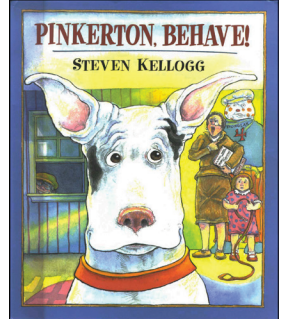
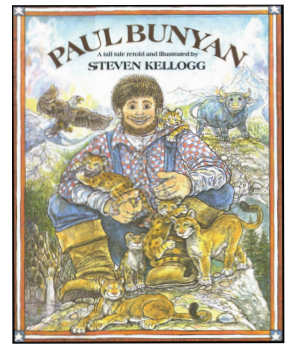
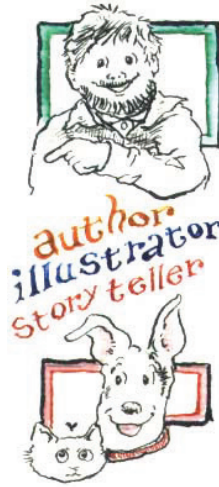
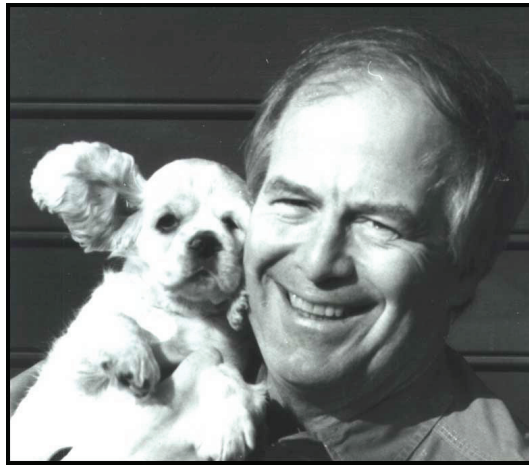
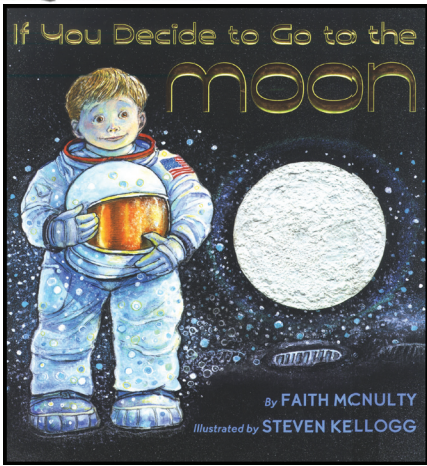




STEVEN KELLOGG



Steven Kellogg leaves Peru students spellbound

*A Newspaper Review of
A School Visit in Peru, N.Y.*

By JOHNNA BENWARE

PERU - Markers that appear to be magic, poster paper that comes to life, the melodic and expressive voice of an author in love with his work; these are the images and the sounds that delighted and captivated Peru's students on April 5, when Steven Kellogg paid them a visit.

When the students of Peru Primary and Peru Intermediate walked into the "cracker box" gym last Tuesday, they saw more than the bleacher, folding chairs and stage. They also saw a slide projector, two easels, a couple of markers and a man, Steven Kellogg, renowned author and illustrator, who was patiently smiling and waiting to bring these seemingly everyday objects to life. No one was quite prepared for what they were about to encounter.

The energy and reverence for art and storytelling was apparent as soon as Kellogg began to speak. He started at the beginning, talking about how he used to make up stories as a child so that he could entertain his sisters, Patty and Martha. He explained that as he grew he was sure that he wanted to do something he would enjoy; he "wanted to make people happy."

"So" Kellogg professed, "I had to get to know myself pretty well, I realized that I love to write stories, I love to draw pictures, I love books, and I love kids. So I thought why not put all that together, be an author and an illustrator of books for kids, and that's exactly what I have been doing ever since I have been a grown-up for the last 40 years."

Kellogg's energy was contagious as he expressed how fortunate he is to have more than 110 books in publication and to travel all over the country visiting schools, libraries, book shows and colleges.

"Everyone is a story teller," he said. "It is an important way to make connections. [We] have been using stories to build bonds since the dawn of time."

Kellogg explained to the children that he writes what is special to him... and that is the true artist, the masterful storyteller who captivates even the youngest spectator, emerges.

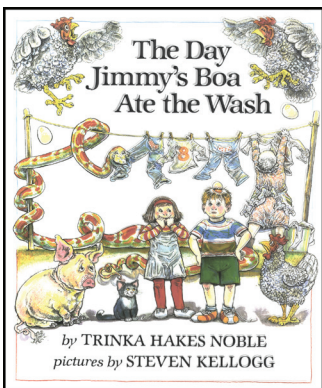
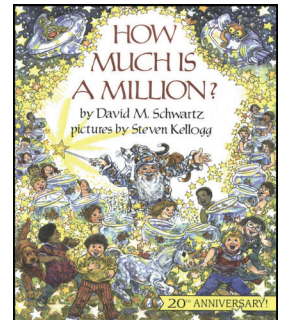
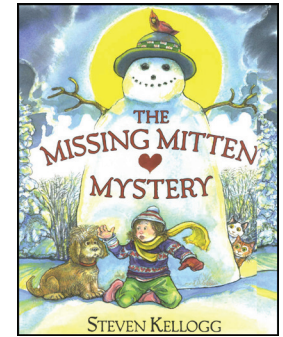
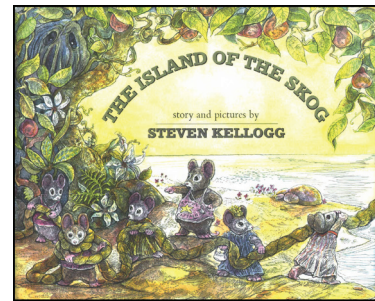
All who were present sat wide-eyed, completely immersed in Steven Kellogg's world, as this man began to infuse stories like, "The Island of Skog, Best Friends, and Beastly Story" into their imaginations. As he spun his tale, Kellogg drew the characters whose adventures he was detailing, on the easels that had been carefully placed on the stage.

There were no pauses, no breaks in the imagery or narration, as Kellogg would seize one drawing and enthusiastically free it from the easel and then, almost effortlessly, begin to draw another.

Children and adults alike were spellbound, jaws practically on the floor, as the easel paper flew and the magic, the harmony of story, imagination, and innocence was complete as Kellogg graciously thanked his audience while the children clapped and cheered.

Everyone was reeling from what they had just experienced, for a moment all were somehow joined by the bonds of a man and his story.

Looking around the gym it was clear, Kellogg had achieved his goal; he had brought happiness to all in attendance. The children seemed to have known that this artist's visit would be nothing short of astonishing as they were ready with a gift of their gratitude and presented Kellogg with a quilt they had created under the advisement of the School Library Media Specialist, Judy Menard and several library volunteers.



Braeside School • 150 Pierce Road
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From Anne Shimojima - IMC Director

Dear Steven,

Thank you, thank you, and thank you again for the incredibly wonderful day that you gave to us on April 21st. It was the highlight of our year! Your books are flying off the shelves and the teachers are unanimous in their praise. Personally, I think you win the award for the hardest working author on an author visit! Your enthusiasm, good humor, quick drawing skills, and sheer niceness were an absolute Joy.

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