

Turtles In My Sandbox

By Jennifer Keats Curtis

Illustrated by Emanuel Schongut

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For Children Ages 6 to 10

2006 ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award Finalist
Everglades Recommended Reading List



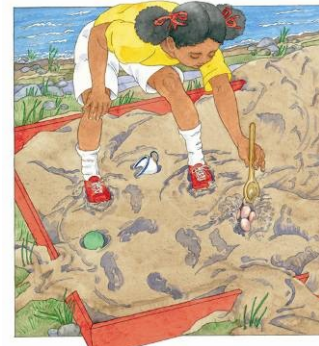
“ ‘Turtles in My Sandbox’ teaches and reinforces the act of caring for the world and the animals that inhabit it.” - *Picket News*

“What a wonderfully intriguing storybook for parents to use to bring home educational value. The educational usefulness is not obvious to children. For them it’s just a fun book.” - *Eclectic Homeschool Online*

“Schongut’s detailed watercolors perfectly support the text, showing readers not just up-close views of the turtles, but also their aquarium habitat and the food they eat in the wild. Sure to spark an interest in these amazing creatures, and to increase participation in Maryland’s turtle project.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

Imagine finding turtle eggs in your sandbox!

In *Turtles In My Sandbox*, a mother diamondback terrapin lays eggs in a young girl’s sandbox and she becomes a “turtle-sitter” to help the babies hatch safely. Maggie raises the teeny hatchlings until they become big enough to fend for themselves in the wild. Then, with the help of experts, she releases them. Along the way, Maggie learns about these unique animals and realizes that she has made an important contribution to their survival.



Turtles In My Sandbox was vetted for scientific accuracy by the Terrapin Institute, the Dept. of Biological Sciences at Ohio University, and the Dept. of Biology at the University of Florida. Children, parents, and teachers will love the “**For Creative Minds**” educational section that includes:

- Terrapin fun facts about habitat, adaptations, food, and nesting
- Terrapin Life Cycle Activity
- Where in the world are terrapins found?
- A Turtle habitat and adaptation craft featuring terrapins, sea turtles, and tortoises

There are also “**Related Websites**” and “**Teaching Activities**” on Sylvan Dell Publishing’s website, www.SylvanDellPublishing.com, to help parents and educators expand the learning possibilities!

About the Author and Illustrator



Jennifer Keats Curtis wants to help bring children close to the animals in their own backyards. By diligently researching her topic and interviewing real experts, including children working to help preserve and protect local wildlife, the journalist has developed a knack for teaching young children about important ecological issues and what they can do to help. Jennifer's first book, *Oshus and Shelly Save the Bay*, won the Frederick Douglass Award (Maryland Council of Teachers of English Language Arts). She also wrote *Osprey Adventure*, based on the work of Peter McGowan, a biologist with US Fish & Wildlife. Most days, Jennifer can be found among students and teachers, talking about literacy or conservation. She also regularly presents writing workshops to elementary school students. When she's not in schools, Jennifer contributes to several magazines and serves as editor-at-large for *Maryland Life Magazine*. Avid fans of anything having to do with the outdoors, Jennifer and her family spend their summers in and on the Chesapeake Bay. She resides in Maryland, with her family and a wide variety of pets, including one terrapin.

Emanuel (Manny) Schongut is a prolific, multi-faceted freelance illustrator who works in children's books, book covers, textbook illustration, editorial art, posters and advertising art—essentially he does it all! Some of his numerous clients include Masterpiece and Mystery Theater, Public Television, *New York Magazine* and *New York Times Sunday Magazine*. His cover art and/or illustrations grace books from a wide variety of book publishers including Harper & Row, MacMillan, Doubleday, Morrow, Green Willow Books and, of course, Sylvan Dell. Manny has also illustrated another Sylvan Dell title, *Christmas Eve Blizzard*. Manny taught reportorial art and figure drawing at Pratt Institute in New York for several years. He now illustrates and teaches in the San Francisco Bay area.



Contact Information

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For media inquiries or to schedule an event for your store, please contact Ashlee Rowe by calling 877-958-2600 or e-mailing ashleerowe@SylvanDellPublishing.com.



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