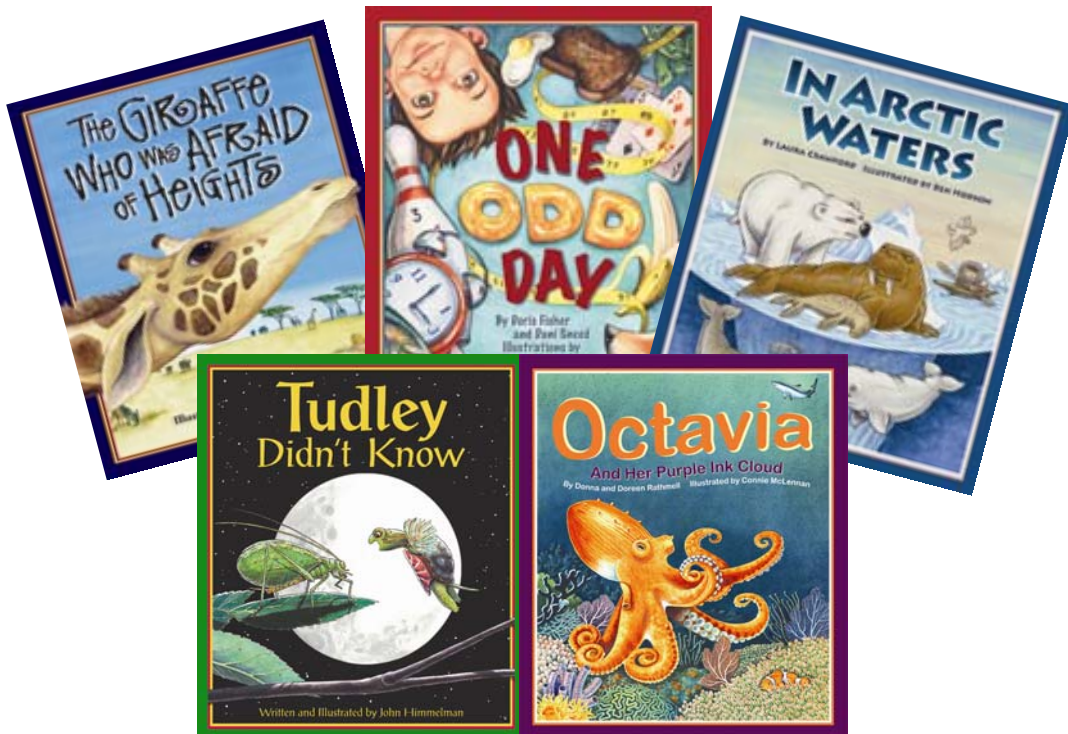




Sylvan Dell Publishing

# Picture Book Writing Competition for Homeschooled Students

*Call for Entries*



*Please e-mail submissions to  
MaggieStuart@SylvanDellPublishing.com by May 1, 2007.*



**Contact:** Maggie Stuart  
Sylvan Dell Publishing  
(877) 958-2600  
MaggieStuart@SylvanDellPublishing.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Sylvan Dell Publishing Announces Writing Competition**

**Mt. Pleasant, S.C.** (February 1, 2007) – Sylvan Dell Publishing is proud to announce that they are accepting entries for their first Picture Book Writing Competition for Homeschooled Students.

The author of the winning picture book manuscript will receive a \$200 prize and his or her manuscript will be considered for publication in 2009. Students who would like to submit manuscripts should follow the submission guidelines and contest rules posted on the Sylvan Dell website, [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com).

Sylvan Dell Publishers Lee and Donna German are former homeschooling parents, and they are excited to offer this opportunity and to give back to homeschooled students across the country.

“In fact, the idea to make our books educational came from watching our daughters learn in museums and Jr. Ranger programs,” Mr. German explains. “They were always so excited to get ‘hands-on’ experience that we decided to include a scientifically accurate learning activity section in each book.”

The three to five page educational section is called “For Creative Minds” and features fun facts, teaching trivia, games and even crafts related to the nature, math and science themes of each book. The section supports Sylvan Dell Publishing’s mission to create picture books that excite children’s imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value.

“We’re really looking for a manuscript that fits with our other picture books,” continues Mr. German. “The winning entry will be related to science or math and will fit into our 32-page format.”

“There isn’t a word limit,” Mrs. German adds, “but students should keep in mind that picture books are typically less than 1,000 *age-appropriate* words—if their manuscript is written for children ages four to eight, the subject matter and vocabulary should fit. A good way to estimate your manuscript’s reading level is to use the ‘readability statistics’ tool in Microsoft Word.”

Questions about the competition should be directed to Homeschooling Market Liaison Maggie Stuart by calling (877) 958-2600 or by e-mailing [MaggieStuart@SylvanDellPublishing.com](mailto:MaggieStuart@SylvanDellPublishing.com).

Sylvan Dell Publishing's award-winning books include "*Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too!*," "*Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean*," "*How the Moon Regained Her Shape*," "*Tudley Didn't Know*" and "*Happy Birthday to Whooo? A Baby Animal Riddle Book*." Readers can ask for Sylvan Dell titles at their library or favorite local/online bookstore. More information is also available by visiting [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com).

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## Picture Book Writing Competition *Call for Entries*

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### ***Who is Sylvan Dell Publishing?***

Sylvan Dell Publishing is a young company on a serious mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. All of our books start with fun, warm stories—generally fiction with math, science or nature themes—and are brought to life by art. We then add a 3 to 5 page "For Creative Minds" section that includes fun facts, vocabulary and games to support National Science and Math Standards. Finally, each book is carefully vetted for scientific accuracy by experts in the field including scientists and educators from NASA, SeaWorld and the Houston Zoo.

These are not textbooks in the traditional sense, but rather fun picture books that a child will want to read over and over again. We think having a child excited about a book and its subject enhances the opportunity for parents and teachers to build on that interest and to strike while the learning iron is hot.

### ***Why should I enter?***

Sylvan Dell Publishing's Picture Book Writing Competition offers homeschooled students working at a high school level a unique opportunity to explore the world of children's literature and try their hand at writing a book. The winning manuscript's author will receive a \$200 prize and the manuscript will be considered for publication.

### ***What guidelines should I follow?***

1. Like all Sylvan Dell books, manuscripts must have a science, nature or math theme.
2. Manuscripts must be written for children ages 3 to 9
3. Picture books are usually less than 1,000 words. All submissions should not exceed 1,500 words.
4. **Submissions must be received by Maggie Stuart via e-mail by May 1, 2007.**

### ***How do I submit a manuscript?***

Please e-mail manuscripts to Home School Market Liaison Maggie Stuart the text for you manuscript to the following address: [MaggieStuart@SylvanDellPublishing.com](mailto:MaggieStuart@SylvanDellPublishing.com).

**Students must include their name, date of birth and a short biography in the e-mail they use to submit their manuscript. In the subject heading of your e-mail, please write "Homeschool Contest Submission" and the title of your manuscript.**

Ms. Stuart will confirm receipt of every submission and answer questions that arise.

## Writing Competition *Frequently Asked Questions*

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### ***1. Must students be in a specific age range?***

Because Publishers Lee and Donna German homeschooled their three daughters, they understand that each child learns at his or her own pace. As a result, this competition is open to any student working at a high school level. Manuscripts will be accepted as long as the student falls into this category.

### ***2. Can students submit more than one manuscript?***

Yes, eligible students can submit more than one manuscript, but please do not send more than three.

### ***3. Does my manuscript have to be about science, nature or math?***

Sylvan Dell Publishing's current catalog contains titles in all three areas of education, but manuscripts that teach geography or any other academic subject to children ages 3 to 9 will be considered. That said, please do not send manuscripts about pets, new babies or holidays. Also, no novels or young adult books will be considered.

### ***4. Should I include a "For Creative Minds" educational section?***

While every Sylvan Dell title contains a "For Creative Minds" educational section, it is not necessary for students to submit one with their manuscript. We welcome all well-researched ideas for the section, but there is no obligation to send them. Traditionally it is the responsibility of Editor Donna German to compose the supplement.

### ***5. What are the restrictions for pagination?***

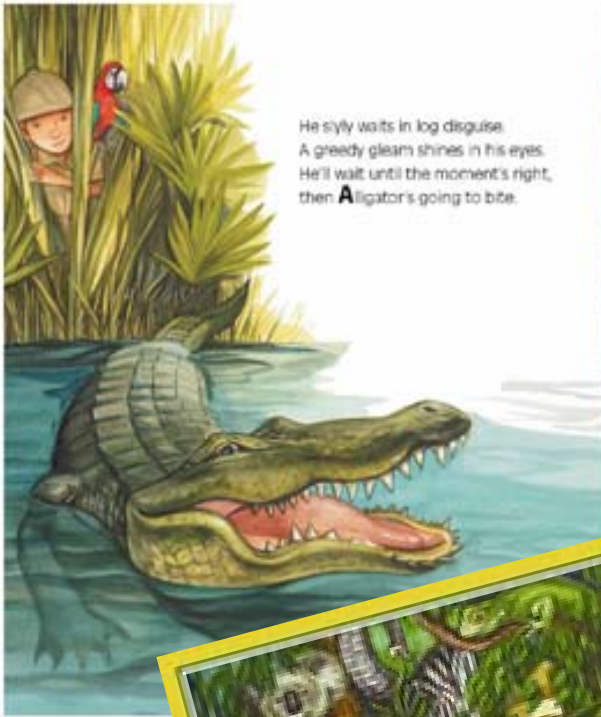
Every Sylvan Dell title is 32 pages, and that includes the title page and the three to five page "For Creative Minds" educational section. As we review manuscripts from students, we are looking to be sure that the text fits into this format. We will not require that students include page breaks in their submissions. In fact, we prefer that they don't.

### ***6. Should I include illustrations for my manuscript?***

It is standard in the industry for publishers to assign their own illustrators to every manuscript. This ensures that the artwork is drawn to scale and that the text fits proportionately within the book's layout. For this reason, Sylvan Dell Publishing asks that students do not submit any artwork with their manuscripts.

### ***7. Can I be a judge?***

Although we appreciate your interest, at this time Publishers Lee and Donna German have decided to allow the Sylvan Dell staff to review manuscript submissions in-house. Homeschooling Market Liaison Maggie Stuart will announce if the company chooses to create a panel of judges at a later date.



He slyly waits in log disguise.  
A greedy gleam shines in his eyes.  
He'll wait until the moment's right,  
then **A**lligator's going to bite.



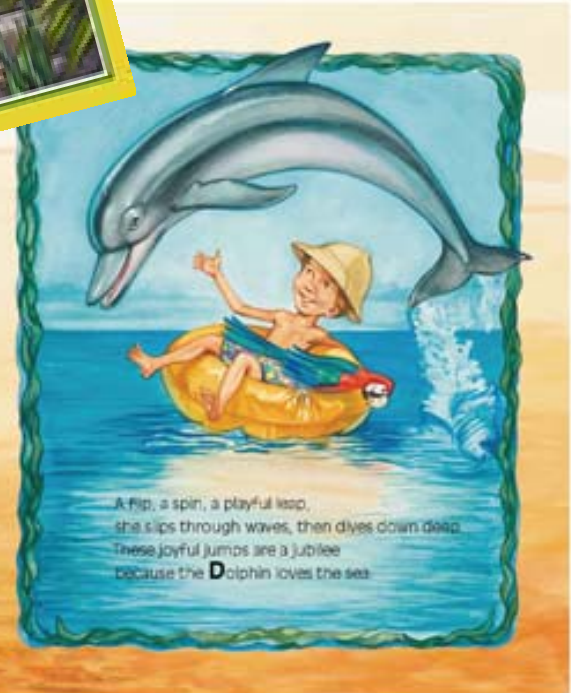
This creature loves to cut down trees—  
long teeth can handle that with ease.  
She stacks the logs into a dome  
which then becomes the **B**eaver's home.



## *Preview*



At quickest pace  
you run your race.  
But you'll be passed—  
the **C**heetah's fast.

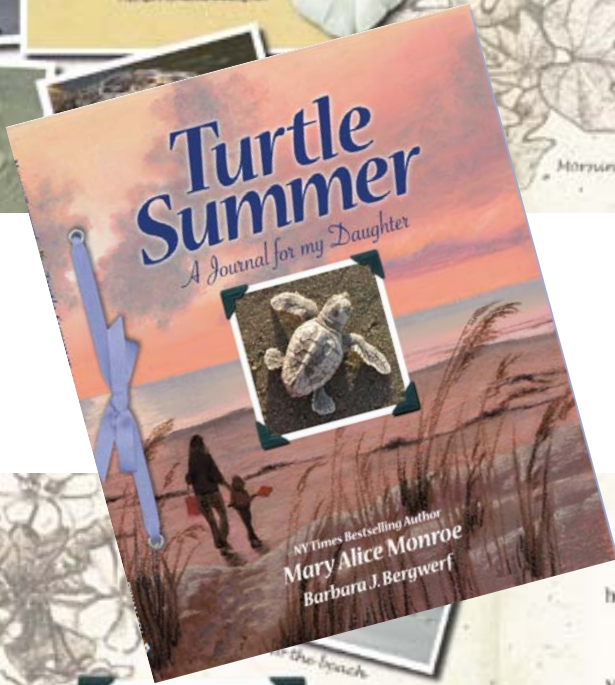


A flip, a spin, a playful leap,  
she slips through waves, then dives down deep.  
These joyful jumps are a jubilee  
because the **D**olphin loves the sea.

# ABC Safari

## “For Creative Minds” Preview





## Preview



# Turtle Summer

## “For Creative Minds” Preview

### For Creative Minds

#### Loggerhead Nesting Fun Facts

##### Field signs of a nest:

- ingot and outgoing tracks
- body pit
- thrown sand
- broken vegetation
- a departing scarp in sand where she turned

On average, the loggerhead lays four nests a summer about two weeks apart.

She lays between 80 and 150 eggs in each nest. If she lays 200 eggs in each nest and lays four nests in the summer, how many eggs will she lay?

The sea turtle lays so many eggs to make sure that some of the hatchlings will survive.

The eggs look like ping pong balls! They are leathery so they won't break when they are laid in the nest.

She doesn't lay eggs every year. She lays nests every two or three years.

After laying all of her eggs, she returns to the sea and will never see or know the hatchlings.

Female sea turtles return to the same area where they hatched to lay their eggs.

Scientists don't know how the turtles find their way "home" but think that the hatchlings "imprint" the sand and/or have a magnetic field when they walk across the beach to the ocean. It's very important for the hatchlings to "walk the walk."



If people make loud noises, shine flashlights on the beach, or try to get close to and touch the sea turtle as she comes ashore, she may turn around and leave without nesting. If you are lucky enough to see a sea turtle coming out of the ocean, be quiet and stay at a distance. Don't turn on your flashlight. Let your eyes adjust to the night light.

Sometimes ghost crabs or ants will harm the eggs in the nest.

The mother turtle or the hatchlings might have a difficult time going around sand castles or big holes dug in the sand. If you play in the sand at the beach, smooth it all out before you leave. Remember, only leave your footprints on the beach!

Sea turtles find their way to the ocean by moving toward the brightness, most open horizon, which under natural conditions is toward the ocean. Bright lights may cause the turtles to crawl the wrong way to certain death. If you are at the beach, turn off the outside lights and pull curtains down at night to keep the beach dark.

Sea turtles like to eat jellyfish and sometimes mistake floating plastic for a jellyfish. Would you get sick if you ate a plastic bag or a deflated balloon? Pick up all plastic and trash—even if you are not close to the ocean.



Directions: For easy use, these two pages may be photocopied or downloaded from the *Turtle Summer: A Journal for my Daughter* homepage at [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com) by the owner of this book.

Draw a line to match the items. Answers are upside down on the bottom of the page.

Things we need during turtle nesting season:

1. These mark the nest to let people know not to disturb it or walk on it.

2. If we have to move the nest to a better spot, we use this to hold the eggs as we move them.

3. This protects the nest from raccoons or other animals that might try to dig up the eggs. The holes are big enough for the hatchlings to get out but not for the other animals to get in.

4. If we have to move a nest, we use this to help us dig a new nest, just like the female loggerhead.

5. We use this to be able to see at night without bothering the sea turtles.



#### Shell Identification

Draw a line from the diagram below to the correct name for each object. Answers are upside down on the bottom of the page.



- 1 Pine Shell
- 2 Urn Shell
- 3 Cowrie Shell
- 4 Clam Shell
- 5 Angel Wing Shell
- 6 Whelk Shell
- 7 Nautilus Shell
- 8 Shelled Horseshoe Crab Shell
- 9 Shells' Nest

