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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## The *Blackberry Banquet* Launch Marches On!

*California author Terry Pierce makes local appearances for her newest book*

**MT. PLEASANT, S.C.** (October 23, 2008) – The official launch party for Terry Pierce’s *Blackberry Banquet* was August 30, and yet, the excitement shows no sign of decline as Ms. Pierce continues to make appearances in California. “I love it,” says Pierce of her literary lifestyle, “and I don’t see myself doing anything else in the future.”

Pierce got the idea for her newest picture book while vacationing in Oregon. “*Blackberry Banquet* came to me one day when I was approaching my favorite wild blackberry bush to pick berries for making a pie,” she explains. “As I neared the bush, a flurry of animals fled from it, and it made me start thinking about how we’re not the only animals who enjoy such a sweet treat!”

*Blackberry Banquet* (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2008) tells a similar story – only Pierce replaced herself with a big black bear. In the 32-page book illustrated by Lisa Downey, forest animals “squeak,” “tweet,” “slurp,” “yip” and “chomp” over the sweet, plump fruit of a wild blackberry bush, but when a bear arrives to take part in the feast, chaos strikes. The last few pages feature a “For Creative Minds” educational section with fun facts, a blackberry smoothie recipe, and other activities.

Pierce will be featured at the following November events:

- Nov. 3, Yucca Loma Elementary School, Apple Valley, School Visit
- Nov. 7, Liberty Elementary School, Santa Maria, School Visit
- Nov. 8, 11 AM, Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, Santa Maria, Reading/Signing
- Nov. 8, 2 PM, B Wise School Supply, Arroyo Grande, Reading/Signing

Presentation topics include how berry picking can juice up family-fun time, ten things to do with a book, and Pierce’s experience writing & launching *Blackberry Banquet*. A former pre-primary Montessori teacher, Pierce taught for 22 years before following her dream of writing for children in 1999. Now the author of 17 books for young readers, including picture books, easy readers, joke books and non-fiction, Pierce calls her career change “the best mid-life crisis ever.”

Readers interested in learning more about Terry Pierce and her books can visit her website, [www.terrypiercebooks.com](http://www.terrypiercebooks.com). A matching black bear stuffed animal and free educational materials – such as audio readings, activity ideas, learning links and interactive quizzes – are available to supplement the book at [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com). Like all Sylvan Dell books, *Blackberry Banquet* was vetted for scientific accuracy and is aligned to all national and state curriculum standards.

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