



IN THIS EDITION ...

CHAPTER ONE – New Book Review Criteria
The SOAP DISH – Trends and other Wows!
The FINAL RINSE – LA, Here I Come

AUTHOR SHOWCASE Spring 2008

Leona Bodie deRosa, *children's picture book author*
Marianne Richmond, *children's picture book author & publisher*
Peter DeWitt, *children's picture book author and educational expert*

Check out the slate of authors for Summer 2008, too!

You are receiving this newsletter via E-mail because of you contacted The Reading Tub, Inc. and expressed interest in the Reading Tub™ either as someone requesting our services or as a registered reader. If you no longer wish to receive this quarterly newsletter, please [click here](#).

Welcome to The Wash Rag, a quarterly newsletter published by the Reading Tub, Inc.

CHAPTER ONE ... General Tub Stuff

Welcome to all of our new subscribers and registered readers. It's wonderful to know there are so many people interested in children's literacy and reading. We are honored that you think enough of us – and what we do – to send a book, offer a suggestion, ask us a question, or become a registered reader.

One of the ways for us to stay connected and keep ourselves on track is through surveys. Right now, we have two open surveys.

- [Survey One](#) on the Reading Tub® website helps us understand traffic patterns and needs.
- [Survey Two](#) on Scrub-a-Dub-Tub, the Reading Tub® blog focuses on reading

Together, the surveys will help us identify needs, sort priorities, and build the tools you want. If you have taken one of the surveys – *thank you!* If you haven't had a chance, we would love to have your input. It *might* take three minutes to complete.

The surveys will remain open through the end of May 2008. I'll publish the results in June on the blog. Sneak peaks at the data suggest that the input will be valuable for consumers (parents/teachers/librarians) and producers (authors/publishers) alike. Stay tuned.

Over the past few months I have been carefully scanning the bookshelves, looking at site traffic patterns, and listening to others in the field. Based on that analysis, I modified the Reading Tub® book review criteria. You can read all the [details on the Website](#), but I also included a summary version in the box on page 2.

This was a difficult decision. The Reading Tub, Inc. is a *non-profit for literacy* with a mission that is about encouraging reading. We have a responsibility to meet parents' needs for quality reading material and offer reasonable access through recognized, credible channels.

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What Happens Next ... Musings from the Tub on Reading and Literacy <http://thereadingtub.livejournal.com>

Terry [at] thereadingtub [dot] com

Reading Tub® Book Review Criteria (as revised Spring 2008)

Self-published and POD Books Self-published books must be produced by an established company (e.g., Trafford, AuthorHouse, Sourcebooks, etc.) AND be available for purchase through their site or on a major bookseller site.

Publisher Credentials The publisher must be a member in good standing with at least one of the following associations: American Booksellers Association (ABA), Children's Book Council (CBC), Publishers Marketing Association (PMA), or Small Publishers Association of North America (SPAN).

Family-Run Publishers Books by family-owned publishers are welcome if the company meets the publisher credentials above and/or produces works of more than one author/illustrator.

The Soap Dish ... Stuff We're Bubbly About

Already this year we have reviewed 130 books (as of May 15). If we keep this pace, we're headed to 500 for the year!

Please welcome **Bethany Vermillion** to the Reading Tub® as a reviewer and feature writer. Look for Beth's articles on reading and literacy. We will let Bethany introduce herself:

In junior high, I would walk from class to class with my nose in a book. Without running into anyone, I finished the whole *Babysitter's Club* series this way! I am a former sixth grade teacher and reading specialist; now I stay home to play with my one-year-old son, Jakson. I love historical fiction, starting a new book, and reading *Click, Clack, Moo* to Jakson. Aside from reading, I enjoy organizing rooms – ever read *Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room*? Awesome closet – sewing, and traveling with husband Zak.

Stop by [Bethany's blog](#) to say "hi" and catch a glimpse (or two) of Jakson.

Which teacher has the bigger influence on our kids' reading? The one who spends 900 hours in school with them or the one at home who spends 7,800 hours with them?

Paraphrase ... Jim Trelease, Read Aloud Handbook, Introduction, xv. Fifth revised Edition, 2006

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Thanks to an incredibly generous donation from Forever Young Publishers, we have 100 NEW copies of Cheri Hallwood's Award-winning book [The Curious Polka-Dot Present](#) for our *Read it Together* project.

We have expanded the *Other Reviews* section on the Website to include a box where bloggers who write reviews of children's literature can add their review. You can [read about it here](#).

Our new [Reading Round-up](#) is a weekly feature that is filled with the literacy, reading, and children's lit news you want to know about.

CLICK HERE ...

We're all starting to think about Summer Reading Lists. Little Willow has put together [some great lists](#), whether you're looking by age or by theme. Check them out.

The International Reading Association (IRA) and National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) created [readwritehink.org](#) as a resource of language-arts-related material for teachers (K to 12). [Learning beyond the Classroom](#) offers a lot of the same information -- materials, activities, books -- but it's for parents and non-teachers (such as camp counselors).

Open Call for authors, illustrators, and publishers: Establish new audiences through SpinelliMedia's new venture-5-Prong Approach-Educationally Sound-Media Based. Contact [Linda Spinelli](#)

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~ Author Showcase ~ Spring 2008 ~

Reading opens doors: the doors of our imagination, the doors of achievement, and doors of our own choosing. This showcase features three authors who understand how powerful reading can be, not only for our personal success but also for our spiritual growth and sense of self-worth.

Leona Bodie deRosa is a mother, grandmother, author, and reading advocate. It is easy to list them, but harder to distinguish them in how she lives her life. She wrote her first children's book *One is Fun* for her grandson ... and asked her mother (an accomplished artist) to illustrate it. She wants to share her passion for reading with the next generation, just as she did her own sons. Read along as [Leona Bodie de Rosa tells her story](#).

Peter DeWitt recognizes the irony of his path in life. He was a student who struggled with school (particularly reading and writing) and then became ... a teacher and published author. In his eleven years as a teacher, Peter would write stories to read with his students. His middle-grade fantasy novels were the next step in his writing career. When he's not at school or out talking with kids about his books, you are likely to catch him talking about struggling learners with parents and educators ... or thinking about that next book. Enjoy this conversation about books, reading, and learning with [Peter DeWitt](#).

Marianne Richmond sees inspiration in the daily pieces of life. Then she magically transforms them into greeting cards, storybooks, and other gift products. Through her art and writing, she reminds us that sometimes the "every day" can be the most extraordinary. [Meet Marianne Richmond](#), award-winning picture book author, illustrator, artist, and creative services consultant

The Final Rinse

As I close out this edition of the *Wash Rag*, I start packing for Book Expo America. It has been three years since we have been able to attend the event, so we are especially excited about the opportunity to say "Thanks" in person to all of you who have supported us these past few years ... and to meet some new contacts, as well. This is a great opportunity not only to see what's what with children's literature, but also to put our pitch in for the readers who need books the most: the kids who don't have books and who struggle to read. If you're going to be in Los Angeles for BEA, drop me a line so we can get together.

~ AUTHOR SHOWCASE ~ SUMMER 2008

[Hannah Stahlhut](#)
Author of [Journey to the Homeland](#),
a chapter book for Tweens

Jennifer Swanson
Author of [Penny and Rio: The Mysterious
Backyard Meeting](#)
A picture book for children in
elementary school

[Dr. Moseetta Penick Phillips-Cermak](#)
Author of [The Wishing Flower](#)
A picture book for upper
elementary children

You missed your chance for a
Summer preview!

Don't miss your chance this Fall!

There is just one spot left for the
Fall 2008 Showcase.

deadline: 30 June 2008
for a Summer 2008 preview

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