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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida Author and Illustrator Team's Picture Book Selected for Accelerated Reader Program

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (August 1, 2006) – Sylvan Dell Publishing is proud to announce that Florida author and illustrator team Loran Wlodarski and Laurie Allen Klein's new picture book, "If a Dolphin Were a Fish," has been selected for the Accelerated Reader Program (AR).

AR is a progress-monitoring tool where children read books and then take quizzes to test their reading comprehension. Seeing immediate quiz results excites young readers, improves critical-thinking skills and builds an intrinsic love of reading while allowing teachers to tailor curriculums. Over 57,000 schools currently use AR in their classrooms and libraries.

"If a Dolphin Were a Fish" began arriving in bookstores this April. It tells the clever story of Delfina the dolphin as she imagines that she becomes other sea animals—a fish, a sea turtle, a pelican, an octopus, a shark and even a manatee.

"Dolphin" has received complementary reviews from *Horn Book Review*, *Science Books & Films*, *Learning Magazine* and *CLDC & Children's Literature*. In addition, educators at SeaWorld Orlando and the South Carolina Aquarium vetted the book for scientific accuracy.

Sarah Haines of the National Science Teachers' Association comments, "When I read this book, I wished I had a classroom full of children to share it with. Written for a primary audience, it explains an important science concept, adaptations, in an entertaining way. It is also filled with wonderful and accurate illustrations created with colored pencils that children will enjoy."

Wlodarski, an educator at SeaWorld Orlando, has contributed to or edited five other books in addition to serving as a scientific consultant for Ripley's Believe It Or Not, Random House Books, Animal Planet, and Who Wants to be a Millionaire. Klein has illustrated various books, book covers and coloring activity books in addition to painting several murals.

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