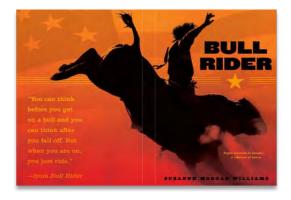
Suzanne Morgan Williams Real Books for Real Kids

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 Stalllion 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 2010Lone 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.

Visit <u>www.suzannemorganwilliams.com</u> e-mail <u>Suzanne@suzannemorganwilliams.com</u> Visit: www.blogspot.suzannemorganwilliams.com

Only one filly was worth risking her secret -

SIERRA BLUE, by award winning Reno author, Suzanne Morgan Williams, is rooted in our eastern Sierra landscape, high country ranches, and high stakes racetracks.

Rosanne Parry, author of New York Times Bestseller, A WOLF CALLED WANDER, says:

A perfect tale for young horse lovers, brimming over with adventure and magic, found family and the mysterious power of healing.



For ages 10 and up - SIERRA BLUE is written to captivate 10 to 14 year old students the way Williams' evergreen novel BULL RIDER did. When Magic's best friend tells her secret, she escapes to her great-aunt's ranch in the Sierra to avoid constant teasing. She never imagines she might do the same to someone else, who her real friends will turn out to be, or that one horse could make such a difference to all of them.



SCAN To *learn more and order* an e-book or paperback from Amazon.

Or ask your local bookstore to order the paperback. They'll need the title and author or ISBN # 979-8-9890255-0-3 www.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
- ★ **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

E-mail:

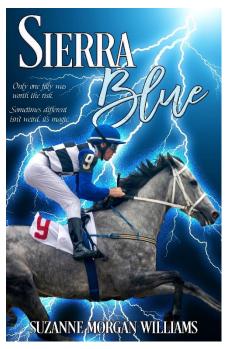
<u>suzanne@suzannemorganwilliams.com</u>

Website:

www.suzannemorganwilliams.com

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

Reviews are In for SIERRA BLUE



A perfect tale for young horse lovers, brimming over with adventure and magic, found family and the mysterious power of healing." –Rosanne Parry, author of A WOLF CALLED WANDER and A HORSE NAMED SKY.

Midwest Book Review: "An original and fun read from start to finish, "Sierra Blue" by novelist Suzanne Morgan Williams will have a special appeal for young readers ages 9-15 with an interest in unique coming-of-age stories, horses, a bit of fantasy, and happy endings. "Sierra Blue" is especially and unreservedly recommended for elementary school, middle school, high school, and community library YA Fiction collections.

"A bullied but determined young psychic named Magic and a beautiful, damaged Thoroughbred filly come together to prove the power of second chances in Suzanne Morgan Williams' engaging book, SIERRA BLUE." – Terri Farley, author of THE PHANTOM STALLION SERIES.

And from readers:

"My ten year old daughter loved it."

"We're reading it as a family. We're in the middle of SIERRA BLUE and can't wait to finish it."

"There's so much to love about SIERRA BLUE! Not only for horse lovers, this book touches on betrayal by a friend, bullying, magical auras, building self-confidence, and more in a believable story brought to life in a setting rich in details. Suzanne Morgan deftly steps into her characters' minds and hearts!"

"I very much enjoyed reading Sierra Blue. I am always looking for books I can share with my grandchildren and this one is perfect! It has a great mix of interesting teens and adults struggling with life. Throw in a mix of psychic abilities and a courageous horse to make this a winner!!"

"For all those horse lovers out there, this is a fabulous read that's filled with heart and emotion. 14-year-old Magic is an unusual main character with special skills and unique troubles, but she's all in when Blue needs help recuperating from a tragic accident. Both Magic and Blue get a little help along the way from the supporting characters, but it's Magic and Blue who will steal your heart. Get ready for an e-ticket ride!"



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



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



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



Bull Rider 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. **ISBN:** 978-1-4169-6130-5. paperback 978-1-4424-1252-6

Sierra Blue When Magic's best friend tells her secret, Magic escapes to her great-aunt's ranch in the Sierra to avoid constant teasing. She never imagines she might do the same to someone else, who her real friends will turn out to be, or that one horse could make such a difference to all of them. **ISBN:** 979-8-9890255-0-3

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 workshops and presentations:





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

Suzanne has wonderful knowledge of writing that she shares with the students. Her exercises always inspire good ideas for me. Linda Kay Hardie, adult workshop participant

Suzanne is organized, friendly, encouraging and knowledgeable. Loved the class. *Anonymous evaluation adult workshop participant*

First find the story ~ then write it down



Ideas, dreams, possibilities~

Suzanne-

Is a Nevada Arts Council teaching artist for school and community groups. She has won a Sierra **Arts Foundation** Fellowship and several Nevada Arts Council Grants, and is a Regional Advisor

Emerita, Nevada Region of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She was honored as an SCBWI Member of the year.

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

Bring Suzanne to your Community—

Suzanne Morgan Williams is available to work with your students and community members. E-mail: suzannemorganwilliams@charter.net Visit her website at www.suzannemorganwilliams.com

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

Programs and Presentations

Fact in Fiction: (can be adapted to all grade levels.) 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 as well as sharing from her work.

For smaller groups: writing workshops – teaching from classroom tested lessons, Suzanne encourages students to become both readers and writers with their own unique stories to tell.

Different Isn't Weird; Takeaways from Sierra Blue: (grades

4-9) Learn how the characters evolved, how they connect to Suzanne's world and yours, and how writing can help students find their own gifts and 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.

.About Bull Rider ~

Junior Library



- 2010 Lone Star and Tayshas Lists
- Western Heritage Award, 2009. National Cowbov 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
- Indiana's Hoosier Award Finalist
- Wyoming's Indian Paintbrush Award finalist

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, . . . a sensitive and compelling exploration. -

The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

Bull Rider, vividly captures life on a modern Nevada ranch. . . 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 Schools

About Sierra Blue ~

A perfect tale for young horse lovers, brimming over with adventure and magic, found family and the mysterious power of healing." -Rosanne Parry, author of A WOLF CALLED WANDER and A HORSE NAMED SKY.

An original and fun read from start to

finish, "Sierra Blue" by novelist Suzanne Morgan Williams will have a special appeal for young readers ages 9-15 with an interest in unique coming-of-age stories, horses, a bit of fantasy,

and happy endings. "Sierra Blue" is especially and unreservedly recommended for elementary school, middle school, high school, and community library YA Fiction collections.

- Midwest Book Review

There's so much to love about SIERRA BLUE! Not only for horse lovers, this book touches on betrayal by a friend, bullying, magical auras, building selfconfidence, and more in a believable story brought to life in a setting rich in details. Suzanne Williams deftly steps into her characters' minds and hearts! **Edith Hemmingway**—reader review

CONTACT:

Suzanne Morgan Williams

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Email: suzannemorganwilliams@charter.net

Bio for Suzanne Morgan Williams

- ❖ Suzanne Morgan Williams is author of the young adult/ middle-grade novels, SIERRA BLUE and BULL RIDER and of eleven published nonfiction books for children. SIERRA BLUE is new in 2023. Midwest Book Review says it is "especially and unreservedly recommended for all elementary, middle, high school and community library YA collections." Bull Rider is a Junior Library Guild Selection, represented Nevada at the National Book Festival in Washington D.C., won a Western Heritage Award from the Western Heritage and National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City, and has been on state award lists in Nevada, Texas, Missouri, Wyoming, and Indiana. *Piñatas And Smiling Skeletons, Celebrating Mexican Festivals*, (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. *The Cherokee*, (Heinemann Library) has been used by the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, in their Cherokee Immersion program. *Made In China, Ideas And Inventions From Ancient China* (Pacific View Press) is used in Chinese schools across North America. Her articles have been published in *Children's Writers and Illustrators Market, SCBWI Bulletin*, and *Highlights for Children*.
- Suzanne is on the Nevada Arts Council Artist in Residence Roster and has won numerous grants from the Arts Council and Nevada Humanities to support her research, writing, and school presentations. She received a Sierra Arts Foundation Grant for Literary Arts and was honored to be Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Member of the Year in 2012.
- ❖ A former elementary teacher, Suzanne is a frequent presenter at teacher workshops, and has created teachers' materials for Sierra Arts Foundation's Los Días de Los Muertos teachers' workshop and Nevada Hispanic Services, Great Latinos Biography Project. She's presented at more than 100 schools, libraries and conferences in twenty-six states and gives writers workshops on craft topics, creating school visits, and promoting your books.
- 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 Regional Advisor Emerita, Nevada Chapter of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

TITLES: SIERRA BLUE, (2023); 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 (Scholastic Libraries, NY), MADE IN CHINA, Ideas And Inventions From Ancient China, PIÑATAS AND SMILING SKELETONS, Celebrating Mexican Festivals (Pacific View Press)..

Suzanne Morgan Williams is the author of the novels *Sierra Blue* and *Bull Rider* (for ages 10 and up) as well as eleven nonfiction books for children. Midwest Book Review "especially and unreservedly" recommends *Sierra Blue* for "all elementary, middle school, high school, and community library YA collections." *Bull Rider* is a Junior Library Guild Selection, is on state award lists in Texas, Nevada, Missouri, Wyoming and Indiana, and received a Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City. Her nonfiction titles include *Pinatas and Smiling Skeletons, The Inuit , Made in China*, and *China's Daughters*. Suzanne's work takes her into classrooms and communities across the US and Canada, from Mexico to the Arctic. She is a Regional Adviser Emerita for Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Visit www.suzannemorganwilliams.com.

Suzanne Morgan Williams



Real Books for Real Kids

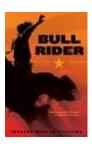
Fiction and Non-Fiction

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Take the ride...





Represented by Caitlin Blasdell at Liza Dawson Associates



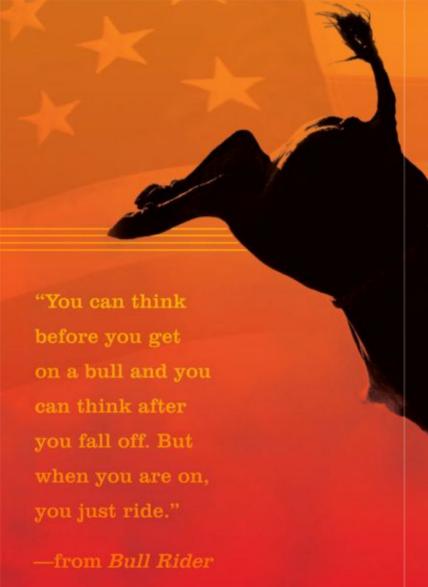












BULL RIDER Eight seconds of danger . . . a lifetime of honor.