



About the Author

Peter J. Welling

Back to School, Picky Little Witch • Darlene Halloween and the Great Chicago Fire • Andrew McGroundhog and His Shady Shadow • Shawn O’Hisser, the Last Snake in Ireland • Michael Le Soufflé and the April Fool • Justin Potemkin and the 500-Mile Race • Joe Van der Katt and the Great Picket Fence

“Both kids and adults can enjoy children’s author/illustrator Peter J. Welling’s explorations into the fun and fancy tales behind seldom-celebrated holidays with each quirky page.”

—Anderson, (IN) *Herald Bulletin*

Peter J. Welling is the kind of person who tries to find the humor in everything. An avid artist, Welling got the idea to write children’s books from paper lunch bags he drew for his sons as schoolchildren. Here’s how he puts it: “I am a drawer. Now I hear I might be a renderer. Renderer might be better though because [my] brother said drawers go in bureaus.”

Welling’s skill as a writer came into focus at the age of eleven. Following military service, he put pen to paper to record all the stories he told to friends and earned a bachelor’s degree in English at Indiana University at South Bend. He received the College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2003 and the Indiana University Continuing Studies Teaching Excellence Award in 2005.

All of Welling’s books are based on myth, legend, or history and involve a U.S. holiday and citizens or descendants of a foreign land. He creates a new spin on an old tale, inserting historical anachronisms in the art, and includes a brief glossary of the appropriate language, whether Gaelic, Celtic, French, Russian, or Dutch.

In his spare time, this father of four and grandfather of four volunteers at his youngest son’s school, where he won the Parent Volunteer of the Year Award twice. He is a member of the Society of Children’s Writers and Illustrators, and his illustrations have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Welling is also the recipient of the Publisher’s Choice Award for Exemplary Non-Fiction. He has had several “moral stories” published and is the art director for *Futures* magazine.