

# Book Banter

Winter 2006

Here's a simply must-have!—and perhaps the most inspirational book of 2005—**Dream: A Tale of Wonder, Wisdom & Wishes** (TCP Press, '04-05) by Susan V. Bosak.

**Dream** is a book for all ages. A traveler opens a chest and releases a star that begins this voyage of wonder. A young baby whose cozy little world is yellow, the color of the sun, invites the reader to 'Dream a Dream with Me.' The baby becomes a toddler, with 'rip-roaring red' his favorite color, and his invitation still stands: 'Dream a Dream with Me.' The story ends with the old star encouraging the readers to pursue their own dreams.

Fifteen artists from around the world collaborated to illustrate this extraordinary book. Thirteen pithy quotes complement the art on each page. Langston Hughes, for example: "Hold fast to dreams / For if dreams die / Life is a broken-winged bird / That cannot fly." This poem prefigures the book's final entreaty: "Dream A Dream With Me, And All That Comes After...."

There's more: Readers can visit Susan Bosak and her educational initiative "exploring life, living, and making a difference at all ages" at—  
[www.legacyproject.org](http://www.legacyproject.org). Take the time for a visit to this marvelous site. It contains great information along with many rich ideas for book extensions.



Can you tell we *loved* this book?

Celebrate the good things in life with Marlo Thomas's book **Thanks and Giving All Year Long** (Simon and Shuster, '04). This is an inspiring collection of short stories, poems and songs to warm the heart, and teach many lessons. Several of the stories can lead to great discussions involving character education. They teach lessons of respect, generosity and appreciation of the beauty in others. Some tales are humorous and teach their lesson through a "despicable" character, while still others tug gently at the reader's emotions.

An impressive group of well-known contributors came together to produce this book, with all royalties going to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The book includes songs from Hilary Duff, Kevin Bacon and Tom Chapin, and poems by Jeff Moss, Shel Silverstein and Kate DiCamillo. Short stories written by Tiger Woods, Gail Carson Levine, Avi, and Ray Romano are also in the collection. First-rank illustrators such as Eric Carle, Maurice Sendak and Jerry Pinkney help bring the stories to life. This is a wonderful collaboration, with an excellent end-result, and all to support a great cause. But even besides that, the literature in this collection is uniformly good and can serve a variety of classroom uses—from imparting thought-provoking humanistic lessons to serving as springboard for extended discussions.

*Royalties benefit St.  
Jude Children's  
Hospital*

Marian Wright Edelman is the founder of the Children's Defense Fund and is the author of several books for children. In her newest **I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children** (Harper Collins, '05) Ms. Edelman identifies twelve essential ways that children can make a positive influence in their own lives and those around them. She includes quotes, stories and poems from various cultures to illustrate each of the twelve values, and encourages parents, teachers, or care-givers to read and share these ideas with their children. Her premise throughout is—We *can* all make a difference.

There are twelve chapters—one for each of the twelve ways that children can make a difference. 'I can make a difference by persevering and not giving up.' Who better than Watty Piper (*The Little Engine That Could*) to bring home that lesson? In this chapter also is *The Lion's Whiskers*, a tale from Ethiopia about a woman trying to win the love of her step-son.

A quote from the Dalai Lama launches a later chapter: "My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness." The *Frog Prince* by the Grimm Brothers and an Italian folktale *The Month of March* support that quotation, and guide children to recognize this essential truth: 'I can make a difference, by being compassionate and kind.'



Barry Moser's illustrations are inspired. Each work of art embodies the feeling of the twelve values being presented. His *Little Engine* fights valiantly to reach his goal. He does not give up. And neither should we.

Ms. Edelman wanted to create a book "...to inspire and empower children through the stories and wisdom of the many cultures and peoples with whom our children must share a world."----- She's done it!—with verve, intelligence, sensitivity and keen effectiveness.

**Children's Literature Committee:**

Pat Shea-Bischoff, Faye Cohen, Suzanne Cecil, Debbie Dermady, Kristin Gramlich, Vicki Ring, Alice Sample (Chairperson)