

CYRM Resource Book
Picture Books for Older Readers
(Grade 4 and up)
Nominees 2007-2008

Basho and the River Stones

by Tim Myers

illustrated by Oki S. Han

Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

Dad, Jackie, and Me

by Myron Uhlberg

illustrated by Colin Bootman

Peachtree Publishers, 2005.

Mr. Maxwell's Mouse

by Frank Asch

illustrated by Devin Asch

Kids Can Press, 2004.



California Young Reader Medal
**Picture Books for Older
Readers Ballot**
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Stones*

_____ *Dad, Jackie, and Me*

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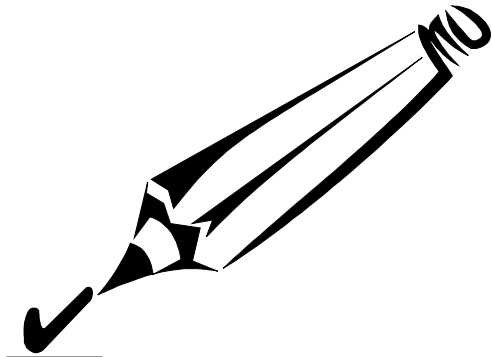
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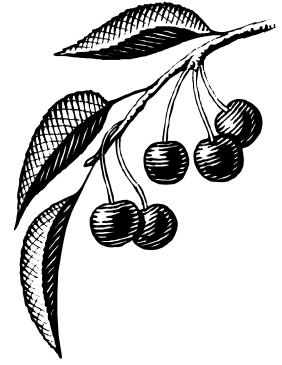
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Basho and the River Stones

by Tim Myers

illustrated by Oki S. Han



Synopsis

Although the poor poet Basho has always shared the cherries from his tree with the local foxes, a greedy young fox decides to play a trick on Basho. Magically he transforms himself into a monk and turns three river stones into gold coins. In exchange for the coins, the monk has Basho sign a paper giving all the cherries to the foxes. Knowing that the magic will have worn off, the fox is surprised by the warm greeting he gets the next morning. Basho explains that a fox must have tricked the visiting monk because the coins had turned into river stones so beautiful that they inspired a poem. To repay Basho for teaching him that many things are more valuable than gold, the fox asks Basho to tear up the paper he had signed. When Basho says it would be dishonorable to do so, the fox offers three real gold coins as payment for the cherries. Basho replies that his honor will not allow him to accept charity. As he walks along the bank of the river, the fox, still feeling ashamed, spies some beautiful stones. Now he knows what to do. He returns to Basho's hut with a gift of a small bag containing three stones and exacts a promise to keep the gift. The next morning Basho sees three gold coins on the table where he'd left the stones. He realizes that the fox had tricked him again. The fox also has left a note thanking Basho for promising to keep the gift and a haiku: "*I've eaten cherries alone —/ but they're much sweeter/ when shared with a friend.*" And so from then on, Basho and the foxes share the cherries.



Hooks

- In Japanese folklore, the fox is frequently the trickster. What is a trickster? What animals are usually tricksters in folktales?
- *Haiku* is a short Japanese poem of three lines and 17 syllables. Matsuo Basho was a famous 17th century Japanese poet. As you read the story, listen for how the characters are inspired by the simple beauty of river stones to write a *haiku*.

Basho and the River Stones

Meet the Author—Tim Myers



Tim Myers is a writer, songwriter, and storyteller. He has been a professional storyteller for 25 years. He is the oldest of eleven children, and can actually whistle and hum at the same time. His hobbies and other interests include music, sports, hiking, visual art, spirituality, traveling, and comedy. Mr. Myers has placed numerous pieces with top children's magazines such as *Cricket*, *Cobblestone*, and *Highlights*. He has won a national poetry contest and has an adult poetry chapter book coming out. In high school, he played football, and worked as a grocery bagger before going off to college. He and his wife have lived in Norway and London before moving to Japan where they lived for three years. They currently live and teach in Santa Clara, California.

To read more about Tim Myers and a list of his children's books, visit:

http://scbwino.ca.org/bios/indivauthuillus/Author_Tim_Myers_a.htm
or *Something About the Author*, Volume 147, pages 167-168, Gale.



Meet the Illustrator—Oki S. Han

A graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology and the School of Visual Arts in New York, Ms. Han also studied Western Painting at Ewha's Women's University. Ms. Han was born in Seoul, South Korea, where she currently lives with her family. Ms. Han is currently an artist and teacher of illustration and design.

She also illustrated *Basho and the Fox*, and *Kongi and Porgi: A Cinderella Story from Korea*.

For additional information, contact Ms. Han's publisher, the Marshall Cavendish Corp.

Connections for *Basho and the River Stones*



Japanese Haiku & History

The Essential Haiku: Versions of Basho, Buson, and Issa. Verse translations by Robert Hass. Ecco Press, 1994.

Myers, Tim. *Basho And The Fox.* Illustrated by Oki S. Han. Marshall Cavendish, 2000.
Spivak, Dawnine. *Grass Sandals: The Travels Of Basho.* Illustrated by Demi. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1997.

Ward, Helen. *The Rooster And The Fox.* Carolrhoda, 2002.

Haiku

Aylesworth, Jim. *The Tale Of Tricky Fox: A New England Tricksters Tale.* Illustrated by Barbara McClintock. Scholastic Press, 2001.

Chaikin Miriam. *Don't Step On The Sky: A Handful Of Haiku.* Illustrated by Hiroe Nakata. Holt, 2002.

Gollub, Matthew. *Cool Melons – Turn To Frogs! : The Life and Poems Of Issa.* Illustrated by Kazuko G. Stone; calligraphy by Keiko Smith. Lee & Low Books, 1998.

Janeczko, Paul B. *Wing Nuts: A Screwy Haiku.* Illustrated by Tricia Tusa. Little, Brown, 2006.

Mannis, Celeste Davidson. *One Leaf Rides The Wind: Counting In A Japanese Garden.* Illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung. Viking, 2002.

Prelutsky, Jack. *If Not for the Cat.* Illustrated by Ted Rand. Greenwillow Books, 2004.

Novels Related To Japan Or Poetry

Creech, Sharon. *Love That Dog.* HarperTrophy, 2001.

Scieszka, Jon. *Sam Samurai.* Illustrated by Adam McCauley. Puffin Books, 2006.



Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *Basho and the River Stones*



- This book was dedicated to one of the most famous Japanese Haiku poets, Matsuo Basho. A haiku poem is usually about nature, one that depicts tiny images of incredible beauty, something glorious that might be missed if the writer had not taken the time to point it out. A haiku is a short poem of three lines and seventeen syllables. The first line consists of 5 syllables, second line 7 syllables, and third line 5 syllables. Think about something beautiful in nature and write a haiku.
- In the story, the fox wrote a haiku for Basho. In it he says he has eaten cherries alone but they taste much sweeter when shared with a friend. Often, sharing something with a friend is better than having it all to yourself. Write about a time you shared something with a friend and what made it special for the both of you.
- When fox goes to check on Basho after he tricked him, the fox is surprised to see Basho is happy. He learns Basho is not mad and decides to confess to Basho. The fox tells Basho he had forgotten that “many things are more valuable than gold.” Write about some of the things in your life that are of more value than gold and of what importance they are to you.
- Basho believes it is important to be honest and keep your promises. Many people believe there are certain qualities they must possess such as honesty, loyalty, perseverance, etc. Choose one quality you believe you should possess. Why do you believe this and how did you come to this belief?

Dad, Jackie, and Me

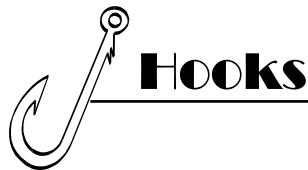
by Myron Uhlberg

illustrated by Colin Bootman



Synopsis

It is 1947, and the Brooklyn Dodgers have acquired Jackie Robinson. When his father, who has never shown any interest in baseball, brings home a pair of tickets to a game against the Giants at Ebbets Field and says he wants to meet Jackie Robinson, the narrator, an avid Dodger fan, is thrilled. At the game, the boy is embarrassed, however, when his father joins in with the fans' shouts of "Jackiee, Jackiee, Jackiee!" His father is deaf so his cheering comes out as "AH-GHEE, AH-GHEE, AH-GHEE!" Throughout, the boy teaches his father about baseball and Jackie Robinson, and tries unsuccessfully to teach him to catch. As they attend more games during the season it becomes clear to the boy that his father identifies with the black first baseman: both are subject to prejudice and discrimination. In the final game of the season, Jackie Robinson catches a line drive hit down the first base line, making the last out of the game. As the fans cheer, Jackie turns to the stands and throws the ball right to the boy's father, who does something he has never done before. He catches the ball in his bare hands.



Hooks

- Let's take a look at the three characters named in the title and pictured on the front cover. The "Me" is the young boy who narrates the story, "Dad" is the boy's deaf father and "Jackie" is Jackie Robinson. The boy and his dad are holding tickets for a Brooklyn Dodgers game at Ebbets Field in 1947. That year, Jackie Robinson became the first African-American player in major league baseball.
- Name some famous sports figures who might not be playing today if the race barrier hadn't been broken.
- In 2006, *Dad, Jackie, and Me* won the prestigious Schneider Family Book Award, which honors a book that portrays some aspect of living with a disability or that of a family member or friend. Although *Dad, Jackie, and Me* is a work of fiction, parts of it are based in truth. Myron Uhlberg's father was deaf. His family did live in Brooklyn in the 1940s, and Myron and his father were avid fans of Jackie Robinson and the Dodgers.
- Have you been to a professional baseball game? Can you describe the excitement? How would it be different if you were deaf?

Meet the Author—Myron Uhlberg



Myron Uhlberg is the author on *Dad, Jackie, and Me*, *Mad Dog McGraw*, and *Lemuel the Fool*, among other books. He is the son of deaf parents. He was taught a passion for reading, writing, and communication by using the written word, the spoken word, and American Sign Language. Mr. Uhlberg draws deeply from his personal experiences when writing, and inspires students to overcome challenges and break down barriers. *Dad, Jackie, and Me* is based on the summer of 1947, when he and his father cheered Jackie Robinson from the bleachers. Mr. Uhlberg sees writing as a way to relive his childhood. He hopes to help children discover “the magic of words” as his parents did years ago. A former college football player and retired businessman, Mr. Uhlberg lives in Palm Springs and San Diego with his wife. They have three children and two grandchildren.

Further information on Mr. Uhlberg may be obtained from his publisher – Peachtree Publishers.



Meet the Illustrator—Colin Bootman

Colin Bootman was born in Trinidad, where he spent the first seven years of his life before moving to the United States. He says finding his first comic book was the life changing experience that marked the beginning of his career as an artist. In college, Mr. Bootman studied photography, writing, and illustration. His first book – *Young Frederick Douglass* – was published in 1994 and is still in print. Mr. Bootman has illustrated many children’s books, textbooks, periodicals, and book covers. He has worked for several publishers, and enjoys teaching art and portfolio classes to both middle school and high school students in various after school programs. He hopes to encourage young minds to embrace their passions. Mr. Bootman currently lives in Brooklyn, New York.

You may visit his webpage at:
<http://www.colinbootman.net/>



Baseball/Sports

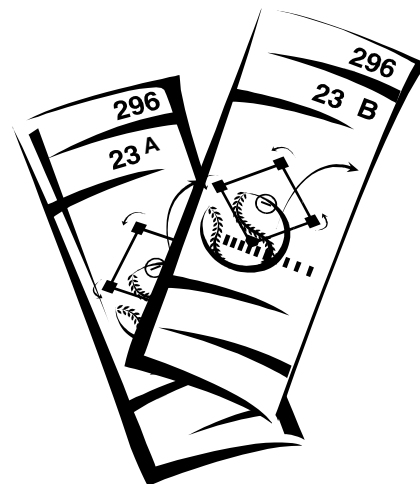
- Adler, David A. *The Babe & I*. Illustrated by Terry Widener. Avon Books, 2000.
- Bildner, Phil. *The Greatest Game Ever Played: A Football Story*. Illustrated by Zachary Pullen. Putnam, 2006.
- Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*. Designed and illustrated by Paul Bacon. Harcourt Brace, 1990.
- Lorbiecki, Marybeth. *Jackie's Bat*. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006.

Deafness & Sign Language

- Gabriel, Grayson. *Talking With Your Hands, Listening With Your Eyes: A Complete Photographic Guide To American Sign Language*. Square One Publishers, 2003.
- Lowenstein, Felicia. *All About Sign Language: Talking With Your Hands*. Enslow Publishers, 2004.
- Uhlberg, Myron. *The Printer*. Illustrated by Henri Sorensen. Peachtree, 2003.

Fathers And Sons

- Coy, John. *Night Driving*. Illustrated by Peter McCarty. Henry Holt, 1996.
- Creech, Sharon. *Fishing In The Air*. Illustrated by Chris Raschka. Joanna Cotler Books, 2000.
- Curtis, Gavin. *The Bat Boy & His Violin*. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Aladdin Paperbacks, 2001.



Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for

Dad, Jackie, and Me



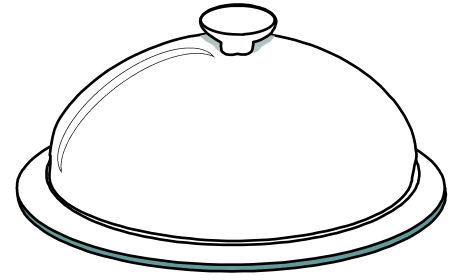
- Have you ever wanted to go somewhere so badly you were in awe the moment it happened? Write about a time this happened to you. Why did you want to go there or do this thing? What was so special about it? Describe how you felt and reacted once you got there or experienced it.
- In the story, the dad wants to follow Jackie Robinson's rise to fame because he can identify with him. The dad knows what it feels like to be discriminated against and believes Jackie, like him, can be strong and overcome discrimination. Write about a time you were able to identify with someone who is similar to you. In what way did you identify with this person and what did you do as a result?
- The boy loves baseball and he and his dad share special times together because of his love for baseball. What is something you and your dad or mom do together? How is it special for the two of you and what memories will you keep from your time together?
- In the book, the boy and his dad kept a scrapbook of articles about Jackie Robinson from the *New York Daily News*. Research Jackie's career in the library or on the internet and make a scrapbook of the highlights.
- The author's father was deaf and worked to overcome the thoughtless prejudice of hearing people. In the book Jackie Robinson was treated badly by the opposing teams because of the color of his skin. Write about a time you experienced the cruelty of prejudice.
- In the book, a player on the opposing team purposely spiked Jackie in the leg. Why do you think he didn't react?



Mr. Maxwell's Mouse

by Frank Asch

illustrated by Devin Asch



Synopsis

To celebrate his promotion to Vice Manager of Efficiency Control at Taylor, Bentwell and Nipson, Mr. Howard Maxwell, a cat, decides to treat himself to something special at the Paw and Claw restaurant. Instead of his usual lunch of baked mouse, Mr. Maxwell orders raw mouse. His entrée arrives “stretched out on a single slice of rye toast as if on a sandy beach.” The mouse is not only fresh and healthy, but also polite and talkative. What follows is a cat-and-mouse tête-à-tête, with Mr. Maxwell getting increasingly frustrated by the chatty mouse’s stalling tactics, which include a lengthy prayer before dying and a debate over what wine should have been ordered. Finally, Mr. Maxwell, following the mouse’s helpful hints on how to overcome his nervousness about putting knife to mouse, uses his napkin as a blindfold and thrusts his knife and fork down onto his plate. “EEEEEOOOOOOOOOOWWW!” The resourceful mouse has jumped off the plate and draped Mr. Maxwell’s tail across the slice of toast. The mouse escapes from the table and, in the chaos that ensues, releases all of the mice in the pantry. As mice scatter in every direction, an ambulance arrives to take Mr. Maxwell to the emergency room. Soon after, hospitalized Mr. Maxwell receives an ever-so-politely-worded get well note from “Your friend from the Paw and Claw.”

Hooks

- Fraternize means to be friendly with. With whom do you fraternize?
- Do you know anyone who is a vegetarian? Why might some people choose to be a vegetarian?
- Did your mother ever tell you not to play with your food? *Mr. Maxwell's Mouse* is a cautionary tale about what happens to a cat who recalls but does not heed his mother's advice not to fraternize with his food. Why do you think grown-ups don't want you to play with your food?
- We know cats kill and eat mice. It may not be a particularly pleasant thing to think about, but we accept it as natural. What if a story took place in a fancy restaurant with a cat diner and a mouse who is the cat's entrée? Definitely not a natural situation, but it is just what happens in the delightfully gruesome, slightly horrific, and deliciously funny, *Mr. Maxwell's Mouse*.

Meet the Author—Frank Asch



Frank Asch was born and raised in New Jersey. His family lived on a country road across from his grandfather, who had a small farm with cows and chickens. He has traveled widely in the U.S. and overseas. Mr. Asch and his wife now live in Vermont with their dog. Though he is known mainly for his Moonbear series, Mr. Asch has written and illustrated nearly sixty children's books, including picture books, poetry, and novels.

Besides writing and illustrating books, Mr. Asch enjoys working with children and adults. These days, he loves to go outdoors to chop wood, play with kids, or fly a kite. Mr. Asch is busy with several projects at once, a picture book, two chapter books, and a play. He and his wife now spend five months of the year in Hawaii!

For more information about Frank Asch and his books, see:

Something About the Author, Volume 102, pages 17-22, Gale, or visit his Web site at: www.frankasch.com.



Meet the Illustrator—Devin Asch

Frank and Devin Asch are a father-son team. Devin began his involvement in the illustration of Mr. Asch's stories with *Moonbear's Pet*, in which he first introduced the use of the computer for the colorization of the art work. Devin made his picture book debut with the father/son collaboration, *Baby Duck's New Friend*.

Devin Asch lives in Los Angeles.

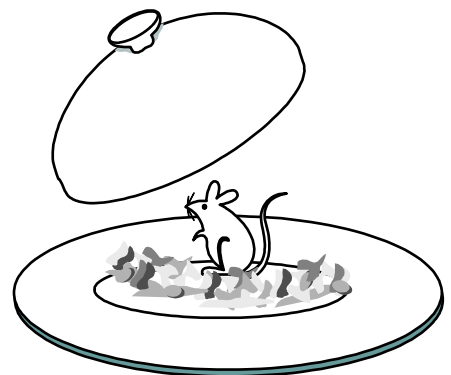


Cats & Dogs

- Appelt, Kathi. *The Alley Cat's Meow*. Harcourt, 2002.
- Day, Alexandra. *Frank and Ernest*. Scholastic Inc., 1988.
- Kirk, Daniel. *Rex Tabby, Cat Detective*. Scholastic, 2004.
- Kitamura, Satoshi. *Comic Adventures of Boots*. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2002.
- Laden, Nina. *The Night I Followed The Dog*. Chronicle Books, 1994.
- London, Jonathan. *Hip Cat*. Illustrated by Woodleigh Hubbard. Chronicle Books, 1993.
- Pilkey, Dav. *Kat Kong : Starring Flash, Rabies And Dwayne And Introducing Blueberry As The Monster*. Harcourt, 1993.

Food & Restaurants

- Cox, Judy. *Rabbit Pirates: A Tale Of The Spinach Main*. Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Browndeer Press/Harcourt Brace, 1999.
- Rylant, Cynthia. *The Van Gogh Café*. Harcourt, 1995.
- Waber, Bernard. *Fast Food! Gulp! Gulp!* Houghton Mifflin, 2001.



Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for

Mr. Maxwell's Mouse



- Mr. Maxwell's mother advised him not to fraternize with his food. If he had taken her advice how might the story be different?
- Can you remember a time that you were given some advice that you didn't take and later wished you had? What advice were you given and how would it have affected your life?
- In the story, it says that Mr. Maxwell's mouse has never been recaptured but there have been rumors linking him to other daring mouse escapes. Write a story about one of the mouse's adventures after his escape.
- The mouse played a trick on Mr. Maxwell to aid in his escape. Write how you feel about the mouse putting Mr. Maxwell's tail on the plate. Are you glad that the mouse escaped being eaten or do you feel bad for Mr. Maxwell being tricked? Why? What would you have done if you were the mouse?
- Pretend you are about to eat something that speaks to you. Continue the dialog:
Food: Are you sure you want to eat me? I might upset your digestion.
You:

