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## The Giraffe Who Was Afraid of Heights Rises to Top of Children's Picks List

**Mt. Pleasant, S.C.** (August 10, 2006) – While it may seem unlikely that a giraffe would be afraid of heights, the main character of illustrator Kirsten Carlson's new picture book, "The Giraffe Who Was Afraid of Heights," is. Luckily for Carlson and Sylvan Dell Publishing, the young giraffe's fears haven't stopped the book from rising to *Book Sense's* Autumn 2006 Children's Picks List.

"Giraffe," written by David A. Ufer, began arriving in bookstores this July and has received complementary reviews from *Armchair Interviews*, *Storyteller Books* and *School Library Journal*. In addition, Renaissance Learning recently added "Giraffe" to its Accelerated Reader Program, which is being used in classrooms and libraries in over 57,000 schools.

Book Sense Picks are chosen after books receive favorable recommendations from independent booksellers from across the country, sharing those titles that they are most excited about putting into the hands of their customers. There are 72 titles on this year's autumn list.

Judith Nasse of *Children's Book Reviews* comments, "David A. Ufer adeptly combines fiction and facts about animal behavior and habitats. He gently lets children know they can overcome their fears too—just like their animal friends—while Kirsten Carlson's lively illustrations bring this sweet story alive with both humor and compassion."

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Each Sylvan Dell title features a three to five page educational section, "For Creative Minds." "Giraffe's" section includes a "Match the Feet" craft, a mix-and-match activity, adaptation information and fun facts about animals of the African savannah.

Educators at the Houston Zoo verified "Giraffe" for scientific accuracy.

Readers can ask for Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore and wholesale orders are available through Ingram, Baker & Taylor, TheReadingWarehouse.com, Follet or directly through the publisher. For more information, visit [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com) or by call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600.

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