

The Loreen Leedy News

February, 2008

Greetings to all children's book lovers! Hope it's not too cold where you are. It's been ten months since my last newsletter, so here's an update.

Newest Picture Book

- *Missing Math: A Number Mystery* is due to be released soon by Marshall Cavendish. Would you miss math and numbers if they disappeared? If you're looking for a book to help kids become aware of and appreciate math in their world, this is the one. It tells the story of a town where all the numbers suddenly vanish one day. The characters can't even remember what a number is any more! No one can count, add or subtract, tell time, keep score, or measure anything... life gets very difficult right away. Fortunately there is a persistent cat detective on the case to tackle the mystery of the missing numbers. Written in verse, here is an excerpt:

*Our piggy banks are full of coins
to spend on something nice.
But money has no value now,
and nothing has a price.*

*We can't send mail or packages
by truck or boat or air.
Without the right address and stamp,
they can't go anywhere.*

A preview video of *Missing Math* is available on my web site by clicking on its jacket on my home page: www.LoreenLeedy.com.

The ISBN is 978-0-7614-5385-7.

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Nonfiction Blog

- I've been invited to be a regular contributor to a children's book blog, titled I.N.K. (Interesting Nonfiction for Kids):
<http://inkrethink.blogspot.com/>

On the third Wednesday of the month, a post from me will appear. The article I posted yesterday is titled **Should Humans Go to Mars?** Right now it's near the top, but if you can't see it on the first page, check in the list of February blog archives along the side. It's about *Messages From Mars*, the book I collaborated on with my husband Andrew Schuerger. Please leave a comment if you like, it seems to be the in thing.

You can click through a “minibook” preview of all the pages of *Messages From Mars* on the I.N.K. blog, or at this link:

<http://www.loreenleedy.com/pages/mini-mars.html>

More Book Previews

To see larger preview versions of eight of my books, go to this site:

www.lookybook.com

Enter “Leedy” in the search box, then click on the book covers to see the inside pages. There are hundreds of other picture books available on the Lookybook—it's a great way to find out what a book is really like so you can buy it or request it from the library. All of my minibook previews are also available on my web site.

Just click on the book jackets on the home page:

www.loreenleedy.com

Coming Next Fall

I've been as busy as a bee and recently finished the final artwork for *Crazy Like a Fox: A Simile Story*, which will be released on the fall list by Holiday House. This is a fun read-aloud because the entire story is told with similes, and when a character is

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compared to something, he or she is transformed to look like it! So when Rufus the fox is sleeping like a log, he looks like one. He provokes Babette the sheep with his weird behavior such as sneaking up behind her and roaring like a lion! Could there be a reason that Rufus is acting crazy like a fox? Look for it at upcoming conventions—everyone who sees it giggles like a schoolgirl. I'll make a preview video closer to its release date.

Books in Progress

I have several ideas in various stages of development, but am not sure which one will end up being the next book. Guess it's time to decide, eh? Your suggestions are always welcome for books that might be the right subject matter for me.

Happy reading, teaching, writing, and illustrating to you all!

Loreen