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Local Author's Picture Book Recognized by Society of Illustrators

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (September 19, 2006) – Portage, Mich., author Janet Ruth Heller's picture book, "How the Moon Regained Her Shape," has been selected for the Society of Illustrators' annual The Original Art exhibition.

The exhibition will last from Oct. 25 to Nov. 22, 2006, at the Museum of American Illustration at the Society of Illustrators in New York. Gold and silver medal winners for the 26th annual competition will be announced on Thursday, Oct. 26.

"I am honored that the Society of Illustrators is so accepting of my work," explains "Moon's" illustrator, Ottawa resident Ben Hodson. "The competition celebrates children's book illustrators across the continent, and I hope that I represent Canada well."

"How the Moon Regains Her Shape" builds on a Native American folktale to explain the lunar cycle and phases of the moon. This sweet story also offers children a life lesson as they observe how the Moon uses the support of her friends to overcome her hurtful encounter with the Sun and resumes her place in the heavens.

Publisher Lee German of Sylvan Dell Publishing elaborates, "Ben's illustration's for 'Moon' are an intricate combination of cut paper, watercolor and Photoshop techniques. I think that his unique style is incredibly compelling when combined with Janet's text, and everyone at Sylvan Dell is excited to send their work to the exhibition."

"Moon" supports elementary school curriculums by meeting U.S. National Science Standards and has been vetted for scientific accuracy by the director of the Von Braun Observatory, Dr. Wesley Swift, Jr. It also contains an educational "For Creative Minds" section with fun facts about the moon, Native American names for full moons, a lunar calendar, a recipe for moon cookies and craft projects to illustrate the moon's phases and rotation.

Released by Sylvan Dell Publishing in February, "Moon" has received complimentary reviews from the *Horn Book Guide*, *Science Books & Films*, *Armchair Interviews*, *Book Talk*, *Midwest Book Review*, and the Children's Comprehensive Literature Database. The picture book is part of the Accelerated Reader Program used in over 57,000 schools and is a Book Sense 2006 Summer Children's Pick.

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 Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information, visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600.

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