

Contact: Katherine Miller
Sylvan Dell Publishing
(877) 958-2600
KatherineMiller@SylvanDellPublishing.com

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Picture Book Explains Meteors as Orionid Shower is Visible

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (October 16, 2006) – The American Meteor Society has announced that the annual Orionid meteor shower will be most active on Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21, and children's author Mara Rockliff is offering parents a unique way to teach children about meteors.

Her picture book, "Pieces of Another World," is illustrated by Salima Alikhan and tells the story of Jody and her father as they explore the night world by watching a meteor shower together.

Gary Kronk, AMS member and author of *Meteor Showers: A Descriptive Catalog*, recalls, "'Pieces of Another World' touched me deeply because it reminds me of the first time I took each of my boys out to look at the stars....As soon as I opened it up, I found myself thumbing through the pages enjoying the artwork. But the exciting thing I found when I started reading the book was that it was a nice story that accurately teaches the reader what a 'shooting star' really is."

"Pieces" has been vetted for scientific accuracy by George Gilba, Senior Technical Specialist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and Professor Joseph Patterson of the Columbia University Department of Astronomy. The picture book contains an educational "For Creative Minds" section with fun facts about meteors, meteoroids and meteorites; information about meteor showers; "Five Steps to a Fantastic Meteor Watching Party;" a recipe for comet cookies and a "Meteor Math" project.

Released by Sylvan Dell Publishing in 2005, "Pieces" has received complimentary reviews from *Science Books & Films*, *Book Talk*, *NSTA Recommends*, the *Horn Book Guide*, *Sky & Telescope Magazine* and the Children's Comprehensive Literature Database. In addition, the picture book is part of the Accelerated Reader program.

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