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Florida Readers Get Slimed

*Book awards committee chooses
“Sea Slime” for annual reading list!*

Mount Pleasant, SC (June 11, 2015) -- *Sea Slime: It's Eeuwy, Goey and Under the Sea* is a perfect fit for Florida Reading Association's annual children's book award! The children's book of slimy

sea life by Miami resident, Dr. Ellen Prager and illustrated by Shennen Bersani has been chosen by the selection committee as a finalist in the 2015-2016 awards competition.

Kids across Florida have the opportunity to read and vote for their favorite picture book in the annual competition. The awards are sponsored by the Florida Reading Association an affiliate of the International Literacy Association, and the organization introduced this award to “encourage young children to become enthusiastic about books.” During the 2015-2016 school year Florida students will have seven books in addition to *Sea Slime* that they will read and then vote for a winner.

Reading *Sea Slime* is an adventure through the ocean. Readers will learn unusual facts about familiar sea life as well as interesting tidbits about some creatures that are rarely seen. Each page shows kids how slime is useful in this wet habitat and how the gooey substance is vitally important to some animals for survival. Paired with the activities in the For Creative Minds section in the back of the book, readers are able to explore ocean slime in their own home.

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Dr. Ellen Prager, a well-respected marine scientist, consultant, and author, is widely recognized for her expertise and ability to bring science to the layperson. Her books for adults include the acclaimed *Sex, Drugs, and Sea Slime: The Oceans' Oddest Creatures and Why They Matter*; *Chasing Science at Sea: Racing Hurricanes, Stalking Sharks, and Living Undersea with Ocean Experts*; *The Oceans*; and *Furious Earth: The Science and Nature of Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Tsunamis*. In addition to *Sea Slime: It's Eeuwy, Goey and Under the Sea*, her other children's books include *The Restless Earth: Earthquakes and Volcanoes*; *SAND*; *Volcanoes*; and *Earthquakes*; and the middle grade fiction series, *The Shark Whisperer: Tristan Hunt and the Sea Guardians*. Dr. Prager was the chief scientist for the world's only undersea research station, the Aquarius Reef Base program in Key Largo, FL.

While Shennen Bersani is an award-winning children's book illustrator, *Achoo! Why Pollen Counts* is her debut picture book as an author. Her art delivers a unique blend of realism, heartfelt emotion, love of nature, and life lessons for children of all ages. She has illustrated *Salamander Season*; *Sea Slime: It's Eeuwy, Goey and Under the Sea*; *The Shape Family Babies*; *Animal Partners*; *Shark Baby*; *Home in the Cave*; *The Glaciers are Melting!*; and *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion* for Arbordale. Shennen has also illustrated a number of best-selling books, including, *Snakes: Long, Longer, Longest*; *Sharks: Big, Bigger, Biggest*; *Ocean Counting: Odd Numbers*; and *Icky Bug Shapes*. Shennen lives near Boston.

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Arbordale is on a mission to improve child literacy with science and math through fun to read picture books. Using prose and pictures, children are delighted with stories of their favorite animals, planets, or even places. This leads to the exploration of facts and learning activities in each book's For Creative Minds pages. Arbordale 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 an asset to educational programs. Arbordale has grown to include a diverse group of authors and illustrators from across the country, and honored to have won more than 80 book awards since its inception in 2004.