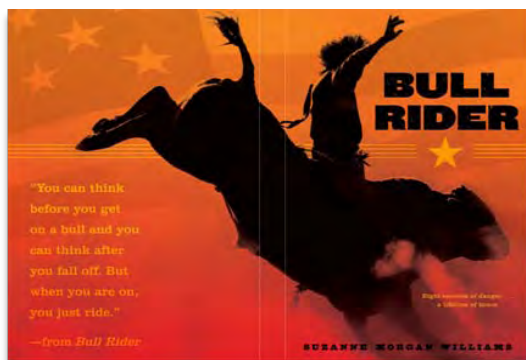


# Suzanne Morgan Williams

## Real Books for Real Kids

Cam O'Mara's big brother Ben is a champion bull rider. When Ben is seriously injured in the Iraq War, Cam turns to bull riding and family traditions to cope with his grief and loss. **Bull Rider** - Available from Margaret K. McElderry (Simon and Schuster), 2009.



This first novel makes the sports details of skateboarding and bull-riding part of the powerful contemporary story of family, community, and work – **Booklist**

The book isn't overtly anti- or pro-war so much as pro the people who are struggling with this difficult change in their lives. This is therefore a gripping read for fans of family dramas, and it's certainly high time that this aspect of the war's consequences received a sensitive and compelling exploration. - **The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

*Bull Rider*, vividly captures life on a modern Nevada ranch. . . .(it) is the story of real people, in real situations, that will ring true even if readers have never seen a salt lick, a chute, or the open range. - **Ellen Fockler**, library coordinator, Washoe County School District, Reno, NV

Suzanne Morgan Williams' spare, straightforward prose lets the O'Maras speak their piece on war and sacrifice, family loyalty and courage, and reveals what it means to live in the heart of the modern West. – **Terri Farley**, author of the *Phantom Stallion* series

- ◆ Suzanne Morgan Williams is author of the middle-grade novel, *Bull Rider*, Margaret K. McElderry Books (imprint of Simon and Schuster) 2009, and ten published and one upcoming nonfiction books for children. *Bull Rider* is a Junior Library Guild Selection for 2009, and represented Nevada at the 2008 National Book Festival in Washington DC. *Bull Rider* is on both the Texas Library Association's 2010 Lone Star and Tayshas Reading lists, is a finalist for Nevada Young Reader Award 2011, Missouri's Truman Award and Indiana's Young Hoosier Award. It is on the Bank Street College Best Books of 2010 list and won a Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.



Suzanne has been a Nevada Artist in Residence, winner of a Sierra Arts Foundation Fellowship and Nevada Arts Council Grants, and is Co-Regional Advisor of the Nevada Region of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

A former teacher she has presented to numerous schools, libraries and museums, as well as at teachers', writers', and librarians' conferences. She lives in Reno, Nevada.

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e-mail [Suzanne@suzannemorganwilliams.com](mailto:Suzanne@suzannemorganwilliams.com)  
Visit: [www.blogspot.suzannemorganwilliams.com](http://www.blogspot.suzannemorganwilliams.com)



## Buzz About Bull Rider



So here is some of my *favorite* feedback from bloggers, reviewers, and just folks:

- ★ **San Fransisco/Sacramento Book Review – Five Stars** – “A combination of touching and believable characters – from Cam and his brother Ben to their feisty and fun Grandma Jean – and the thrill of skateboarding and bull-riding makes this story one that will keep readers turning pages with anticipation. Williams’ straight-forward writing pulls you in immediately and her balance between hope and suffering will keep you engaged until the end. – *Genny Heikka*. SBR’s interview with Suzanne Morgan Williams is available at their *Audible Authors* and on her website [www.suzannemorganwilliams.com](http://www.suzannemorganwilliams.com)
- ★ **Knights Read Books**, <http://knightsreadbooks.blogspot.com> Just let me say that I love this book. It is a great layered story that goes beyond the title of *Bull Rider*. . .one of family and their expectations of who you should be versus who you are; of strength and trials of life; of military service and dreams deferred. It is, ultimately, a story of familial love and hope. – *Mrs. S.* – in her reviews of Texas Lone Star books.
- ★ **From an e-mail to those in the veterans’ community** – I believe that *Bull Rider* is an important book for our community. While it is directed at a younger audience, it is still an exceptional read. . .It addressed topics and issues that might be impacting younger siblings and loved ones of our injured and deployed service members in a thorough and caring way. . . That said, if you work with veterans, active service members or their families, I would encourage you to get this book. Like I said, I’ve read it twice. – *Caleb Cage*, twice deployed Iraq veteran, co-author of *The Gods of Diyala; Transfer of Command in Iraq*, and rural veterans liaison for Nevada
- ★ **From a student in Nevada** – I absolutely loved your book *Bull Rider*. . . Thank you for being a writer and doing the world a favor by being incredible. This book I can recommend to everyone. – *Kacie*, Sage School, Spring Creek, Nevada
- ★ **From a mom in Michigan** – While my mother was in the hospital in Michigan I picked up a book from their donated supply. I meant to have my son read it as he is both a skateboarder and a bull rider. But as I waited for my mother’s test results I decided to check it out. I couldn’t put it down. This book is great. It has a heart that must come straight from you. . . I will recommend it to many. I hope this book does well in sales but I am sure it will do more for your spirit and those that read it as it has done for mine. – *Marti Overmyer*, Marquette MI
- ★ **From a student in Texas** – I’m reading your Book *Bull Rider* Right now and i love it already, and that’s a good thing for you cause i hate reading and i saw bull rider on the book so i got it cause finals are next week and i had to read about something to do with cowboys(: so thank you.
- ★ **From a Teacher in Arkansas** – Thank you for writing this book. It is such a blessing. – *Joy Nichols* – Little Rock, Arkansas
- ★ **From a mom in Utah** - my 13 year old son who does not like to read books at all, loves your book! He only reads when he has to for school for book reports etc., but he has been reading *Bull Rider* because he wants to; I am amazed! . . . It's the first time he's had book that he "can't put down. " – *Lisa Hallett*, St. George, Utah

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My Blog:  [www.suzannemorganwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.suzannemorganwilliams.blogspot.com)

Facebook:  On FaceBook as Suzanne Morgan Williams – friend me!

Twitter:  On Twitter as SuzyMWilliams – follow me there too. ‘Til then . . .

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### Texas Book Club Grabs 'Bull Rider' by the Horns

Students at Kelly Lane Elementary School in Pflugerville, Tex., read Suzanne Morgan Williams's first novel, *Bull Rider* (S&S/McElderry, 2009) for summer reading, and Val Escobar, the grandmother of one of the students, organized a summer book club so that students could discuss the book. The novel, which made the Lone Star State reading list, tells the story of Ben, a skateboarder who has no interest in the family sport of bull-riding until his brother comes home paralyzed from Iraq, and Ben has a chance to win needed award money by riding. Students, seen here, also viewed a documentary on injured Iraq veterans as part of the book club



Appeared in Publisher's Weekly, September 2, 2010 –*Children's Bookshelf*

[http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-book-news/article/44346-in-brief-september-2.html?utm\\_source=Publishers+Weekly%27s+Children%27s+Bookshelf&utm\\_campaign=ead22c8afd-UA-15906914-1&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-book-news/article/44346-in-brief-september-2.html?utm_source=Publishers+Weekly%27s+Children%27s+Bookshelf&utm_campaign=ead22c8afd-UA-15906914-1&utm_medium=email)



**Suzanne Morgan Williams** receiving a Western Heritage Award for *Bull Rider*, April 2010, from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. *Bull Rider* won the award for best Juvenile Book of 2009. She joins authors such as Marguerite Henry, Russell Freeman, and Louise Erdrich who are previous winners. See Suzanne's website for other photos and information: [www.suzannemorganwilliams.com](http://www.suzannemorganwilliams.com)



## About Suzanne's Presentations -

My teachers and students raved about how interesting you were...we loved how you told the stories behind the stories...You captured their attention from the beginning. — **Desiree Beard, Lake Dallas Middle School, Lake Dallas, Texas**

An interesting, funny, talented person who communicates a real interest and caring about students and their reading and writing habits. — **Terry Rose, McLoughlin Middle School, Vancouver, Washington**

You truly mesmerized our students and created great interest in your book ... you were just wonderful and you had such a positive impact on the students. — **Sarah T. Severs, J.P. Burley Middle School, Charlottesville, Virginia**

The students enjoyed your presentation and it was very motivating for us teachers as well. Thank you for making great literature so accessible to the kids! — **Katherine Giszack, Charlottesville Catholic School, Charlottesville, Virginia**

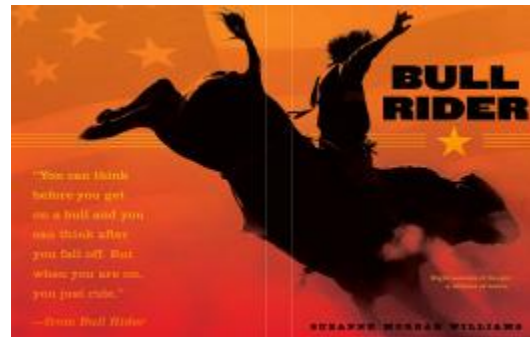
Her presentation was both informative and fascinating to our students. Our young readers and writers at the Ohio Virtual Academy appreciated seeing what inspired her to write such a great story. — **Kelly Booth, Ohio Virtual Academy**

## Suzanne Morgan Williams —

### Real Books for Real Kids



School and Library Presentations



Cam O'Mara's big brother Ben is a champion bull rider. When Ben is seriously injured in the Iraq War, Cam turns to bull riding and family traditions to cope with his grief and loss.

**Bull Rider** - from Margaret K. McElderry, 2009 (Simon and Schuster) ISBN: 1-4169-6130-5. Now available in paperback ISBN: 1-4424-1252-6

*Every student has a story . . . Each story has its truth.*

There is nothing more moving about a story than knowing it is true – whether that truth is in the actual events, in the details that lead us to believe it, or in a deeper human place of emotional resonance. There is no better teacher, no more straightforward way to make a point than with a story. Through stories, students become readers and writers. They remember. And they share.

Suzanne Morgan Williams is author of both fiction and non-fiction books for children. Her work has taken her to Mexico, the Arctic, backstage at the rodeo, and to teaching wigwams on Indian reservations. She's been stranded on the sea ice on Hudson Bay and dodged a bull's horns as he tried to climb out of a chute. Suzanne watches and listens – then she weaves facts into fiction or uncovers the real story in a non-fiction project.

Suzanne is a former teacher and frequent presenter in schools, libraries, museums, and to conference groups. She uses visuals, interaction, and her own stories to draw her audience into a place where detail, experience, and emotion blend to create one story that needs to be told.

### About Suzanne's books and presentations:

Your presentation was fascinating and your book (*Made in China*) will be my primary resource for my China unit . . . *Cris Barry, 6th grade teacher, California.*



Suzanne has completed an excellent book on Inuit culture (*The Inuit*.) We are not always so fortunate as to receive authors who are not only willing to come into the community but to learn from its inhabitants as well. *Bev Hill, Principal, Nunavut, Canada*

Everyone really enjoyed your presentation and your rapport with the children was great! *Heather Whitehill, Pacific Science Center, Seattle, Washington*

I think the book (*Cherokee Indians*) is EXCELLENT and one of the best I have seen for children. *Lisa Stopp, Literature Coordinator, Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma*

**SEE INSIDE FOR MORE ON SUZANNE'S DEBUT NOVEL, BULL RIDER . . .**

## First find the story ~ then write it down



Ideas,  
dreams,  
possibilities~

### Suzanne—

has been a Nevada Artist in Residence, winner of a Sierra Arts Foundation Fellowship and Nevada Arts Council Grants, and is Co-Regional Advisor of the Nevada Region of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

A former teacher, she has presented to numerous schools, libraries and museums, as well as at teachers', writers', and librarians' conferences. She lives with her family in Reno, Nevada.

### Bring Suzanne to your Community—

Suzanne Morgan Williams is available to work with your students and community members. E-mail: [suzanne@suzannemorganwilliams.com](mailto:suzanne@suzannemorganwilliams.com)

Visit her website at [www.suzannemorganwilliams.com](http://www.suzannemorganwilliams.com)

Current rates: \$900 per day plus travel expenses or by arrangement.

### Programs and Presentations

**Fact in Fiction: Grades 4 and up:** How do research, interviews, travel and site visits, storytelling and personal experience work together in creating fiction? For large groups Suzanne includes a power point presentation, student interaction, and plenty of stories and examples as well as sharing from her work. She emphasizes skills students already have that will help them create their own stories.

**Grades K-3:** Suzanne shares stories she has learned in her research and integrates age appropriate activities to hold your students' interest. Plenty of visuals too.

**For groups smaller groups:** up to sixty participants she can include some hands on activities – such as practicing interviewing skills, writing a group story, or using personal experience to create the building blocks for their own stories.

**The Story Behind Bull Rider:** Middle school and high school students learn about researching the facts behind Bull Rider. Suzanne talks about the sacrifices service

people and their families make and she challenges students to support our injured veterans. A lesson in research, civics, and literature.

Suzanne also talks to students about their own unique stories that only they are qualified to tell. She encourages them to become both readers and writers

**Nonfiction Too:** Ask Suzanne about her non-fiction presentations including *Chinese Inventions*, *Chinese Culture*, and *North America, Sacred Land*.

### About Bull Rider ~

- Junior Library Guild Selection, 2009
- Texas Library Association's 2010 Lone Star and Tayshas Lists
- Western Heritage Award, 2009, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City.
- Nevada Young Readers' Award, finalist intermediate grades—2010
- Bank Street College Best Books for 2010, Ages 12—14
- Missouri Truman Award Finalist 2011—2012



This first novel makes the sports details of skateboarding and bull-riding part of the powerful contemporary story of family, community, and work – **Booklist**

The book isn't overtly anti- or pro-war so much as pro the people who are struggling with this difficult change in their lives. This is therefore a gripping read for fans of family dramas, and it's certainly high time that this aspect of the war's consequences received a sensitive and compelling exploration. - **The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

*Bull Rider*, vividly captures life on a modern Nevada ranch. . . .(it) is the story of real people, in real situations, that will ring true even if readers have never seen a salt lick, a chute, or the open range. - **Ellen Fockler**, library coordinator, Washoe County School District

Suzanne Morgan Williams' spare, straightforward prose lets the O'Maras speak their piece on war and sacrifice, family loyalty and courage, and reveals what it means to live in the heart of the modern West. – **Terri Farley**, author of the *Phantom Stallion* series

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## Suzanne Morgan Williams

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- ◆ Suzanne Morgan Williams is author of the middle-grade novel, *Bull Rider*, Margaret K. McElderry Books (an imprint of Simon and Schuster) 2009, and of eleven nonfiction books for children. *Bull Rider* is a Junior Library Guild Selection for 2009, represented Nevada at the 2008 National Book Festival in Washington D.C., was selected for both the Texas Library Association's 2010 Tayshas and Lone Star Lists, is a finalist for Nevada Young Readers' Award, 2011, is a finalist for Missouri's Truman Award, 2012 and Indiana's Young Hoosier Award, 2012, and won a Western Heritage award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Her nonfiction book, *Piñatas And Smiling Skeletons, Celebrating Mexican Festivals*, (by Zoe Harris and Suzanne Williams, Pacific View Press, 1999) won an Independent Publishers' Book Award for Best Multicultural Non-Fiction, 1999 and was chosen as Outstanding by the Parent's Choice Council.
- ◆ Suzanne was chosen as a 2000 Sierra Arts Foundation Grant recipient for Literary Arts and received Nevada Arts Council Jackpot Grants (2001, 2002) to research her book, *The Inuit* (Franklin Watts, 2003) in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, Canada. A return trip in 2004 resulted in an article published in May 2006, *Highlights for Children* magazine. She received an honorable mention in Nevada Arts Council's Artist Fellowships 2002-2003. A 2005 Jackpot Grant supported a project with Ojibwe women elders. A 2008 Jackpot Grant allowed her to research a work-in-progress, *I, Inuk*.
- ◆ A former elementary teacher, Suzanne gives school presentations, teacher workshops, and has created teachers' materials for community organizations, such as the Nevada Hispanic Services' *Great Latinos Biography Project*, as well as for other children's authors. She has spoken across at schools, museums, libraries, and educators', and writers' conferences across the US and Canada.
- ◆ Suzanne has a B.A. from University of California, Davis, M.Ed. from College of Notre Dame, Belmont, CA, an AMS Montessori Certificate, and teaching credentials. She is Co -Regional Advisor, Nevada Region of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

**TITLES: BULL RIDER** (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2009); **CHINA'S DAUGHTERS** (Pacific View Press, 2011); **CHEROKEE INDIANS, CHINOOK INDIANS, POWHATAN INDIANS, OJIBWE INDIANS, TLINGIT INDIANS**, (Heinemann Library, Chicago), **THE INUIT**, (Franklin Watts, Danbury, CT), **KENTUCKY, NEVADA** (Children's Press, Danbury, CT), **MADE IN CHINA, Ideas And Inventions From Ancient China, PIÑATAS AND SMILING SKELETONS, Celebrating Mexican Festivals**(Pacific View Press). **Website:** [www.suzannemorganwilliams.com](http://www.suzannemorganwilliams.com)

## Suzanne Morgan Williams Bio

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**Suzanne Morgan Williams** is the author of the novel *Bull Rider* ( ages 10 and up, Margert K. McElderry, 2009) as well as eleven nonfiction books for children. *Bull Rider* is a Junior Library Guild Selection, is on state award lists in Texas, Nevada, Missouri, and Indiana, received a Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City, and is on the Bank Street College Best Books list for 2010. Her nonfiction titles include *Pinatas and Smiling Skeletons*, *The Inuit* , *Made in China*, and the upcoming *China's Daughters* (Pacific View Press 2011). Suzanne's work takes her into classrooms and communities across the US and Canada, from Mexico to the Arctic. She is co-regional adviser for SCBWI Nevada. Visit [www.suzannemorganwilliams.com](http://www.suzannemorganwilliams.com)

## Suzanne Morgan Williams



**Real Books for Real Kids**

*Fiction and Non-Fiction*

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