



## **TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT**

### **Winter, 2004**

*This is the newsletter for <http://www.TeachingBooks.net>, — multimedia children's literature resources "all in one place" — utilizing cutting-edge technologies to reveal to educators and families that special spirit and personality within the best in children's books.*

*TeachingBooks was founded upon the premise that educators find enjoyment and professional value in seeing and hearing authors talk about their work and sharing those presentations with children. We give you unprecedented access to front-list authors and high-quality, engaging teaching materials about books for children and teens.*

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As a hub of children's literature resources, TeachingBooks.net continually identifies, catalogs and maintains reliable links to curricular resources that help you share books in the classroom, library and home. Each issue of **TeachingBooks Spirit** highlights specific links to give you a flavor of what the site has to offer.

**TeachingBooks' Exclusive Author Up-close Program:** Stuart J. Murphy (author of the 50+ book MathStart series).

[http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec\\_athr.cgi?name=Murphy%2C%20Stuart](http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Murphy%2C%20Stuart)

Any elementary-level math teacher will love this! In this well-edited, three-minute Author Up-close movie, you'll see how visual learning / math specialist Stuart J. Murphy uses pictures, words and math to clearly demonstrate math concepts and reveals both his thought process and the physical steps involved in creating a MathStart book. Stuart J. Murphy's series of 50+ books for preschool- and elementary-level readers provides a successful teaching tool that helps change the way students learn mathematical concepts and terminology.

**TeachingBooks Author in the News:** Vera B. Williams

She is the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBYP) nominee for the 2004 Hans Christian Andersen Award. [http://www.ibby.org/Seiten/04\\_andersen.htm](http://www.ibby.org/Seiten/04_andersen.htm)  
"Every other year IBBY [International Board on Books for Young People] presents the Hans Christian Andersen Awards to an author and an illustrator, living at the time of the nomination, whose complete works have made a lasting contribution to children's literature. Often called the 'Little Nobel Prize,' the Hans Christian Andersen Award is the highest international recognition given to an author and an illustrator of children's books." – from the Hans Christian Andersen Award website.

Subscribers to TeachingBooks can enjoy a TeachingBooks exclusive Authors Up-close program with Vera B. Williams in her studio talking about her books and demonstrating her work. Go to [http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec\\_athr.cgi?name=Williams%2C%20Vera%20B](http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Williams%2C%20Vera%20B).

Gain even more insights into these award-winning authors and illustrators in our exclusive TeachingBooks Authors Up-close programs at [http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr\\_upcls.cgi](http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi)

**Additional Author Program:** Maurice Sendak

<http://www.npr.org/features/feature.php?wflid=1484744>

TeachingBooks continually identifies, catalogs and maintains reliable links to multimedia interviews with children's book creators. While TeachingBooks does not create these programs, we believe that you'll really enjoy them.

Listen to or read the transcript from this engaging October 30, 2003 conversation with Maurice Sendak on National Public Radio's Fresh Air program with Terry Gross. Maurice Sendak's new book, *Brundibar* is based on a Czech opera of the same name. (Real Media player is needed to hear this program.)

**Author's Personal Website:** [Eileen Christelow](http://www.christelow.com/)

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Eileen Christelow is the author/illustrator of numerous playful picture books, including the Five Little Monkeys and Jerome series, and her new title, *Vote!*, which uses a town's mayoral election as a model to present a lively introduction to the voting process. Look for original classroom activities, an interactive demonstration of how Eileen illustrates her stories and an extensive bibliography featuring a page on each title listing a description, where she got the idea for the book, and other background tidbits.

**Featured Activity Guide:** [Olive's Ocean](http://www.harperchildrens.com/teacher/catalog/guide_xml.asp?isbn=0060535431) by Kevin Henkes

[http://www.harperchildrens.com/teacher/catalog/guide\\_xml.asp?isbn=0060535431](http://www.harperchildrens.com/teacher/catalog/guide_xml.asp?isbn=0060535431)

Guide includes a summary, discussion questions and brief background information about the book. Henkes' most recent novel has received six starred reviews to date. Guide written by Susan Geye, Library Media Specialist, Crowley, Texas.

**Featured Award:** [The National Book Award](http://www.nationalbook.org/nba.html)

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Polly Horvath, author of *The Canning Season* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), won this year's 2003 National Book Award For Young People's Literature. Other finalists included Paul Fleischman, *Breakout*; Jim Murphy, *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*; Richard Peck, *The River Between Us*; and Jacqueline Woodson, *Locomotion*.

**Take Note:** [Cuatro Gatos](http://www.cuatrogatos.org/)

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This quality Spanish-language children's literature resource site includes bibliographies, news and links.

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We hope that these featured links from our database connect you to material that highlights the personality and spirit within the best of children's literature.

To learn more about what's happening at TeachingBooks, you can go to our News page at <http://www.teachingbooks.net/news.cgi> and read about where we've been, what we're doing and who's taken notice.

Thanks again for your interest in TeachingBooks.net, and have a warm and wonderful winter!

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**TeachingBooks Spirit** is published seasonally.