requests or media queries, please contact Sylvan Dell’s publicist, Ashlee Rowe, at (877) 243-3457 or ashleerowe@sylvandellpublishing.com.

Sylvan Dell Publishing’s mission is to excite children’s imaginations with artistically spectacular science, math and nature themed stories. Founded in November of 2004, Sylvan Dell has grown to include more than 75 authors and illustrators in the United States and Canada, and 60 titles – honored as finalists or winners of over 70 book awards. Our *Science and Math Through Literature Program* integrates reading, science, math, geography, character skills, and language learning through fun, cross-curricular activities. Sylvan Dell provides more online educator resources than any other publisher in the

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