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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**“Moon” Picture Book Honored for Illustration, Design**

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (June 1, 2007) - Illustrator Ben Hodson and author Janet Ruth Heller are celebrating today because the Publishers Marketing Association (PMA) has recognized their picture book, “***How the Moon Regained Her Shape***,” as a Benjamin Franklin Award winner.

“***Moon***” was honored by PMA in the category of Interior Design, three or more color-Children’s/Young Adult. Named to commemorate one of America’s first and most cherished publishers, the Benjamin Franklin Awards recognize excellence in independent publishing and were presented on Thursday, May 31.

PMA’s announcement brings more cause for Hodson and Heller to celebrate, because the International Reading Association and the Children’s Book Council awarded “***Moon***” their prestigious 2007 Children’s Choices Award just two weeks ago.

Published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, “***Moon***” has been garnering accolades since its release in February 2006. In fact, this is not the first time that Hodson’s artwork has been recognized. The Society of Illustrators selected “***Moon***” for their Fall 2006 The Original Art Exhibition, which is held annually to celebrate the fine art of children’s book illustration. In addition, Book Sense, a national marketing organization that represents America’s independent bookstores, selected “***Moon***” as a 2006 Summer Reads Pick.

“As a young publishing company, we are thrilled to be receiving this type of recognition,” explains Sylvan Dell Publisher Lee German, who accepted the award on behalf of Hodson and Heller. “I’m flattered that the committee thought so highly of Ben’s work, and everyone at Sylvan Dell is pleased that both readers and critics appreciate this sweet story.”

Influenced by Native American folktales, “***How the Moon Regained Her Shape***” explains the phases of the moon while providing a life lesson for children as they observe how the moon was able to overcome bullying and build self-confidence. Like all Sylvan Dell books, “***Moon***” contains a “For Creative Minds” educational section with fun facts about the lunar cycle, Native American names for full moons and moon phase activities. The picture book was vetted for scientific accuracy by the director of the Von Braun Observatory, Dr. Wesley Swift, Jr., and is aligned to US National and State science standards. Additional teaching activities are available for parents and teachers on the publisher’s Web site, www.SylvanDellPublishing.com.

Hodson illustrates full time from his home in Ottawa, Canada. His published works for Sylvan Dell include “*In Arctic Waters*” and “***How the Moon Regained Her Shape***.” He has also published “*I Love Yoga*,” “*Pigs Aren’t Dirty, Bears Aren’t Slow and Other Truths about Misunderstood Animals*” and “*Wishes and Worries: A Story to Help Children Understand a Parent Who Drinks Too Much Alcohol*.” In addition to his many accolades, the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators awarded Hodson the 2004 Glass Slipper Award to recognize his creativity, talent and professionalism in the world of children’s publishing.

“It’s such an honor to receive this award for ‘***How the Moon Regained Her Shape***,’” exclaims Hodson. “Illustrating this book was a fantastic flurry of collage and paint: finally a chance to play amidst my well-hoarded and meticulously collected bits of handmade papers! I owe a great deal to the team at Sylvan Dell for their invaluable input into the design—they were truly a pleasure to work with.”

Heller has her Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from the University of Chicago and is an assistant professor for the English Department at Western Michigan University. She teaches a wide variety of classes, including creative writing and literature for children, and is a founding mother of “*Primavera*,” a literary magazine based in Chicago. Her book of literary criticism, “*Coleridge, Lamb, Hazlitt, and the Reader of Drama*,” was published in 1990 by the University of Missouri Press.

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children’s imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Readers can ask for “***How the Moon Regained Her Shape***,” “*In Arctic Waters*” and other Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information, please visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600. To learn more about PMA or the Benjamin Franklin Awards, please visit <http://www.pma-online.org/benfrank.cfm>.

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