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Eco-Lessons from Nature

New Picture Book Features Animals That Recycle

Mt. Pleasant, SC (February 10, 2012)— Whatever happened to that old pair of boots? They could be a burden to the planet in a smelly landfill, or maybe a Carolina Wren has recycled what seemed to be ‘garbage’ into a comfy home. *Nature Recycles: How About You?*, a new children’s book from award-winning author Michelle Lord and publisher Sylvan Dell features examples of animals like the wren who “reduce, reuse, and recycle” as part of their natural instincts, and asks the question to children: How about you?

Children are fascinated by the quirkiness and wonder of the animal kingdom, but as Michelle Lord has discovered, nature also has important lessons to teach them. Did you know that an octopus will hide inside a discarded coconut shell, that a woodpecker will use the spine of a cactus as a spear, or that a decorator sea urchin will build a jacket out of rocks and oyster shells? Beautiful illustrations by artist Cathy Morrison help tell the story of these varied creatures: elf owls to elephants, dung beetles to octopi; that all seem to have a natural knack for recycling.

Children who learn to care about the planet will grow into adults that take care of the world. There’s no better time than childhood then to learn the importance of activities like recycling. Children will see the ingenuity of these cute, interesting, and just plain weird creatures, and learn how they can be like them; this time not by roaring to act like a tiger, or chewing on the furniture to act like a dog, but by recycling too!

Like all Sylvan Dell books, *Nature Recycles: How About You?* also features a For Creative Minds section, Teaching Activities and Interactive Quizzes, providing further opportunities for learning, and helping parents to answer their children’s questions. Also, the facts in *Nature Recycles: How About You?* are vetted by experts and adhere to CORE and state standards, so parents can feel confident that what their children are being taught is accurate, and as always, fun!

Michelle Lord is an award-winning author that started writing stories when she was in elementary school. Born and raised in Northern Nevada, the eldest of three sisters, Michelle fell in love with picture books when, during an extended stay at a hospital as a child, she was given a stack of children’s books by her aunt. A lifelong fascination with children’s literature began then, and now culminates in Michelle’s own storied career as an author. In addition to *Nature Recycles: How About You?* for Sylvan Dell, Michelle’s other books include *Tide Pool Trouble*, *A Song for Cambodia*, and the award-winning *Little Sap and Monsieur Rodin*. Michelle and her family live in Texas and recycle regularly. Learn more about Michelle at her website:

www.michellelordwrites.com



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Cathy Morrison started her art career in animation, but she soon fell in love illustrating children's books and has been doing so for 20 years. Cathy has illustrated *Nature Recycles: How About You?*, *Three Little Beavers*, and *Animalogy: Animal Analogies* for Sylvan Dell as well as *Ignacio's Chair*, and the *Young Patriots Series* including *Alexander Hamilton, Young Statesman*; *Frederick Douglass, Young Defender of Human Rights*; and *Juliette Low, Girl Scout Founder*. Cathy works from her home in a studio loft overlooking a beautiful view of the Mummy Range, on the northern side of Rocky Mountain National Park. Check out Cathy's blog at www.cathymorrison.blogspot.com.

To schedule an interview or to request more information about Michelle Lord, Cathy Morrison or *Nature Recycles: How About You?* please contact Heather Williams at heatherwilliams@sylvandellpublishing.com or (843) 971-6722.

About Sylvan Dell Publishing

Sylvan Dell is on a mission to improve child literacy with science and math through fictional picture books. Using prose and pictures, children are delighted with stories of their favorite animals, planets, or even place. This leads to the exploration of facts and learning activities in each book's *For Creative Minds* pages. Sylvan Dell carefully designs each book to portray accurately the chosen subject. Vetted by experts in that field, and aligned to common core and state standards; each book is a unique asset to educational programs. Sylvan Dell has grown to include more than 80 authors and illustrators, and honored to have won more than 70 book awards since its inception in 2005.