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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bring the Rainforest to your Living Room

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (March 10, 2007) – Take children on a hike through the Amazon rainforest without leaving your living room by reading Texas resident Susan K. Mitchell's clever new picture book, "*The Rainforest Grew All Around*."

Children's imaginations will soar from the forest floor and up through the canopy as the jungle comes alive with jaguars, emerald tree boas, poison dart frogs and toucans. Then they will explore behind the thick liana vines and towering kapok trees while searching for the unique rainforest bugs and butterflies hidden on each page.

Published by Sylvan Dell Publishing and illustrated by California artist Connie McLennan, "*Rainforest*" is a lively adaptation of the song "The Green Grass Grew All Around."

"I'm thrilled to be working with Sylvan Dell," says Mitchell, a pre-school teacher in the Houston area. "It has been amazing to see my manuscript come to life with Connie's stunning illustrations, and I love that the picture book is so educational—Connie added informational sidebars and Sylvan Dell Publishing included a three-page 'For Creative Minds' section in the back of the book. I'm looking forward to what teachers and parents will say when they use '*Rainforest*' in their classrooms and homes."

To celebrate her picture book's release, Mitchell will sign copies of "*Rainforest*" at the Texas Library Association's annual conference on Friday, April 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. in the author signing area and again from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Sylvan Dell booth. In addition, Mitchell will participate in Kingwood's Fine Arts Festival on April 28 and visit the Humble Barnes & Noble for their Teacher Appreciation Night on May 3. She will revisit the Humble Barnes & Noble to host a story time event on May 16 and will also travel to several schools in the area: Fields Store Elementary in Waller on April 20, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in The Woodlands on April 23 and Tennie Holmes Elementary in Bay City on May 18.

The "For Creative Minds" educational section is filled with fun facts about the Amazon rainforest's plants and animals. It also contains a rainforest animal adaptation activity, a plant adaptations and seed dispersal matching activity, information on what we use from the rainforest and a rainforest cookie recipe.



Publisher Lee German explains, “Sylvan Dell is serious about its mission of bringing science and math to children through literature. That’s why we are so grateful to Amazon scientist David Oren of the Nature Conservancy Amazon Conservation Program for carefully reviewing ‘*Rainforest*’ for accuracy.”

Sylvan Dell Publishing’s website also offers a list of child-friendly “Learning Links” and a set of “Teaching Activities” for parents and teachers to use to expand the book’s learning possibilities.

Mitchell’s students provided the inspiration for “*Rainforest*.” The excitement they showed while learning about life cycles through the song “The Green Grass Grew All Around” encouraged her to teach about the rainforest—one of the most complex ecosystems on our planet—in the same fun, whimsical way. Mitchell is also the author of “*Stone Pizza*” and writes regularly for children’s magazines including “*Hopscotch Magazine for Girls*,” “*Wee Ones Children’s Magazine*” and “*Guideposts for Kids Online*.”

McLennan is no stranger to the world of children’s literature either. In addition to illustrating “*Rainforest*” for Sylvan Dell, McLennan has illustrated their award-winning 2005 release, “*Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean*,” as well as their 2006 release, “*Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud*.” She also has been selected as the illustrator for Sylvan Dell Publishing’s 2008 release, “*River Beds: Resting in the World’s Rivers*.” “*River Beds*” is the sequel to “*Water Beds*.”

Sylvan Dell Publishing is a young company on a mission to create picture books that excite children’s imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Readers can ask for “*The Rainforest Grew All Around*,” “*Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean*,” and “*Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud*” at their favorite local or online bookstore. They can also find more information by calling Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600 or by visiting www.SylvanDellPublishing.com.

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