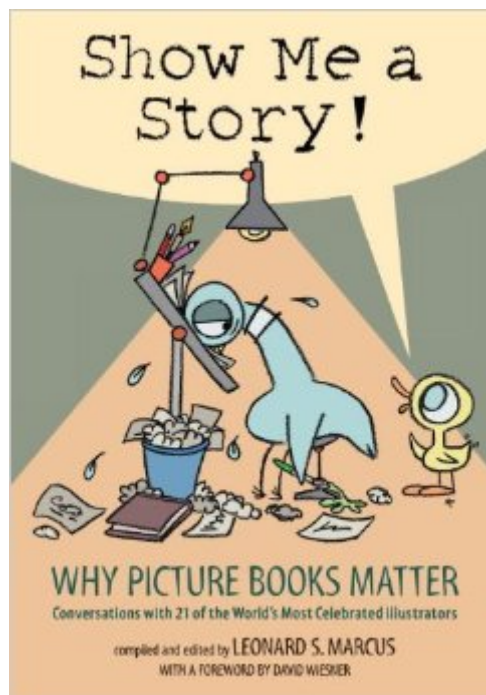


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# Show Me A Story!: Why Picture Books Matter: Conversations With 21 Of The World's Most Celebrated Illustrators



## Synopsis

In compelling interviews by the acclaimed Leonard S. Marcus, twenty-one top authors and illustrators reveal their inside stories on the art of creating picture books. Max and Mickey; Miss Nelson; Pack, Quack, and Mrs. Mallard; Pigeon; Sylvester; John Henry; and a very hungry caterpillar — these are just a few of the beloved picture book characters discussed in *Show Me a Story*. Renowned children's literature authority Leonard S. Marcus speaks with their creators and others — twenty-one of the world's most celebrated authors and illustrators — and asks about their childhood, their inspiration, their determination, their mentors, their creative choices, and more. Amplifying these richly entertaining and thought-provoking conversations are eighty-eight full-color plates revealing each illustrator's artistic process from sketch to near-final artwork in fascinating, behind-the-scenes detail. Why do children love and need picture books so much? Recasting and greatly expanding on a volume published in 2002 as *Ways of Telling*, Leonard S. Marcus confirms that picture books matter because they make a difference in our children's lives.

## Book Information

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Children's Literature

## Customer Reviews

As a retired librarian/teacher, I spend much of my spare time reading to children. The teacher in me insists that I preface all stories with introductions to the author and artist. *Show Me A Story* is a valuable tool as well as fun to read. In the 20-question conversation with each illustrator I learn his/her style, techniques and bio—just enough for me to share with kindergartners. The book is easy

to navigate because it is alphabetically arranged. There is a good index and there are lists of titles by the illustrators, source notes, and credits for illustrations and photographs. These are all placed within easy reach at the back of the book. *Show Me...* is well made; it has sturdy paper, strong binding, good sized type and wide margins. Nothing text "booky" about it. It's a delight.

Pictures are one of the first things that draws a child to books and starts to interest them in reading - they make any book more enjoyable. This is a book that interviews 21 picture book illustrators. There is a photograph and a short introduction to each and then a series of questions. For each author the questions are different. They are ones such as; what were they like as children? Did they like to draw? The illustrators range from Robert McCloskey and Rosemary Wells to Maurice Sendek and Quentin Blake. There is an index and a bibliography for each illustrator and a section with colour examples of some of the illustrations. This is a charming book that will tell you much about these illustrators that have graced many children's books. Those who love books and the illustrations in them will learn much about the people who have enriched them.

Looking at the mass of childrens trade books can be overwhelming for a college student, so when I found this book I saw an opportunity to organize some of my lectures around the illustrators that bring the books to life. Not surprisingly, the artists interviewed by Leonard S. Marcus cross referenced each other at times though their experiences were varied. The multicultural perspective, so important in our classrooms, was underscored by the differences in style and impressions of the different illustrators..The individual missions of the artists focused on various facets of the craft .For examples, Mo Willems comes out of the CTW and has been trained in child development, making him aware of the needs of his audience. Others, such as Maurice Sendak, don't aim their books at children, though they comprise a huge part of his following. As a Philadelphian I was happy to see more than one of the illustrators who have a connection to my community. The easy to read interviews make this book a great read for every book lover. Who among us hasn't looked forward to the color illustration when turning the pages of a beloved book. Read this book and enjoy.

I love reading about illustrators and their stories of how they became illustrators. This is what this book is. The author interviewed the artists and then wrote down their stories. Plus, there are examples of each illustrator's work.

The book description says it includes 88 illustration plates. I purchased the Kindle version and I've

searched the entire book and found NO ILLUSTRATIONS. Very disappointing!More disappointing is that I can find no way to ask for refund on a Kindle purchase.Grrrrrr....

Leonard S. Marcus is invaluable to all in the children's picture book field AND others who have interest in it. Book after book by Mr. Marcus have proved most excellent!!!

Had to wait until the very end to see illustration samples. But the interviews are inspiring and fascinating peeks into the lives of famed illustrators.

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