

**Contact:** Angie Dzalamanow, (877) 958-2600  
[AngieDzalamanow@SylvanDellPublishing.com](mailto:AngieDzalamanow@SylvanDellPublishing.com)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **2008 Picture Book Writing Competition Winners Announced**

#### *Sylvan Dell Publishing Rewards Homeschooled Students, Future Children's Authors*

**Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (April 22, 2008)** – In late January, Sylvan Dell Publishing announced its 2nd annual Picture Book Writing Competition for Homeschooled Students, challenging homeschoolers working at a high school level to try their pens at writing for children.

Before founding Sylvan Dell in 2004, Lee and Donna German homeschooled their three daughters for five years while traveling. "We started this competition to offer homeschoolers a unique opportunity and to encourage teens to write," explained Lee.

Students were asked to follow submission guidelines mirroring those required of adult writers. Specifically, Sylvan Dell judges were interested in manuscripts with science, math or nature themes and less than 1,500 words.

"We were so impressed with this year's submissions," said Homeschool Market Liaison Maggie Stuart. "Many were perfect fits for our line of educational children's books, and we had a lot of fun reading them."

#### **The Winners of the 2008 Picture Book Writing Competition for Homeschooled Students are:**

- 1st Place: Alicia Constant, 15, of Albuquerque, N.M., for "Emilia Finds Her Way Home," a story of a caterpillar's quest to find her daisy patch and the surprise that takes flight along the way.
- 2nd Place: Jared Dryden, 15, of Findlay, Ohio, for "Kyle the Koala," a rhyming account of life down under... but above those pesky dingoes.
- 3rd Place: Margaret Schuetz, 16, of Raleigh, N.C., for "A Baby Elephant Learns a Lesson," a tale of young Effie the Elephant's escape from the adults' protective envelopment and her run-in with the danger of venturing out alone.

First place winner Alicia Constant's manuscript has been added to those being considered for future publication, and she received a \$200 prize. "Alicia showed great storytelling skills and creativity, and hopefully she'll consider writing as a future career choice," said Sylvan Dell Editor Donna German.

Second and third place winners Dryden and Schuetz each won \$75. Five honorable mentions won \$25 each:

- Sarah Moyers, 12, of Catlett, Va., for "Little Seahorse"
- Harmony Dionne, 14, of Ballston Spa, N.Y., for "I Can Count"
- Suzanna Cowan, 15, of Granite Falls, N.C., for "Percey, the Barking Squirrel"
- Ryan Howerter, 15, of Fort Collins, Colo., for "A Home for Rabbits"

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- Abby Erlanson, 14, of Orland, Maine, for "Welcome Home"

Stuart and German both say they're looking forward to hosting the competition next year. "As the word spreads, I'm sure we'll see more and more talent coming from the homeschooling community," said Stuart.

More about the Picture Book Writing Competition results can be found at [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com). Sylvan Dell picture books are available online and in bookstores, gift shops and libraries nationwide.

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### **About Sylvan Dell Publishing**

Sylvan Dell Publishing, based in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. The company specializes in "Science and Math Through Literature" and provides free supplemental parent/teacher resources for every title. Founded in 2004, Sylvan Dell's family has grown to include more than 55 authors and illustrators in the U.S. and Canada, and 35 titles – honored as nominees, finalists or winners of more than 50 book awards – line their bookshelf. For more information about Sylvan Dell's books and free parent/teacher resources, visit [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com).

### **Visuals & Other Requests:**

For contact information for the winners and all other requests, please call 877-958-2600 or e-mail [AngieDzalamanow@SylvanDellPublishing.com](mailto:AngieDzalamanow@SylvanDellPublishing.com).

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