



Behind the Mask: A Book about Prepositions (World of Language)

By Ruth Heller

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Through clever, rhyming text and boldly colorful illustrations, students and language lovers of all ages will enjoy exploring Ruth Heller's world of prepositions. "To say that Heller has a way with words is to understate a multifaceted talent."-- *Publishers Weekly*"Rhyming text...provides many examples of prepositions as well as some rules of usage. Large, colorful drawings illustrate the words imaginatively." -- *Booklist*

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 2[^]-4. From the series that includes *Kites Sail High: A Book about Verbs* (1988) and *A Cache of Jewels and Other Collective Nouns* (1989), this volume explores yet another part of speech: prepositions. Although the rhyming text contorts sentence structure from time to time, it provides many examples of prepositions (printed in large, blue type) as well as some rules of usage. Large, colorful drawings illustrate the words imaginatively. While a child alone might find the text confusing, the many teachers who use the series will probably enjoy reading this book aloud to introduce or illustrate prepositions in their classrooms. *Carolyn Phelan*

Review

Heller's survey of prepositions provides early learners with basic grammar insights, using rhyming text and colorful illustrations to define prepositions and how they're used. Parental intervention will assist in the process of a child's understanding of the ideas; but the color and rhyme goes a long way towards solidifying a somewhat challenging concept. -- *Midwest Book Review*

About the Author

After receiving a fine arts degree from the University of California at Berkeley and completing two years of graduate work in design at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, **Ruth Heller** (1923-2004) began her career designing wrapping paper, cocktail napkins, greeting cards, and coloring books. After five years of rejection and one complete revision, Heller's first book, *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones*, about egg-laying animals, was published in 1981. It was so successful that the sequel, and second book to be published, *Animals Born Alive And Well* (1982), about mammals, quickly followed. In 1983 and 1984, her third and fourth titles, *The Reason For A Flower* (about plants that have seeds and flowers) and *Plants That Never Ever Bloom* (about plants that do not) were published.

She then began work on a collection of six books, the *How To Hide* series on camouflage and the magic of this phenomenon in nature, which covered the entire animal kingdom -- insects, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and sea creatures. The next collection of books became a five-volume series on parts of speech: *A Cache of Jewels and Other Collective Nouns*; *Kites Sail High: A Book About Verbs*; *Many Luscious Lollipops: A Book About Adjectives*; *Merry-Go-Round: A Book About Nouns*; and *Up, Up and Away: A Book About Adverbs*. She also wrote and illustrated the unique and fascinating book *Color*, a charming and instructive guide to how art goes through the four color printing process.

Among the notable people who have had an influence on Heller's writing have been: Ogden Nash, Gilbert and Sullivan, Edward Lear, Hilaire Belloc, and Dr. Seuss. Heller says of her work, "All my books are nonfiction picture books in rhyme. I find writing in rhyme enjoyable and challenging, and I think it is an easy way for children to learn new facts and acquire a sophisticated vocabulary. Children are not intimidated by big words. I try to make my writing succinct and allow the illustrations to convey as much information as possible."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Randy Anderson:

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