



For Immediate Release

April 3, 2007

**THE VOTES ARE IN
*Thousands of Oregon Children Select
the 2007 SMART Book Award Winner***

PORTLAND, Ore. – More than 9,000 children recently cast ballots for their favorite book of the year and the winner is *Silly Sally*.

Winner of the 2007 SMART Book Award, *Silly Sally*, Audrey Wood's whimsical tale of a fun-loving girl who encounters a spirited band of animals, captured the hearts and minds of children in the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) early literacy program in communities across Oregon. All children participating in the program will receive their very own copy of the book.

"SMART is about drawing children in to the amazing world of books," said Amy Brown, Interim CEO of SMART. "The SMART Book Award exposes children to stories that captivate their imaginations and motivate them to read."

SMART initiated the annual SMART Book Award in 2000 to further nurture children's interest in books and reading. SMART staff and community advisors identify the list of book nominees based on story and illustration quality, appeal to young readers and appropriateness for building literacy skills. Participating children read the nominated books with their adult volunteer reading partners and then vote for their favorite.

The 2007 SMART Book Award nominees included:

- *Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon
- *How I Became a Pirate* by Melinda Long
- *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* by Laura Numeroff
- *Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stompy* Carol Diggory
- *Silly Sally* by Audrey Wood

Silly Sally author and illustrator Audrey Wood is no stranger to this particular accolade. Her book *The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear*, illustrated by her husband Don Wood, received the inaugural SMART Book Award in 2000. Other previous winners include: *Stanley's Party* by Linda Bailey (2006), *Dog Breath* by Dav Pilkey (2005), *George Shrinks* by William Joyce (2004), *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon (2003), *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin (2002) and *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff (2001).

The SMART Book Award is different than other children's choice awards because while others are selected by children who may already be enthusiastic readers, the SMART Book Award is selected by children who may need extra reading support and are just discovering the joy of reading.

"Participating in the SMART Book Award selection is a major accomplishment for these young readers," said Brown. "It builds their self-confidence. They work hard and enthusiastically and are proud of the progress they make."

About SMART

Oregon's leading nonprofit literacy organization, SMART mobilizes thousands of caring adult volunteers to read one-on-one every week with two K-3 children for a half hour each. Participating children also receive new books every month to keep and read with their families. SMART is serving 11,000 children across Oregon in 2006-07. For more information, contact SMART at 877-598-4633 or visit www.getsmartoregon.org.