

Reading Aloud to Children: Author Jim Trelease to Speak at STCC

Jim Trelease, well known locally as well as internationally as the author of *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, will talk with audiences at Springfield Technical Community College on Thursday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. and again at 11:00 a.m., in the seventh floor conference center in Scibelli Hall. The public is invited to this event, free of charge.

Trelease's presentation is part of the Ovations series of cultural and educational events at STCC. The series is made possible by the Chicopee Savings Bank Endowment for Academic Excellence, the STCC Office of Academic Affairs, and the Honors Program. For more information contact Professor Linda Harrington at 755-4254.

Trelease will enthrall and inform as he relates stories woven with statistics on the importance of reading aloud to children. Audiences of all ages have changed the lives of children by heeding his advice: the gift of reading aloud to children is a legacy that spans generations. Trelease is the author of *The New Read-Aloud Handbook* and two anthologies of favorite stories for reading aloud. The first anthology, *Hey! Listen to This*, is aimed at kindergarten through fourth graders. The second, *Read All About It*, is aimed at preteens and teens.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Trelease was an award-winning artist and writer for the *Springfield Union News*. During this time he visited hundreds of classrooms as a school volunteer, talking with students about the joys of reading. In 1979 he self-published a 30-page booklet for parents and teachers on the importance of reading to children. Seeing the success of this booklet, Penguin books signed him to do an expanded edition of his first *Read-Aloud Handbook* in 1982. That edition spent 17 weeks on the *New York Times* best-seller list. Two American editions have followed, along with British, Australian, and Japanese versions, with more than 1.8 million copies in print. The inspiration for the PBS television series "Storytime" is now the all-time best selling guide to children's literature for parents and teachers.

A speaker whose anecdotal style rings with humor, wit, and enthusiasm, Trelease has been a featured presenter for most of the major reading and library associations of America. He also has the distinction of being the subject of three "Dear Abby" columns, and his 150 speeches a year are booked 18 months in advance. His writings have appeared in the *New York Times* and *Parents' Magazine*, and he has been profiled in *U.S. News & World Report*, *Smithsonian*, and *Reader's Digest*.

Trelease has been speaking each fall and spring semester at STCC for more than three decades. Over the years his audience has grown, and his talks have inspired students and faculty throughout the College. Jim has a deep commitment to his community and to STCC where both his wife and his son Jamie have been students.