

Robert Munsch (2015)



World-famous author Robert (Bob) Munsch began enchanting children with his stories while working in daycares in the 1970's. From 1975 to 1984, he was a professor of Family Studies at the University of Guelph, simultaneously teaching in the University's lab preschool. There he was encouraged to publish his stories beginning with the Mud Puddle which sold 3,000 copies in its first year.

Bob is the author of more than 80 children's books of which *Love You Forever*, published in 1986, has been the bestseller in both Canada and the United States. His books have been translated into many languages, including those of three first nations. Bob has won many awards for his writing, and in 2009 was honoured with a star on Canada's Walk of Fame. He was a recipient of the Order of Canada in 1999.

Bob recalls that as a child he was not a good student but amused himself by writing funny poems. While studying to be a Jesuit priest he worked in an orphanage and earned degrees in History and Anthropology. When it became apparent that childcare was his true calling, he obtained a Master's degree from the Elliot Pearson School of Child Studies at Tufts University in Medford, Mass.

Bob has often told stories to audiences as large as 3,000, but enjoys even more visiting schools and daycares unannounced, to the delight of the students and teachers. He has dropped in on most elementary schools in Guelph.

Bob's tales are loved for their humorous approach to real-life incidents and for their examples of young people facing challenges with confidence. Creating and telling stories to children has always been his great talent and joy. He has fostered the love of stories and of reading in children in his adopted city of Guelph and around the world. His contribution to the lives of children is incalculable.

Bob says, "I've always found making up stories for children to be the most exciting thing in my life".