



Meet Seymour Simon

Over 80 years old and still going strong! Seymour Simon is a well-loved author of science books written for children.

Seymour Simon was born on August 9, 1931 in New York City. He wrote his first book, *Space Monsters*, as a second grader. He stapled it together and read it aloud to the class. (Years later a publisher asked him to rewrite the story as a real book.)

Although he grew up in the Bronx, he made an effort to explore the natural world around him. He observed things such as the weather, sun, moon and stars from a rooftop and even explored a vacant lot where he would learn about things like birds, earthworms, small plants and trees. (One of his first books was called *Science in a Vacant Lot*.) He didn't let his surroundings deter him from his love of science.

He graduated from Bronx High School of Science and went on to earn a degree from City College of New York. After graduating, he taught middle school science for 23 years.

Seymour Simon began publishing books in the early 1960s and has received numerous awards for his writing since then. Today he has written over 270 science related books. His process involves a great deal of research, often researching years before actually writing a book. He says:

"Whenever I want to write about a subject, I need to study. I start by looking at the research that other people have done. What experiments have they run? What animals have they observed? By studying all the work that others have already, I learn about the subjects that I write about in my books. As the great scientist Sir Isaac Newton once wrote: 'If I have seen further than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.' "

Simon is the founder of StarWalk Kids Media, a publisher who strives to serve educators. Their goal is to provide engaging and high quality eBooks for students at all reading levels.

Simon had two sons with his first wife, Joyce Shanock Simon, who died in 2007. He has since remarried. His current wife, Liz Nealon is the CEO of StarWalk Kids Media.

Today Simon still enjoys visiting school and talking with children and teachers. As long as he keeps writing, he feels that he has not given up teaching.