



Marc Simont

The Stray Dog
ISBN13: 9780064436694

Marc Simont at the Library of Congress
(Excerpt taken from a lecture for International Children's Book Day, presented on May 8, 1992)

The motivating factor in children's books is the children themselves. The energy these brand-new human beings generate, as they discover "the world," is harnessed by teachers and librarians who, together, create a receptive climate for those of us who make books. A writer or illustrator needn't worry about crossing the line between fantasy and reality. Children do it all the time. A little girl, whose father is a doctor, was drawing circles. When asked what she was doing, she said, "This is my daddy at work. He's making his rounds." You might see a small boy's eyes open wide in wonder as he

overhears someone saying, "George blew up when he saw the phone bill." One can hear the blast, and see pieces of George strewn about ...

Because my father was so thorough in his teaching, he equipped me with the artist's secret weapon - drawing. With that under my belt, I have been able to branch out into other facets of art. Children's book illustration is something I have enjoyed tremendously. In fact, I've been doing it for fifty-three years, and counting.