Meet the Author

Kevin Brennan



Kevin Brennan, aka "The Pajama Guy," was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Though his schooling took him to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he earned his Bachelor of Social Work at the University of St. Thomas, Kevin soon returned home. Completing a Master's Degree in Social work at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Kevin has remained in Wisconsin sharing his many talents and his great love of people with the citizens of several area counties.

As a visiting author, Comedy City improvisational comedian, bedtime storyteller, and soccer coach, Kevin has many opportunities to share his outgoing personality and hysterical wit and humor with adults and children alike. Whether onstage or pounding away at his next story Kevin has never lost touch with his "inner child." He brings his sense of fun and humor to every aspect of his life, and leaves everyone he meets with a profound sense of joy and wellness.

This caring personality has translated itself into a career working with people, especially children. As Village Trustee, Bellevue Town Supervisor, and Foster Care Coordinator for Oconto County Kevin never forgets where he comes from, or what's important in life. Making a difference everyday is a philosophy that Kevin tries to instill in the communities he serves.

Crediting his wife Nancie and their three children, Tommy, Ellie, and Owen as the inspiration for *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama*, Kevin wrote the story in six months. *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* grew out the nightly ritual of getting his own children ready for bed each night and recalling his own experience outgrowing a favorite pair of pajamas. *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* is the comical misadventure of one boy's attempt to hang on to the pjs he loves. It is a story of initiative and of asking for help.

When Kevin visits local schools he brings his own pair of Grammy Jammys. Zipping both ways, which makes for easy access belly scratching, and with extra grippers on the feet, Kevin dons these special pjs when he reads to the children. Loving Kevin and his antics, the kids at all the area schools know Kevin as "The Pajama Guy," and start asking when he'll be back as soon as he leaves.



Contact Kevin Brennan through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.

Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama written by Kevin Brennan / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama escrito por Kevin Brennan / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2003, ISBN 0-9701107-9-0
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

Questions for the Author

Kevin Brennan



1. Who or what inspires you to write?
Kevin's primary source of inspiration is his role as father. Parenthood is a well spring of ideas for any author, and Kevin is no exception.

2. What is your favorite writing environment? Describe your workspace.
Kevin's favorite writing time is when his wife and children are asleep. It is hard to find peace and quiet in front of the PC when you run a full house. When it is not possible for Kevin to have his alone time he writes in his sleep.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for writing?
All Kevin needs is a pencil and some paper. There is no telling when an idea or a line will pop into Kevin's head so he has to be ready at all times. Some of his best work has been born on the back of envelopes.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
The creative process always starts with just a tiny little "seed." Kevin then takes his "seed" and lovingly waters and tends to it. Sometimes it sprouts like Jack's beanstalk, and sometimes it grows ever so slowly. Sometimes the "seed" just cannot germinate. When that happens Kevin lets it sit and turns his concentration to the next seed.

5. Who are your favorite authors? What influence have they had on your work?
Some of Kevin's favorite children's book authors are Kevin Henkes and Robert Munsch. He loves the play of their imagination and their precise, but fun, use of language.

6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
Kevin wants children to know that change is okay, but so is hanging on to the things we love. He wants them to see the power of initiative in achieving their goals, but to also know that it is all right to ask for help from a grown-up.

7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Kevin loves working with children, his own as well as though he comes into contact with as a social worker. In addition, Kevin is an improvisational comedian, a storyteller, and a soccer coach.



Questions for the Author (continued)

Kevin Brennan



8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you write it? Where did your ideas come from?
It took Kevin six months to write *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama*. The idea came to him upon recollecting his own experience outgrowing his favorite pajamas, an experience every child can relate to.

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Though *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* didn't involve any special research it did require a few laughs and plenty of childhood memories.

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Kevin has had the pleasure of reading his book to hundreds of children. He has had the opportunity to teach and hopefully inspire kids to write on their own. He has also had his own pair of Grammy Jammys made, complete with a zipper that zips both ways and extra grippers on the feet. Kevin wears his Grammy Jammys when he presents *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* to area schools. This has resulted in Kevin being dubbed "the pajama guy."



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Meet the Illustrator

Elizabeth Driessen



Elizabeth Driessen's first memory is of a blue crayon. Since then, drawing and painting has been her passion, her one and only vocation. Instead of brushing back Barbie's hair Betty was drawing a picture of a horse and stable for Barbie to ride in. There was never a question as to what Betty would become, only how she would get there.

In school her notebooks had more doodles in the margins than notes in the center, totally rejecting the notions of her teachers that art wasn't an acceptable career and that she needed her clerical skills to fall back on. Mostly self-taught, Elizabeth attended the Milwaukee School of Art. She eventually earned a Certificate of Art and Design, and continues to take courses at Fox Valley Tech and the University Extension in Menasha.

As a fulltime freelance illustrator and designer, Elizabeth has tried her hand at living the corporate life as Vice President of Kaukauna Creative Arts Group for eight years. Now she keeps busy running Betty Driessen Artwork in Kaukauna doing computer graphics, designing logos, creating flyers and brochures, and illustrating for various venues.

Married for thirty-seven years, and the mother of three, Elizabeth still loves to take the top off her husband's Wrangler and go driving around the countryside looking for out of the way spots. Standing at the side of her Jeep with a camera around her neck, practicing T'ai chi, or teaching art workshops, Elizabeth doesn't stop for anything. Unless, that is, she is stopping to donate her time, energy, and art to a good cause like the American Cancer Society or the Infant Welfare Circle.

Elizabeth illustrated *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* because it is a fun story about a child who realizes something is changing. His pajamas are too small! Illustrated in the fun and colorful medium of a child's crayons, Elizabeth brings her own memories of a favorite pair of pj's to the story. The idea of taking the initiative and asking for help is one that Elizabeth tried to instill in her children. Betty has also illustrated *On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas* for Raven Tree Press.



Contact Betty Driessen through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.

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On the Banks or the Amazon written by Nancy Kelly Allen / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
En las orillas del Amazonas escrito por Nancy Kelly Allen / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
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Questions for the Illustrator

Elizabeth Driessen



1. Who or what inspires you to draw?
Elizabeth's children and all of the picture books she has read to them are a great inspiration to her. Bringing a story to life with pictures is not just a job for Elizabeth, it is a fascination.

2. What is your favorite illustration environment? Describe your workspace.
It's a home office full of windows so Elizabeth can feel the outdoors and bask in the natural light of the sun. A computer and an art table, replete with brushes, paints, and palette, share this space with Elizabeth. Elizabeth says they make excellent roomies.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for illustrating?
Partial to watercolors, Elizabeth enjoys working with crayons, ink and colored pencil. She likes bright colors and loose, active styles, but also admires and practices tighter, more detailed art.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
Elizabeth needs white noise. Sometimes soft rock, sometimes quiet meditative music works. At other times she just hums. Even if she forgets about it until it's cold, Elizabeth always keeps a cup of coffee within reach. When reading a manuscript she lets the story come together in her mind and then begins by drawing some loose pencil sketches until she is satisfied with the layout.

5. Who are your favorite illustrators? What influence have they had on your work?
Uri Schulivitz, Fred Brenner, Rosemary Wells, Chris Van Allsburg, Maurice Sendak, and the Dillons, have all made their impression on Elizabeth. Even through their diverse styles and picture quality it is easy for Elizabeth to envision the stories from their art. They have made her aware of her own attention to detail and conscious of whether the style of a story is loose and playful or very structured and detailed.



6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
Elizabeth wants readers to feel the story through her paintings. She wants their experience to be a visual journey that takes readers not just through, but into the story. She wants children to leave with not only a smile but a new appreciation of art.

Questions for the Illustrator (continued)

Elizabeth Driessen



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that other may be interested in?
Elizabeth enjoys photography, swimming, and lounging by her koi pond. In love with sun and the outdoors, Elizabeth considers anything that gets her outside a hobby.

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you want to illustrate it? Where did your ideas come from?
Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama was fun to illustrate. Drawing from her childhood, Elizabeth was able to add elements that weren't in the manuscript.

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Though *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* didn't require any special research, Elizabeth had a great time thinking back on her all-time favorite pajamas and special things her grandma would do for her.

On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas, however, took lots of research. She visited her local library and searched the internet to determine authentic representation of the Amazonian jungle and the feathered animals and plantlife in this book.

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
With so many positive reactions to her artwork, the most fun for Elizabeth is presenting at schools and reaping a harvest of hugs afterward. Her granddaughter is now old enough to have Elizabeth's books read to her, and that is priceless. Parents tell her that her books are among their children's favorites.



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About the Book

Jimmy Jammers/Jaimito pijama



Tommy's favorite pajamas, his *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama*, have grown too small. Sure, he could wear his other, newer pajamas, but his other pajamas scratch his nose. Not only that, but the buttons are hard to use and he can't always find both halves. No, the only solution for Tommy is to get himself a new pair of *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama*. Follow Tommy on this outrageous pajama adventure in *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* by author Kevin Brennan and illustrator Elizabeth Driessen.

From a jam store to a banner shop, Tommy can't seem to find another pair of *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* anywhere. With no choice but to take matters into his own hands, Tommy grabs a scissors and starts fixing the old pair. When Grandma sees what Tommy has been up to she relieves him of his burden, and taking his *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* tucks him snuggly into bed. Going to work with her needle and thread she has Tommy's new pajamas ready before he goes to bed the next night. In love with his new pj's, Tommy thinks, "Jimmy Jammers are for little kids. Big boys wear Grammy Jammys!"

Elizabeth Driessen's illustrations for *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* are done in crayon and watercolor. Given the use of a child's medium, the pictures share the coziness of a favorite pair of pajamas, and the color and vivid nature of a child's imagination. They tell the story so well that they could certainly stand alone. But, coupled with Kevin Brennan's writing, *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* is both a touching and laugh-out-loud book sure to amuse the whole family.

This story is presented as a full text translation. In a full text translation the story text is included fully in both English and in Spanish. In general, both texts are supplied on the page with an icon separating the two. Different ink colors for each text further distinguish the English from the Spanish. The book ends with a keyword vocabulary page for learning both languages.

Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama helps children gain an appreciation of literature, another culture/language, the power of initiative, and the wisdom of seeking help from an adult. It is guaranteed to quickly become one of your children's favorite stories. Pick up your copy of *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* today.



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Rave Reviews

Jimmy Jammers/Jaimito pijama



"In this story, presented in both English and Spanish, Tommy has outgrown his favorite pajamas, Jimmy Jammers. He begins an imaginative search for a new pair using the way the words "Jimmy" and "Jammers" sound to his young ears...A fun story for young children. The illustrations by Elizabeth Driessen are rendered in pen and ink and colored with crayon." **—Lane Education Service District**

"We love Jimmy Jammers at our house! Everyone can relate to the dread of having to part with a favorite piece of clothing now sadly outgrown...The way Jimmy's "gramma" saves the day is endearing and clever. HOORAY for Grandmas and a cozy pair of p.j.'s! And hooray for this new favorite bedtime story." **—Ann Harpt, Eisenhower Elementary School, Green Bay, WI**

"Brennan and Driessen make a good team...a word-witty, comical story with kid-friendly art...perfect for a pajama story time... bilingual makes it even better..." **—Elizabeth Johnson, Madison, WI**

"This story endeared itself on many levels. As a mom, I like the reasons that Tommy gives for choosing the Jimmy Jammers as his favorite. As a counselor, I am thankful for another book that I can use to teach problem solving skills. As a former English teacher, I love the clever play on words throughout the book. As a former Spanish teacher, I love that there's yet another book on the market in both languages. And as a girl who used to LOVE feet pajamas, I connected with the skid-proof feet and how easily they are outgrown. Do yourself a favor and add this one to your collection. I enthusiastically recommend it!" **—Barbara Gruener, Westwood Elementary School, Friendswood, TX**



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Tip Sheet for Jimmy Jammers/ Jaimito pijama

Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama
Written by Kevin Brennan Illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
32 pg. / Hardcover / Jacketed / 1st Edition / Trade Cloth
Children's Bilingual (English/Spanish full text translations in both languages)
ISBN 0-9701107-9-0 Reading Level—3.0
Publication Date–2002 9 x 11
Retail Price $16.95 USD Ages 4-8 Accelerated Reader® Quiz #68626

Description: Tommy has outgrown his favorite pajamas, his Jimmy Jammers. Where will he find a new pair? This dilemma leads to an imaginative search, a bit of mischief, and a solution from Tommy's trusty Gramma.

Selling Points:
- Crayon drawings bring childlike quality to the book
- Word play and communication problems are common in young children
- Value of grandparent and grandchild relationship

Selling Sentence: Tommy creates amusing, mischievous fun with his favorite pajamas.

Author Bio: Kevin Brennan utilizes his Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul MN, and his Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in his career with Calumet County Department of Human Services and in his writing.

Illustrator: Elizabeth Driessen (Betty) began her education at the Milwaukee Art Institute in 1966, completed a course in design in the late 60's, attended related art and design courses at the UW Extension in Menasha, WI and at the Fox Valley Technical College.

Advertising & Promotion Plans:
- Direct marketing to booksellers, schools and libraries
- Electronic advertising to e-lists
- Introduction at local, national and international trade shows including BEA and ALA
- Catalog and galley mailings to all major book reviewers



Pre-Publication Comments and Special Sales:
- National reviews

Subrights: All subrights currently available

Market Niche: Pajamas retailers and manufacturers

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