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How the Moon Regained Her Shape Honored by Children's Book Council,
International Reading Association

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (May 15, 2007) – The moon is dancing merrily across the sky today because the Children's Book Council (CBC) and the International Reading Association (IRA) have just chosen "***How the Moon Regained Her Shape***" for the prestigious 2007 Children's Choices Award.

The Children's Choices award program has been a joint project of the IRA and the CBC since 1975. Each year, publishers submit about 700 titles to be evaluated. Throughout the year, approximately 10,000 children join one of five review teams across the country and work with their local classroom teachers and school librarians to incorporate the books into classroom activities. Then the children vote to select their favorite books, thus choosing the winning titles.

"I am very excited about this award," exclaims author Janet Ruth Heller. "I wrote the moon book to help children deal with bullies, and I think that Sylvan Dell Publishing's efforts to make the book educational in addition to being inspirational may have been what set '***How the Moon Regained Her Shape***' apart in the young judges' eyes."

This is not the first time "***Moon***" has been recognized. The Society of Illustrators selected illustrator Ben Hodson's artwork for their annual The Original Art exhibition last fall and Book Sense, a national marketing organization that represents America's independent bookstores, selected "***Moon***" as a 2006 Summer Reads Pick. The Publishers Marketing Association also recently announced that the picture book is one of three finalists for their 2007 Benjamin Franklin Awards competition in the category of Interior Design, 3 or more color – Children's/Young Adult.

"***Moon***" is influenced by Native American folktales to teach the phases of the moon and the lunar cycle, but the sweet story also offers children a life lesson as they observe how the Moon uses her friends' support and love to overcome being both hurt and bullied by the Sun.

The picture book supports elementary school curriculums by meeting U.S. National Science Standards and was vetted for scientific accuracy by the director of the Von Braun Observatory, Dr. Wesley Swift, Jr. It also contains a "For Creative Minds" educational section with fun facts about the lunar cycle, Native American names for full moons and moon phase activities. The paperback version, released in April 2006, includes a page on how to deal with bullies as well.



Originally released by Sylvan Dell Publishing in February 2006, "***Moon***" has received complimentary reviews from *Science Books & Films*, *Armchair Interviews*, *Book Talk*, *The Midwest Book Review* and the *Children's Comprehensive Literature Database*. The picture book is also part of the Accelerated Reader Program used in over 57,000 schools.

"***How the Moon Regained Her Shape***' is a useful folktale to share with children," writes Tanya Boudreau in the February 2007 edition of *Resource Links*. Boudreau's comment simply summarizes Sylvan Dell's mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value.

Readers can ask for "***How the Moon Regained Her Shape***" and other Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information, please visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600. To learn more about the CBC, IRA or the Children's Choices award program, please visit www.cbcbooks.org/readinglists/childrenschoices.

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