

For Immediate Release  
February 22, 2007

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**And the Nominees Are...**

*SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) book award nominees being read by children statewide*

Portland, OR- There are no gold statues or strolls down red carpets in designer gowns, but the nominated books for the 8th annual SMART Book Award are undergoing scrutiny which rivals any film or actor nominated for a prestigious award.

Thousands of kindergarten through third grade children throughout Oregon who participate in SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) are reading five books nominated for the annual SMART Book Award over the next two weeks. After reading each book, the children will vote for their favorite. SMART tallies votes from all over Oregon and the winner will be announced on March 16.

The nominated books are: *Duck on a Bike* written and illustrated by David Shannon, *How I Became a Pirate* written by Melinda Long and illustrated by David Shannon, *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* written by Laura Numeroff and illustrated by Felicia bond, *Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp* written by Carol Diggory Shields and illustrated by Scott Nash, and *Silly Sally* written and illustrated by Audrey Wood.

SMART is a statewide early childhood literacy non-profit which pairs volunteers and kindergarten through third grade students for one on one reading time, as well as providing participating children with free books to keep as their own. Since 1992, SMART has served 100,000 children and given away 1.4 million books. This year SMART aims to serve 12,000 children in 280 schools in 32 Oregon counties.

SMART relies on donations to help Oregon's children learn to read. To make a donation online go to [www.getsmartoregon.org](http://www.getsmartoregon.org) or call 503-937-4800.

**About SMART:** SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) is a non-profit organization dedicated to children's literacy. SMART provides volunteers who commit one hour a week to read one-on-one with K-3 children for a half hour each. Each child participating in SMART receives free

books to keep and read with their families. It's a simple approach that makes a difference. To learn more about SMART call 877-598-4633, or visit online at [www.getsmartoregon.org](http://www.getsmartoregon.org)

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*Note for Editors/Reporters: SMART operates in 32 of 36 Oregon counties. If you would like to know more about how SMART impacts your community, contact Stacy Kean at 503-937-4817 or 503-314-5235 to reach local contacts and participants.*