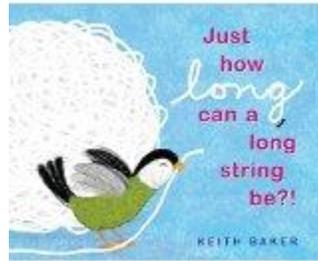


Interview With Author and Illustrator Keith Baker (2/7/2010)



Q. When did you begin your career as a children’s picture book author and illustrator and which did you do first, write or illustrate?

KB. I began in 1986, after graduating from Art Center College of Design. I studied illustration, but I knew I wanted to both write and illustrate, so I wrote several stories and painted sample illustrations. Then I headed to NYC to find a publisher.

Q. Why do you like to create books for children?

KB. I like dealing with visual concepts in text and pictures. I like the picture book format— simple text, big pictures, limited number of pages. And I like the challenge of bringing children to books and teaching them to read.

Q. How did you come up with the idea for your picture book *Just How Long Can A Long String Be?*

KB. I was listening to NPR and heard an interviewee reply to a rhetorical question, “Well, just how long is a string?”

Q. I know that you have written and illustrated several picture books. Do you have any favorites?

KB. Yes, the Mr. and Mrs. Green series—they’re fun loving and spirited and loving. And I like working with the same characters again in different situations. That allows for their experiences to ‘overlap’ and their personalities to expand.

Q. What materials do you like to work with when creating your illustrations?

KB. I used to paint with acrylic paint on illustration board. Now I work on the computer, drawing with Photoshop.

Q. Who are the picture book artists that you most admire?

KB. Eric Carle, Leo Lionni, Taro Gomi, Arnold Lobel, James Marshall

Q. Where can fans go to learn more about you and your books?

KB. www.keithbakerbooks.com