

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Picture Books Teach Children about Space during U.N. World Space Week

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (October 4, 2006) – The United Nations has designated Oct. 4 through 10 as World Space Week, and children's authors Janet Ruth Heller and Mara Rockliff's picture books are one fun way for parents, teachers and librarians to teach children about space.

World Space Week was established to honor the contributions space science and technology have made in society and begins on the anniversary of the launch of *Sputnik*, the first artificial satellite.

"I've always been fascinated by space—and especially by the moon," Heller explains, "and I wrote to share my passion with children." Her book, "How the Moon Regained Her Shape," is written as a Native American folktale to explain the phases of the moon. Illustrated by Ben Hodson, it has been vetted for scientific accuracy by the Von Braun Observatory in Huntsville, Ala.

Likewise, Rockliff has always enjoyed meteor showers. Her book, "Pieces of Another World," tells the story of a young girl and her father as they watch a meteor shower. Illustrated by Samila Alikhan, it has been vetted for scientific accuracy NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and the Columbia University Department of Astronomy.

"Hopefully 'Pieces' and 'Moon' will help children learn something new while they spend quality time with their parents and teachers," Rockliff adds. "And at the end of the day, the adults may have learned something too!"

"Moon" and "Pieces" are published by Sylvan Dell Publishing. Both titles are part of the Accelerated Reader program and contain an educational "For Creative Minds" section. "Moon's" section includes Native American names for full moons, graphics that explain moon phases and rotation, a lunar calendar and a recipe for moon cookies while "Pieces" includes fun facts about meteors, meteoroids and meteorites, "Five Steps to a Fantastic Meteor Watching Party," a recipe for comet cookies and a "Meteor Math" project.

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