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St. Augustine Illustrator, Laurie Allen Klein, Wins Again! **“Fur and Feathers” Wins Gold in Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards**

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (October 25, 2010) – On October 13, the Moonbeam Awards for Children’s Books announced that **“Fur and Feathers”**, illustrated by Laurie Allen Klein, won a Gold Moonbeam Children’s Book Award for best preschool picture book.

“This year’s Moonbeam award winners confirm that books can change children’s lives,” said Moonbeam Awards founder Jerrold Jenkins. This is the fourth annual Moonbeam Awards, which are intended to bring increased recognition to exemplary children’s books and their creators, and to celebrate children’s books and life-long reading.

Expert panels of youth educators, librarians, booksellers, and book reviewers of all ages judge each entry. This year’s awards attracted over 800 entries from throughout North America and the English-speaking world. Medals will go to a diverse group of authors, illustrators and publishers from 34 U.S. states, 5 Canadian provinces, and 2 countries overseas.

Klein states, “I had an absolutely wonderful time working on *Fur and Feathers*. It was something of a departure from my previous, nature-based illustrations.” She continues, “The Grandmother in the story is based on my own Mom, and it is doubly thrilling that I won an award for the book I specially dedicated to her.”

“*Fur and Feathers*” is a story of creativity, friendship, and animal coverings. Klein’s vibrant illustrations help author, Janet Halfmann, tell the story of a young girl, Sophia, who dreams that howling winds whisk the fur and feathers right off her animal friends. She offers to share her clothes with them, but her outfits don’t work well for the animals. So she comes up with creative ways to help them, thanks to her grandma’s huge sewing box.

Klein has been a freelance artist for nearly 20 years. Over the last several years, she has worked as the on-staff artist for a marine park, where she does everything from painting life-size sea animal murals, to illustrating children’s activity books. In addition to this fall 2010 release, Klein also illustrated “Where Should Turtle Be?”, the award-winning “Little Skink’s Tail”, and “If a Dolphin Were a Fish” for Sylvan Dell. Her next work “Meet the Planets”, another Sylvan Dell title, comes out spring 2011. Laurie lives in St. Augustine, Florida. See more of her artwork at <http://www.lauriekleinart.com/>.

About Sylvan Dell Publishing

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 U.S. and Canada, and 55 titles – honored as finalists or winners of more than 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 U.S. We offer schools, homeschooling families and public libraries a free one-year access to our ebook site license featuring **the most technologically advanced eBooks** each with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, 3D page curling, and selectable English and Spanish text *and* audio through our School Resource Grant program. For more information, visit <http://sylvandellpublishing.com>

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