

ROBERT D. SAN SOUCI: A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

[Robert D. San Souci is pronounced “San Sue-see”, from the French/French-Canadian *sans souci*, meaning “without (*sans*) care (*souci*).]

I am a native of California. I was born in San Francisco, and still reside in The City by the Bay. The city will always be “home base” for me, but my travels have taken me all across the country, where I have found inspiration for many of my books: **Kate Shelley: Bound for Legend** (Iowa), **The Talking Eggs** (Louisiana), **Little Gold Star** (New Mexico), and **Cut from the Same Cloth: American Women of Myth, Legend, and Tall Tale** (representing 15 areas of the United States). Of course, I love it when a book lets me celebrate my home state – such as **Two Bear Cubs**, a retelling of the traditional Miwok story with its setting in the magnificent Yosemite Valley.

But my books – many of them retellings of traditional tales – celebrate peoples and places all around the world, from Armenia to Australia. Each, I hope, helping young readers discover how much we share in common with people around the world, while underscoring just how rich, unique, and wise many of these sometimes unfamiliar cultures are in their diverse histories and traditions. I have been lucky – since I am mainly a picture book writer who cannot do illustrations – to have been able to work with illustrators from all across the country – and others who live as far away as Moscow or Mexico City. Of course, my favorite illustrator is another California native: my brother Daniel San Souci. We have so far published twelve books together – **As Luck Would Have It** being the latest, a retelling of a tale from the Brothers Grimm.

Books were always important in my family. My parents read continually, and our house was well supplied with books of all sorts. I can remember poring over my father’s copies of Howard Pyle’s **Book of Pirates** or **Knights of the Round Table** when I could first read. Later, when I was older, I began to build my own “library” filling up shelves with books I bought from used bookstores with the monies I earned (25¢ an hour) mowing neighborhood lawns. What wonderful worlds the **Oz** books, **Stowaway to the Mushroom Planet**, **Miss Pickerel under the Sea**, **Alice in Wonderland**, **Henry Huggins**, **Black Beauty** opened up to me! I found wonderful worlds of the magically unfamiliar or the familiar made to seem magic through the words of countless writers.

Books delighted and inspired me as a child – they continue to do so! I feel privileged to be a writer – and nothing is more wonderful than to have a young reader come up to me after a presentation at a school or library and say: “I love your books. They take me places I wish I could be. They make me feel happy. They teach me things. I think I want to be a writer, too!”

As an author, I’m always trying to push my writing in new directions. **Cinderella Skeleton**, I told a fractured fairy tale in rhyme. **The Well at the End of the**

World is a humorous adventure tale based on folklore from the British Isles. **Zigzag** is an original story about a doll told for the very youngest readers and listeners, older readers who enjoy a good fright will find quite a few of them in my series **Short & Shivery**, **Dare To Be Scared**, and my newest series, **Are You Scared Yet?** I've even had the double pleasure of writing the film story for Disney's **Mulan** and publishing my original, historically grounded retelling of the classic tale, **Fa Mulan**, based on the nearly 2,000-year-old "Ballad of Mulan".

AUTHOR VISIT INFORMATION

A one-day visit includes:

Three (3) 50-minute presentations, covering:

- ⇒ **Introductory remarks** on how the author became a writer, especially working with his brother Daniel, who is a book illustrator (they have collaborated on nine books).
- ⇒ **Slides** illustrating how the author has created a variety of picture books exploring the folklore of American and many other countries and cultures, as well as a variety of historical periods.
- ⇒ Brief **question-and-answer** session with the audience.

Autographing time (if school wishes) will be separate from presentations. This can be arranged between presentations, or can be set up for after school – depending on a school's wishes.

No limit on number of students in a session. Presentations are altered to be age-specific for different grade levels.

The author is open to the possibility of brief visits to kindergartners (a.m. and p.m. classes), talking with PTA/PTO groups, a local library appearance, etc., if desired.

Note that the author is very flexible as far as daily schedule and facilities (multipurpose room, auditorium, cafeteria).

Photographing, videotaping, etc. are permitted. Parents are welcome to sit in on a session along with their youngsters. If necessary, days can even be split between nearby schools.



The only things schools need to provide are a **slide projector** (digital for PowerPoint, or carousel for hardcopy slides), a **screen**, and a **microphone** (if the group to be addressed is large enough to require same). If the physical set-up does not permit showing slides, the presentation can be adjusted accordingly (*though the slides are highly effective in getting points across and heightening student responsiveness*). If at all possible, please verify that the room can be effectively darkened at the appropriate times of day of the presentation.

While the same core slides are used, presentations are altered to suit the age groups addressed each session (usually grades 1 & 2, grades 3 & 4, and grades 5 & 6—but the school can decide how best to break down the groups). On occasion, when a single large session is preferred, the author has addressed entire student bodies at one time. The author is also willing to visit individual classes or select groups of students, if this is preferred to larger gatherings. As always, the author is happy to try and meet a school's wishes in this regard. Someone (teacher, student, parent, volunteer) sitting at the projector to advance the slides on Mr. San Souci's signal is required.

Fees: \$1,200 a day plus expenses for three 50-minute sessions (or a prearranged alternative schedule).

Travel Expenses: Airfare, lodging and meals. Travel is from San Francisco, so schools in a given area may find it helpful to bring the author in for several days, and split expenses accordingly.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPEARANCE:

Preparation: Please prepare the audience ahead of time with author's books. Also, try and publicize the event in advance with displays and classroom activities.

Supervision: Please do not leave the author alone with the audience during the presentations.

Accommodations: *If overnight stay is required, please be aware that as a policy the author stays in a hotel or motel, and not in any private residence or shared space.* Also, please be sure to keep in mind the timing of the appearance(s) in light of arrival and departure times. If the appearance is scheduled to begin in the morning, the best arrival time is on the day prior to the appearance. Accommodations need not be fancy—but an eatery within walking distance is most helpful. The author is delighted to participate in dinners or other events. There are no dietary restrictions, but he does try to follow an overall low-fat regimen. If at all possible, a *non-smoking* room is preferred.

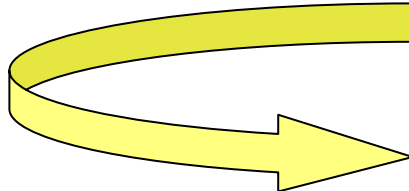
Breaks: Please schedule an ample amount of extra time around the appearance to allow for necessary breaks, such as for lunch and restroom stops. Some evenings should be free to allow for quiet time and resting the voice.


Airport Pick up: It is best to have someone meet the author to take him to the event(s)—this is especially appreciated after a long flight! Please have the person bring a copy of one of the author's books as a recognizable sign when you are meeting him at the airport.

Payment Due Date: Payment on the day of the event is preferred. But if this not possible, please notify the author ahead of time so a payment schedule can be worked out. Be sure to let the author know what is required for reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses. The author does not drive when traveling, but can find his way to or from the airport on his own (and at his own expense) as necessary. Transportation will be needed to/from hotel/school.

Flight Costs: Unless you request otherwise for accounting purposes, the author prefers to make his own flight arrangements and bill the school and conference himself. He can okay prices ahead of time with you.

Some additional background information on the author and his books is attached herewith. **For further information, please contact the author at:**





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★ ★ = Most Basic Titles ★ = Always Popular

ROBERT D. SAN SOUCI

SELECT previously published/forthcoming books:

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT: From the Brothers Grimm (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), August House, 2008 [ages 4-8] *hardcover*. ISBN-10: 0874838339 ISBN-13: 978-0874838336

THE AUGUST HOUSE BOOK OF SCARY STORIES: Spooky Tales for Telling Out Loud
Edited by Liz Parkhurst *Includes a story by Robert D. San Souci*
August House, 2009 [ages: 10 – 14] *hardcover*. ISBN-13: 978-0-87483-915-9

THE BOY AND THE GHOST: A Folktale from the American South (Illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Simon & Schuster, 1989 [AGES 4-8] *hardcover /paperback*. ISBN 0-671-67176-6 (hc) ISBN 0-671-79248-2 (paperback).

BRAVE MARGARET: An Irish Adventure (Illustrated by Sally Wern Comport), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999 [ages 5-10] *hardcover/paperback*. ISBN 0-689-81072-5 (hc) ISBN 0-689-84850-1 (Aladdin pbk.).

CENDRILLION: A Caribbean Cinderella (illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1998 [ages 5-10] *hardcover/paperback*. ISBN 0-689-80668-X (hc.) ISBN 0-689-84888-9 (Aladdin pb.).

CINDERELLA SKELETON: A Fractured Fairy Tale in Rhyme (Illustrated by David Catrow), Harcourt Brace / Silver Whistle Books, 2000 [AGES 5-10] *hardcover / paperback*. ISBN 0-15-202003-9.

CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH: American Women of Myth, Legend, and Tall Tale (Illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Philomel Books/Putnam, 1993 [AGES 8 up] *hardcover /paperback*. ISBN 0-698-11811-1.

DARE TO BE SCARED: Thirteen Stories to Chill and Thrill (Illustrated By David Ouimet), Cricket Books / Carus Publishing, 2003 [ages 8 - 12] *hardcover*. ISBN 0-8126-2688-5.

DARE TO BE SCARED 4: Thirteen More Tales of Terror (Illustrated by David Ouimet), Cricket Books / Carus Publishing, 2009 [Ages 8-14] *hardcover*. ISBN-10: 0-8126-2754-7 ISBN-13: 978-0-8126-2754-1

DOUBLE-DARE TO BE SCARED: Another Thirteen Chilling Tales (Illustrated By David Ouimet), Cricket Books / Carus Publishing, 2004 [ages 8 - 12] *hardcover*. ISBN: 0-8126-2716-4.

EVEN MORE SHORT & SHIVERY: Thirty Spine-Tingling Tales (Illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers), Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1997 [ages 8-12] *paperback*. ISBN 0-385-32639-4.

THE FAITHFUL FRIEND: A Story from the Caribbean (Illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1995 [AGES 5-10] *hardcover/paperback*. ISBN 0-02-786131-7.

FEATHERTOP: Based on the Tale by Nathaniel Hawthorne (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), Boyds Mill Press, 2006 [7 and up] *paperback*. ISBN: 1-59078-382-4

THE HIRED HAND: An African-American Folktale (Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney), Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997 [ages 5 up] *hardcover*. ISBN 0-8037-1296-0.

THE HIRED HAND: An African American Folktale (Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney), Puffin/Penguin Putnam, 2005 [all ages] *paperback*. ISBN: 0-14240-450-0

LITTLE GOLD STAR: A Spanish American Cinderella Story (Illustrated by Sergio Martinez), HarperCollins Children's Books, 2000 [AGES 5-UP] *hardcover*. ISBN: 0-688-14780-1.

LITTLE PIERRE: A Cajun Story from Louisiana (Illustrated by David Catrow), Harcourt Children's Books, Fall 2003, [ages 5-8], *hardcover*. ISBN: 0-15-202482-4.

MORE SHORT & SHIVERY: 30 More Terrifying Tales from Wold Folk Literature (Illustrated by Katherine Coville & Jacqueline Rogers), Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1994 [AGES 10-14] *paperback*. ISBN: 0385321023.

N.C. WYETH'S PILGRIMS (with N.C. Wyeth illustrations from a series painted 1941-1945). Chronicle Books for Young Readers. 1991 [AGES 6-10] *hardcover/paperback*. ISBN 0-8118-1486-6 (pb) ISBN 0-87701-806-5 (hc).

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON: Retold from the Classic Tale by Kenneth Grahame (Illustrated by John Segal), Orchard / Scholastic Books, 2004, [All ages], *hardcover*. ISBN: 0-439-45581-2.

THE SECRET OF THE STONES: An African American Folktale (Illustrated by James Ransome), Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2000 [AGES 4-8] *hardcover*. ISBN 0-8037-1640-0.

SHORT & SHIVERY: 30 Ghostly Stories Retold from World Folk Literature (Illustrated by Katherine Coville), Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1987 [AGES 10-14] *paperback*. ISBN 0-440-41804-6.

SISTER TRICKSTERS: Rollicking Tales Of Clever Females (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), August House, 2006 [ages 8-12] *hardcover*. ISBN: 0-87483-791-X

SIX FOOLISH FISHERMEN: A Cajun Story from Louisiana (Illustrated by Doug Kennedy), Hyperion Books for Children, 2000 [AGES 5-8] *hardcover*. ISBN 0-7868-0385-1.

SOOTFACE: An Ojibwa Cinderella Story (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1994 [AGES 4-8] *paperback*. ISBN 0-440-41363-X.

SUKEY AND THE MERMAID: An African American Folktale (Illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1992 [AGES 6-10] *hardcover/paperback*. ISBN: 0-02-778141-0.

THE TALKING EGGS: Adapted from a Louisiana Creole Folktale (Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney), Dial Books for Young Readers, 1989 [AGES 5-10] *hardcover*. ISBN 0-8037-0619-7.

A TERRIFYING TASTE OF SHORT & SHIVERY: Thirty Creepy Tales (Illustrated by Lenny Wooden), Delacorte Press, 1998 [ages 8-12] *paperback*. ISBN 0-385-32635-1.

TRIPLE-DARE TO BE SCARED: Thirteen Further Freaky Tales (Illustrated by David Ouimet), Cricket Books / Carus Publishing, 2007 [Ages 9-13] *hardcover*. ISBN-10: 0812627490
ISBN-13: 978-0812627497

THE TWINS AND THE BIRD OF DARKNESS: A Hero Tale from the Caribbean (Illustrated by Terry Widener), Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002, [ages 5-10], *hardcover*. ISBN: 0-689-83343-1.

TWO BEAR CUBS: A Miwok Legend from California's Yosemite Valley (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), Yosemite Association, 1997 [ages 4-9] *hardcover*. ISBN 0-939666-87-1. Order book from Heyday Books, P.O. Box 9145, Berkeley, CA 94709. Phone: 510.549.3564 FAX: 510.549.1889 Website: www.heydaybooks.com

THE WELL AT THE END OF THE WORLD (Illustrated by Rebecca Walsh) Chronicle Books, 2004, [ages 5-8], *hardcover*. ISBN 1-58717-212-7.

ZIGZAG: THE STORY OF A DOLL WHO FOUND HAPPINESS (Illustrated by Stefan Czernecki), August House, 2005 [ages 4-8] *hardcover*. ISBN: 0-87483-764-2.

THE NEWEST RELEASES

ROBIN HOOD AND THE GOLDEN ARROW (Illustrated by E. B. Lewis), Orchard / Scholastic, 2010 [ages 4-8] *hardcover*. ISBN -13: 978-0439625388 ISBN -10: 0439625386

HAUNTED HOUSES (ARE YOU SCARED YET? Series) (Illustrated by Kelly Murphy and Antoine Revoy), Christy Ottaviano Books / Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, 2010 [ages 9-12] *hardcover*. ISBN: 978-0-8050-8750-5

Award for Body of Work

★ 2005 Marcus Foster Memorial Reading Award, for outstanding contribution to advancement in reading in California, awarded by the California Reading Association.

Awards for Individual Books

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT: From the Brothers Grimm (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), 2008

- ★ National Parenting Publication Award: Gold Winner 2008
- ★ Selected for inclusion on Elementary School List of California Collections.

LEGEND OF SCARFACE (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), Doubleday, 1978

- ★ The New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books of the Year
- ★ 1978 Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1991

- ★ National Council of Social Studies: Children's Book Council
- ★ Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies

THE SAMURAI'S DAUGHTER (Illustrated by Stephen Johnson), Dial, 1992

- ★ 1992 National Council of Social Studies: Children's Book Council
- ★ 1992 Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies

SOOTFACE (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1994

- ★ 1994 National Council of Social Studies: Children's Book Council
- ★ 1994 Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies

THE TALKING EGGS (Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney), Dial, 1989

- ★ 1990 Caldecott Honor Book
- ★ 1990 Coretta Scott King Honor Book
- ★ 1989 Irma Simonton Black Book Award (Bank Street College of Education)
- ★ 1989 Parents' Choice Silver Honor for Picture Books
- ★ 1989 ALA Notable Book
- ★ 1991-92 Volunteer State Book Award (Tennessee)
- ★ 1991 Colorado Children's Book Award
- ★ 1992 Nebraska Golden Sower Award
- ★ 1993 Virginia Young Readers Award (Primary Level)
- ★ 1993 Georgia Children's Book Award

THE BOY AND THE GHOST (Illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Simon & Schuster, 1989

- ★ 1990 Parents' Choice Silver Honor for Picture Books

SUKEY AND THE MERMAID (Illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Simon & Schuster, 1992

- ★ 1992 Coretta Scott King Honor Book
- ★ International Reading Association Teacher's Choice for 1993
- ★ Parenting Magazine 1992 "Reading Magic" Award
- ★ 1992 ALA Notable Book for Children
- ★ School Library Journal "Best Books of 1992"
- ★ South Carolina Children's Book Award for 1994-95
- ★ Shawnee Readers' Award from The Missouri Association of School Librarians for 1995

CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH (Illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Philomel/Putnam, 1993

- ★ 1993 Aesop Award (The Children's Folklore Section of the American Folklore Society)

THE FAITHFUL FRIEND (Illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Simon & Schuster, 1995

- ★ 1996 Caldecott Honor Book

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**AWARDS
AND
HONORS**

- ★ 1996 Coretta Scott King Honor Book
- ★ 1996 Commonwealth Club of California Silver Medal for Juvenile (to age 10)
- ★ 1996 ALA Notable Book
- ★ 1996 Children's Booksellers Choice

KATE SHELLEY (Illustrated by Max Ginsburg), Dial, 1995
 ★ 1997 Jefferson Cup Award, Honor Book (Virginia Library Association)

THE HIRED HAND (Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney), Dial, 1997
 ★ 1997 Aesop Award (The Children's Folklore Section of the American Folklore Society)
 ★ 1998 Commonwealth Club of California Silver Medal for Juvenile (to age 10)

CENDRILLON (Illustrated by Brian Pinkney), Simon & Schuster, 1998
 ★ 1998 Americas Award Honorable Mention (the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs [CLASP])
 ★ 1999 ALA Notable Book for Children
 ★ 1999 A *Booklist* Editors' Choice

FA MULAN (Illustrated by Jean & Mou-Sien Tseng), Hyperion, 1998
 ★ 1999 Notable Book for a Global Society (The Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association)
 ★ Honor Book -- 1999 *Storytelling World* Awards Committee

BRAVE MARGARET (Illustrated by Sally Wern Comport), Simon & Schuster, 1999
 ★ A Bank Street College Book of the Year for 1999

THE SECRET OF THE STONES (Illustrated by James Ransome), Phyllis Fogelman Books / Penguin Putnam, 2000
 ★ 2001 Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
 ★ Finalist – PEN USA West 2001 Literary Awards
 ★ A Selection of the California Readers: 2005 California Collections (Elementary & Middle School)

CALLIE ANN AND MISTAH BEAR (Illustrated by Don Daily), Dial, 2000
 ★ 2001 Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
 ★ 2001 Missouri Reading Circle Selection (Missouri State Reading Association)

TWO BEAR CUBS (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), Yosemite Association, 1997
 ★ Best Children's Book of 1997 -- Northern California Independent Booksellers.
 ★ Best Bets of 1997 -- Picture Books Category – San Francisco Chronicle

PETER AND THE BLUE WITCH BABY (Illustrated by Alexi Natchev), Bantam Doubleday Dell/Random House, 2000
 ★ Honor Book – 2001 *Storytelling World* Awards Committee

DARE TO BE SCARED (Illustrated by David Ouimet), Cricket Books / Carus Publishing, 2004
 ★ An IRA (International Reading Association) Children's Choice for 2004

LITTLE PIERRE: A CAJUN STORY FROM LOUISIANA (Illustrated by David Catrow), Harcourt / Silver Whistle Books, 2003
 ★ 2005 Honor Book Award from the Society of School Librarians International

SISTER TRICKSTERS: ROLICKING TALES OF CLEVER FEMALES (Illustrated by Daniel San Souci), August House, 2006
 ★ 2006 National Parenting Publications Awards (NAPPA) Honor Award Winner
 ★ *Storytelling World* Honor Award (Storytelling Collections), 2006
 ★ Selected for the "100 Best Children's Books of the Year" in the *Winner's Handbook* by Judy Freeman, 2006
 ★ The 2007 *Storytelling World* Resource Awards: Storytelling Collections Honors