



Ed Young

TeachingBooks Movie Transcript

Ed Young, interviewed in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York on February 7, 2005.

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My job to be in this country has been to learn as much about the West as I could and introduce the East as much as I could. So, my books are both a study of cultures and of hearts from both sides — introducing one to the other.

On *Beyond the Great Mountains*

Beyond the Great Mountains is a book to introduce not only the way the Chinese experience nature, but how the Chinese express nature by visual means.

The original design of the book was a scroll. And we all know that scrolls cannot be books. So, the closest thing to it is really an accordion format where the scroll is folded back and forth until it becomes sort of like a book.

When I created the picture of the mountain, I wanted the texture of the mountain to be rocklike, so I used bark paper. The clouds are made out of rice paper.

The book is actually meant to introduce Chinese characters by showing pictures that we recognize. The first one you see is the whole mountain, and it is being echoed by the Chinese symbol, "mountain." The character that I use in the book is a red character that is maybe designed 2,500 years ago in China. That character is recognizable in the book as a modern painting.

And then as you turn the page, "Far to the east a vast fertile plain," is where you introduce the East. You have the tree, and behind it is the sun rising — East.

Beyond the Great Mountains is a bridge so that you can actually appreciate Chinese characters by way of the modern art in the West.

On Folk Tales

Folk tales are a living art. The stories that I do in my books are my favorite stories. *Seven Blind Mice* is a book that has been attractive to me ever since I heard the story of the six blind men feeling the elephant, meaning that nobody really could know the whole truth.

I usually do a book like this [a dummy] for every book that I make. It's much easier for me to put it together, instead of making a big book, so the editor and art director can see what I have in mind.

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes is about a girl who is influenced by the atom bomb in Hiroshima; her story has been the symbol of peace since that time.

Lon Po Po is a story that I heard when I was small, but not until I came to this country and became a children's book author did it occur to me that it was a Red Riding Hood story. When you tell a story, if you have to have evil forces, you want to find the symbol for it. The wolf is used for the evil force. And after the story is told, you have to go back to them and say, "Well, you know, thank you for taking this part," and then life goes on.

On Peace

I think that real peace comes from oneself. You can put it out there. You can wear it on your shirt. You can put it on your license plate. You can stick anything on the car. But it's still not your own peace. The only peace that you can have is yourself.

Books by Ed Young

- MY MEI MEI, Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 2006
- ON TOP OF THE WORLD: A SONG FOR TENZING NORGAY (written by Robert Burleigh), Atheneum Books for Young Readers / a division of Simon & Schuster, 2006
- BEYOND THE GREAT MOUNTAINS: A VISUAL POEM ABOUT CHINA, Chronicle Books, 2005
- SHANGHAI MESSENGER (written by Andrea Cheng), Lee & Low Books, 2005
- I, DOKO: THE TALE OF A BASKET, Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 2004
- SONS OF THE DRAGON KING, THE: A CHINESE LEGEND, Atheneum Books for Young Readers / a division of Simon & Schuster, 2004
- TAI CHI MORNING: SNAPSHOTS OF CHINA (written by Nikki Grimes), Cricket Books, 2004
- WHAT ABOUT ME?, Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 2002
- MONKEY KING, HarperCollins, 2001
- DESERT SONG (written by Tony Johnston), Sierra Club Books for Children, 2000
- HUNTER, THE: A CHINESE FOLKTALE (written by Mary Casanova), Atheneum Books for Young Readers / a division of Simon & Schuster, 2000
- PUP JUST FOR ME, A / A BOY JUST FOR ME (written by Dorothea P. Seeber), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 2000
- WHITE FANG (written by Jack London), Atheneum Books for Young Readers / a division of Simon & Schuster, 2000
- LOST HORSE, THE: A CHINESE FOLKTALE, Harcourt, Inc., 1998
- GENESIS, HarperCollins, 1997
- MOUSE MATCH: A CHINESE FOLKTALE, Harcourt, Inc., 1997
- VOICES OF THE HEART, Scholastic Press, 1997
- OCTOBER SMILED BACK (written by Lisa Westberg Peters), Henry Holt and Company, 1996
- CAT AND RAT: THE LEGEND OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC, Henry Holt and Company, 1995
- DONKEY TROUBLE, Atheneum Books for Young Readers / a division of Simon & Schuster, 1995

- FIRST SONG EVER SUNG, THE (written by Laura Krauss Melmed), Puffin Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1995
- NIGHT VISITORS, Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1995
- PINOCCHIO (written by Carlo Collodi), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1995
- TURKEY GIRL: A ZUNI CINDERELLA STORY, THE (written by Penny Pollock), Little, Brown and Company, 1995
- BITTER BANANAS (written by Isaac Olaleye), Boyds Mills Press, 1994
- IBLIS (written by Shulamith Levey Oppenheim), Harcourt, Inc. 1994
- LITTLE PLUM, Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1994
- BICYCLE RIDER (written by Mary Scioscia), Harper & Row, 1993
- MOON MOTHER: A NATIVE AMERICAN CREATION TALE, HarperCollins, 1993
- READER'S COMPANION TO THE 20TH CENTURY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, THE, Houghton Mifflin, 1993
- RED THREAD, Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1993
- SADAKO (written by Eleanor Coerr), G. P. Putnam's Sons / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1993
- DREAMCATCHER (written by Audrey Osofsky), Orchard Books, 1992
- GOODBYE GEESE (written by Nancy White Carlstrom), Scholastic, 1992
- RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER, THE (written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge), Atheneum Books for Young Readers / a division of Simon & Schuster, 1992
- SEVEN BLIND MICE, Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1992
- WHAT COMES IN SPRING? (written by Barbara Savadge Horton), Alfred A. Knopf, 1992
- WHILE I SLEEP (written by Mary Calhoun), Morrow Junior Books, 1992
- ALL OF YOU WAS SINGING (written by Richard Lewis), Atheneum Books for Young Readers / a division of Simon & Schuster, 1991
- FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA, Scholastic Press, 1991
- EBLIS (written by Shulamith Oppenheim), Harcourt, Inc., 1990
- MICE ARE NICE (written by Nancy Larrick), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1990
- CHINESE MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES (written by Robert Wyndham), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1989
- HAPPY PRINCE, THE (written by Oscar Wilde), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1989
- HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS (written by Ruth Yaffe Radin), Macmillan, 1989
- LON PO PO: A RED-RIDING HOOD STORY FROM CHINA, Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1989
- VOICE OF THE GREAT BELL, THE (written by Margaret Hodges), Little, Brown and Company, 1989
- BIRCHES (written by Robert Frost), Henry Holt and Company, 1988
- CATS ARE CATS: POEMS (written by Nancy Larreck), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1988
- CHINA'S LONG MARCH: 6,000 MILES OF DANGER (written by Jean Fritz), G. P. Putnam's Sons / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1988
- HAIKU AROUND THE WORLD (written by Bill Higginson), Simon & Schuster, 1988
- IN THE NIGHT, STILL DARK (written by Richard Lewis), Atheneum Books for Young Readers / a division of Simon & Schuster, 1988
- EYES OF THE DRAGON (written by Margaret Leaf), Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1987
- I WISH I WERE A BUTTERFLY (written by James Howe), Harcourt, Inc., 1987

- WHALE SONG (written by Tony Johnston), G. P. Putnam's Sons / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1987
- WHO-PADDLED-BACKWARD-WITH-TROUT (written by Howard A. Norman), Little, Brown and Company, 1987
- FOOLISH RABBIT'S BIG MISTAKE (written by Rafe Martin), G. P. Putnam's Sons / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1985
- MOON TIGER (written by Phyllis Root), Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1985
- KING'S CHESSBOARD, THE, Dutton, 1984
- OTHER BONE, THE, Harper & Row, 1984
- DOUBLE LIFE OF POCAHONTAS, THE (written by Jean Fritz), G. P. Putnam's Sons / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1983
- UP A TREE, Harper & Row, 1983
- YEH-SHEN: A CINDERELLA STORY FROM CHINA (written by Ai-Ling Louie), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1982
- BO RABBIT SMART FOR TRUE: FOLKTALES FROM THE GULLAH (written by Priscilla Jaquith), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1981
- HIGH ON A HILL: A BOOK OF CHINESE RIDDLES, Collins, 1979
- LION AND THE MOUSE, THE: AN AESOP FABLE (written by Aesop), Doubleday, 1979
- WHITE WAVE: A CHINESE TALE (written by Diane Wolkstein), Crowell, 1979
- TALES FROM THE ARABIAN NIGHTS (written by N. J. Dawood), Doubleday, 1978
- TERRIBLE NUNG GWAMA, THE: A CHINESE FOLKTALE, Collins, 1978
- CRICKET BOY: A CHINESE TALE (written by Feenie Ziner), Doubleday, 1977
- RED LION: A TALE OF ANCIENT PERSIA, THE (written by Diane Wolkstein), Crowell, 1977
- YOUNG FU OF THE UPPER YANGTZE (written by Elizabeth Foreman Lewis), Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1973
- 8,000 STONES: A CHINESE FOLKTALE (written by Diane Wolkstein), Doubleday, 1972
- GIRL WHO LOVED THE WIND, THE (written by Jane Yolen), Crowell, 1972
- BIRD FROM THE SEA, THE (written by Renaee Karol Weiss), Crowell, 1970
- SEVENTH MANDARIN, THE (written by Jane Yolen), Macmillan, 1970
- GOLDEN SWANS, THE: A PICTURE STORY FROM THAILAND (written by Kermit Krueger), Crowell, 1969
- TINIEST SOUND, THE (written by Melvin Evans), Doubleday, 1969
- EMPEROR AND THE KITE, THE (written by Jane Yolen), Philomel Books / a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 1967
- YELLOW BOAT, THE (written by Margaret Hillert), Follett, 1966
- MEAN MOUSE AND OTHER MEAN STORIES, THE (written by Janice May Udry), Harper, 1962

Note: Bibliography created in 2005.

Many thanks to the folks at Chronicle Books, especially Chris Boral, Victoria Rock, Jo Beaton, Sara Gillingham and Cathleen Schmidt. Thanks also to Lucy Del Priore at Penguin Young Readers Group.

Thanks, as well, to Gretta Miller, Aarick Beher, Rich Matheson, MJ Baumann and all at Clotho Advanced Media, Inc for their invaluable, professional help with this production.

Of course, this entire author program occurred because of the kindness and generosity of Ed Young and his family, who shared their home, time and energy with me in order to make this production.

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