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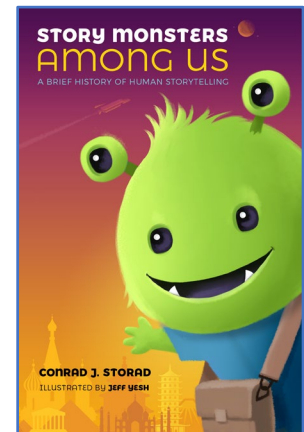
High-res photos available to the media upon request

New Book Retraces Storytelling Origins, Aims to Ignite Imagination of New Generation

CHANDLER, AZ (October 2021)—The furry creatures have always been among us, observing human beings’ innate, unique ability of storytelling.

In his new book, *Story Monsters Among Us: A Brief History of Human Storytelling* (Story Monsters Press), award-winning children’s author Conrad J. Storad takes readers of all ages on a wonderful journey through time, making brief pit stops at pivotal moments in storytelling history, before peering into the future to imagine what new tales it might hold. From the Chauvet Cave painters of Southern France to the brothers Grimm, Storad’s creative yet tidy descriptions of memorable stories are brought to life by the delightful illustrations of Jeff Yesh.

The book, which aims to serve as the quintessential tool to help young readers grow into dynamic storytellers, was five years in the making and was made possible by a Story Monsters LLC Kickstarter donation campaign in 2020. As a part of the campaign, 5,000 digital copies of *Story Monsters Among Us* will be donated to schools and libraries nationwide upon publication.



Conrad J. Storad

Storad has had a prolific storytelling career, as he's authored and edited more than 50 science and nature books for children and young adults. His previous titles include *Monster in the Rocks; Gator, Gator Second Grader (Classroom Pet...or Not?)*; the "USA Best Book" *Rattlesnake Rules*; and the ONEBOOKAZ for Kids 2012 selection *Arizona Way Out West & Witty*.

Storad, however, said he is especially proud of this latest chapter in his career.

"I consider this to be my legacy work," Storad said. "I hope to write many more books before my time is done, but if I don't, this is one that I'm truly proud of as a final effort."

Storytelling is an integral part of all human teaching and learning and this book captures the essence of that message in time-traveling fashion. Whether it's parents reading to their children, or teachers and librarians reading to students, adults no doubt will be reminded of the stories they first fell in love with as kids and will be motivated to engage young readers' minds and enliven story time.

Storad said he hopes this book will serve as a reminder to "never stop reading and never stop learning."

Story Monsters Among Us: A Brief History of Human Storytelling by Conrad J. Storad (ISBN: 978-1-58985-242-6, softbound, \$14.95; eISBN: 978-1-58985-243-3, eBook, \$3.99) is slated for release on October 25, 2021, and is available to pre-order from [Amazon](#) and on the [Story Monsters website](#). For more information about the book, Conrad J. Storad or Story Monsters Press, visit www.storymonstersamongusbook.com, email publisher@storymonsters.com or call (480) 940-8182.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Story Monsters Among Us

Written by Conrad J. Storad

Illustrations by Jeff Yesh

About the Author



Conrad J. Storad is an award-winning author and editor of more than 50 science and nature books for children and young adults, including *Monster in the Rocks*; *Gator, Gator, Second Grader (Classroom Pet...or Not?)*; the “USA Best Book” *Rattlesnake Rules*; and the ONEBOOKAZ for Kids 2012 selection *Arizona Way Out West & Witty*. He holds an undergraduate degree in mass media communication from the University of Akron and a master’s degree in mass communication/science journalism from Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. Storad has conducted writing workshops and presentations at more than 1,500 schools, libraries, and author events in 17 states to promote reading and science literacy. By March 2017, Storad has read stories to more than 1 million students and teachers, a lifelong career goal he achieved during an author visit in Tempe, Arizona. Storad resides in Ohio with his wife, Laurie, and their rescue wiener dog, Frankie. www.conradjstorad.com

About the Illustrator

Jeff Yesh is a freelance illustrator and graphic designer whose award-winning work has been featured in multiple children's books, including *A Squirrel's Story—A True Tale*. Yesh is also the artistic talent behind the Story Monsters character and is the graphic designer for the award-winning Story Monsters Ink, the literary resource for parents, teachers and librarians. Yesh graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. He lives in Indiana with his wife, two daughters and a slew of pets.

About the Publisher



Great Reads for Growing Minds

Story Monsters Press, an imprint of Story Monsters LLC, is a publisher of children’s books that offer hope, value differences, and build character. Every title also includes a curriculum guide complementing the story for parents and educators to use with young readers. www.storymonsterspress.com

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

Story Monsters Among Us

Written by Conrad J. Storad

Illustrations by Jeff Yesh

10-word description:

A summary of storytelling history that will inspire young readers.

15-word description:

An entertaining summary spanning nearly 50,000 years of storytelling history that will inspire young readers.

25-word description:

Readers are taken on a journey depicting the evolution of human storytelling and once finished, young readers will be inspired to add their own chapters.

50-word description:

Storytelling is an integral part of all human teaching and learning and *Story Monsters Among Us* captures the essence of that message in concise, time-traveling fashion. Whether at home or at school, young readers are sure to be inspired by this lively tale spanning nearly 50,000 years of storytelling history.

100-word description:

In *Story Monsters Among Us*, readers are taken on a journey depicting the evolution of human storytelling as observed by a furry little Story Monster. From the Chauvet Cave painters of Southern France to the brothers Grimm, storytelling has been an integral part of all human teaching and learning and *Story Monsters Among Us* captures the essence of that message in time-traveling fashion. Parents, teachers and librarians will no doubt be reminded of the stories they first fell in love with as kids, and young readers will be inspired by this lively tale spanning nearly 50,000 years of storytelling history.



FACT SHEET

Story Monsters Among Us

Written by Conrad J. Storad

Illustrations by Jeff Yesh

Author: Conrad J. Storad
Illustrator: Jeff Yesh
Publisher: Story Monsters Press, an imprint of Story Monsters LLC
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ISBN: 978-1-58985-242-6; eISBN: 978-1-58985-243-3
Audience: Ages 9 and Up
Website: www.storymonstersamongusbook.com



What's this book about?

Story Monsters Among Us takes readers on a succinct, yet entertaining time-traveling journey through the history of storytelling. Beginning with the origins some 50,000 years ago, human beings have been enthralled with the idea of crafting juicy tales for consumption. This book illuminates the essence of those stories while inspiring young readers to continue the tradition by creating their unique story monster.

What makes this book unique?

The art of storytelling is innate to all humans, and it helps form the foundation for all teaching and learning. Author Conrad J. Storad cleverly reminds readers just how long we've been doing this whole storytelling thing, while simultaneously sparking a renewed sense of joy and appreciation for the production and consumption of these stories. Whether it's parents reading to their children, or teachers and librarians reading to students, adults will no doubt be reminded of the stories they first fell in love with as kids and that should make story time all the more meaningful. A free curriculum guide that complements the book is available for parents, teachers and librarians to download.

SUGGESTED MEDIA QUESTIONS

Story Monsters Among Us

Written by Conrad J. Storar

Illustrations by Jeff Yesh

www.storymonstersamongusbook.com

1. What sparked the idea for this book?
2. How unique was this book project compared to other children's books you've worked on?
3. How did you go about selecting which storytelling moments throughout history to include in the book?
4. How much research went in to the making of this book?
5. What factoid did you come across in the research process that surprised you the most?
6. You said this this book was your "legacy work" and that you would be proud if this was your final book. Why is this book so special to you?
7. What do you ultimately hope young readers take away from this book?
8. What advice would you give to a young storyteller who wants to succeed as an author?
9. If this isn't your final book, what is an idea or project that you might tackle next?
10. Do you believe in story monsters?

