



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***TeachingBooks.net* Debuts First Online Author Pronunciation Guide**

*Authors and Illustrators Reveal Where Their Names Came From and How They Are Pronounced*

MADISON, WIS. (Jan. 25, 2007) – Ever wondered how to pronounce a favorite author’s name? Unusual names like Carl Hiaasen and E. L. Konigsburg often leave readers guessing. Thanks to a new online resource from *TeachingBooks.net*, the correct pronunciation of authors’ and illustrators’ names need be a mystery no longer. The first of its kind online, the Author Pronunciation Guide is a collection of short audio clips in which book creators reveal the true pronunciation and origin of their names.

Although text-based pronunciation guides do exist online, the Author Pronunciation Guide from *TeachingBooks.net* is the first to feature voice recordings of authors and illustrators sharing their names and recounting brief stories about them. Hearing a book creator say and explain his or her name provides readers with a unique insight into the author’s personality and background. Through the Author Pronunciation Guide, students can hear Dave Barry discuss his childhood nicknames, discover the secret of Stewart J. Murphy’s middle initial, or listen as Lois Lowry reveals the name she was born with.

“Once a student has the opportunity to connect with an author or illustrator, their impression of the book is forever changed,” said Nick Glass, founder of *TeachingBooks.net*. “By revealing the person and personality that created the book, *TeachingBooks.net* allows students to develop a personal connection that further inspires their interest in reading. The new Author Pronunciation Guide provides students with yet another way to virtually meet favorite authors and illustrators.”

The Author Pronunciation Guide proves a useful tool for educators as well, bringing award-winning authors and illustrators directly into the classroom. Florida educators participate in the Sunshine State Young Reader’s Awards Program, a statewide initiative designed to encourage students to make the reading of high-interest, contemporary literature a life-long pursuit. The program motivates students to read independently for personal satisfaction, in addition to the reading they do for academic purposes. With more than 25 authors on the 2006-07 Sunshine State Young Reader’s Book Award list, educators and students now have the chance to hear 20 of those authors simply by accessing the Author Pronunciation Guide from *TeachingBooks.net*.

MORE

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In addition to the Author Pronunciation Guide, *TeachingBooks.net* offers online access to an expanding collection of author programs, book readings, book guides, and other K-12 resources spanning thousands of titles for children and young adults, including resources for the books and authors on the Sunshine State Young Reader's Book Award list. Original author programs take students behind the scenes of their favorite books to learn first-hand how ideas, art and text come together in the creation of a book. Connecting with a book creator can instill in students a new appreciation for reading, as well as an interest in other books by the same author or illustrator.

Launched in 2003, *TeachingBooks.net* is licensed to more than 15,000 schools across the United States and Canada, encompassing over 9 million students. Districts include New York City Board of Education, Chicago Public Schools, Houston Independent School District, Oklahoma City Public Schools, Calgary Board of Education in Alberta and all schools in Wisconsin. Pricing for *TeachingBooks.net* varies depending on the number of schools per district.

For more information about *TeachingBooks.net*, or to sign up for a free 14-day trial, visit [www.teachingbooks.net](http://www.teachingbooks.net) or phone 800-596-0710.

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