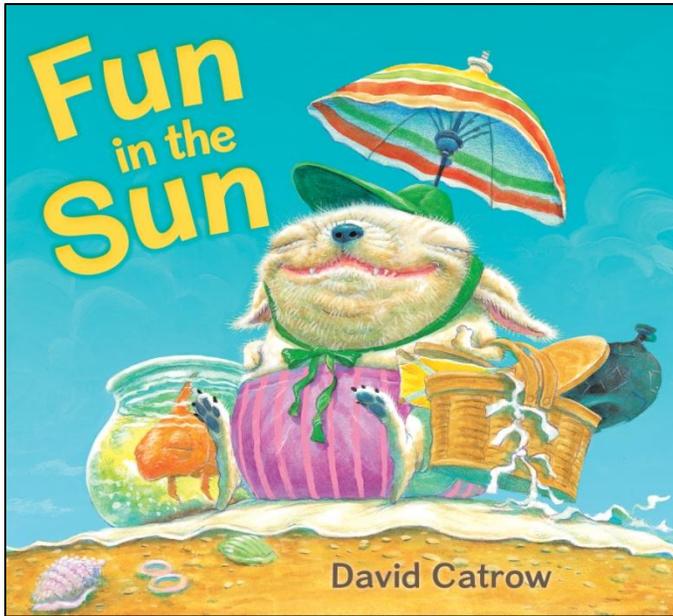


Fun in the Sun



A conversation with creator David Catrow

A cheerful dog frolics in the sun and the sand on a perfect beach day. It's fun in the sand, but now there's sand in his lunch and sand in his suit. Time for a dip in the water! The dog splishes, splashes and rides the waves; it's fun in the water too. As the sun goes down, he flies a kite with new friends. Fun in the sky! But did he remember sunscreen?

Ages 3-6 • \$16.95 • 978-0-8234-2945-5 • E-book available

David, please tell us about your new book, FUN IN THE SUN.

My new book, FUN IN THE SUN, is a story about my all time favorite thing to do: pack up all my stuff and head out to the beach. Needless to say, my goal was never to make the trip as a French bulldog in a Speedo. I just think anything wearing a Speedo is just too funny, and I thought the French bulldog was a fitting candidate this time around – after all, I am a dog person.

Where did you get your inspiration for this story?

All my books start out as a desire to experience something. Initially they are simply favorite characters or environments, and it is from this medium that the story emerges. But most importantly, I approach the visual story as if words have never existed, as if all I have available to me is my ability to communicate like a cave artist: visually.

In addition to writing and illustrating children's books, you've had great success as an editorial cartoonist. How is your approach to these two mediums different or the same?

In my mind the only difference between editorial cartoons and picture books is their subjects. I believe my work as an editorial cartoonist was most powerful when I could tell a story without any words at all. But I do enjoy word play too, so

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captions are an important and easy ingredient to help crystallize the joke or the opinion.

What made you decide to become an author and illustrator?

Outside of my socks, I never actually planned a thing in all my existence on this planet, but my path always seemed apparent to me as I moved through life. So when an opportunity presents itself, I have to leap!

I was a biology major in college, so you do the math (I can't, because I was always drawing pictures in math class, ha-ha).

What advice would you give to young authors/illustrators?

My advice to everyone, whether they want to be an artist, a writer or an acrobat, is to keep working hard doing whatever you love, especially when someone says you shouldn't do that thing. Just imagine what our world would be like if everyone figured out what is it they love to do!

DAVID CATROW has illustrated many books for children, including *The Fly Flew In*, an I Like to Read® book. He also created the visual development for the animated feature *Horton Hears a Who!* David lives in Ohio. Learn more about David at catrow.com.

Praise for *Fun in the Sun*

"The art's colorful inventiveness gives the entire enterprise a wild devil-may-care feel, and the cast of characters rewards multiple readings. The simple language makes this not only a fine read-aloud, but a great early reader for those kids who need some comedy with their basic vocabulary words. So enjoyable the real thing may pale in comparison." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"Catrow's (*Dream Dog*) sprawling, sun-splashed watercolors comically embellish the canine's deadpan narrative." — *Publishers Weekly*

Praise for *The Fly Flew In: An I Like to Read® book*

"Catrow's familiar watercolor-and-ink full-page paintings are screamingly funny. Intense hues of greens and blues and wildly exaggerated comical faces add fuel to the fracas." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"Catrow's outrageously funny caricatures steal the show in this simple story of a fly that wreaks havoc with audience, orchestra, and singers during an opera performance. Repetitive words and extremely short sentences make this tale accessible for the newest readers." — *School Library Journal*