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Announcing the 3rd Annual Moonbeam Children's Book Awards Results
"Moonbeam Winners Impress Judges with Dedication to Making a Difference in Children's Lives."

(Traverse City, MI - Oct. 1, 2009) It is said that pictures speak a thousand words and that words can encourage, enrich and even heal. This year's Moonbeam Children's Book Awards have been announced, and the winning books prove these statements to be true.

Judges chose gold, silver and bronze medalists in 36 categories, covering the full range of children's book genres from picture books to poetry; holiday to health issues. The awards attracted nearly a thousand entries from throughout North America and the English-speaking world. Medals will go to authors, illustrators and publishers from 32 U.S. states, 5 Canadian provinces, and 7 countries overseas.

Two books tied for the 4-8 year old picture book gold medal, and both teach valuable life lessons: *Sofa Boy*, from Shake the Moon Books, warns about spending too much time with television and video games, while *The Tale of Rusty Horse*, from Mustard Seed Books, tells of an old mechanical rocking horse that gives up the chance to become a live pony to allow a handicapped child to continue riding him.

Another two gold medalists help children learn sign language: *Good Morning, Critter Friends*, from Sign Ware uses both illustrations and a near life-size doll to practice signing. *My Baby Can Talk: First Signs*, from Baby Hands Productions promotes teaching children signs before they are able to verbally form words.

Numerous award-winning books encourage children to be generous and compassionate, to stand up to bullies, and to believe in fulfilling their dreams. The diversity of the winning publishers proves that promoting childhood literacy knows no boundaries, as medal-winners came not only from long-established publishers and university presses, but from small presses, foundations, and self-published entrepreneurs.

"This year's Moonbeam award winners confirm that books can change children's lives," says Moonbeam Awards founder Jerrold Jenkins, father of four children ranging in ages 7 to 17. "They've already had a big impact on the judges and the kids that read them, so we know these books were created to enrich children's lives. The Moonbeams are all about rewarding these books and bringing them to the attention of parents, booksellers, librarians – and to the kids themselves."

The Moonbeam Awards are intended to bring increased recognition to exemplary children's books and their creators, and are judged by expert panels of youth educators, librarians, booksellers, and book reviewers. Award recipients receive gold, silver and bronze medals and stickers depicting a mother and child reading and silhouetted by a full moon.

Jenkins Group has been involved in book packaging, marketing and distribution since 1988, and many of its employees now have children and grandchildren who strongly influence the company culture with their youthful exuberance and love of books.

Complete contest results: <http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1315>

For more information about the Moonbeam Awards, contact Awards director Jim Barnes at jimb@bookpublishing.com or visit www.MoonbeamAwards.com

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