



School Book Project

As featured on Wisconsin Public Radio, the Milwaukee Journal and more.

Working with Poplar Creek Elementary as the artist-in-residence to create the children's edition of **Falling Uphill: The Secret of Life**, illustrated by the

students, is the result of years of education, years of work experience, years of exploration, and heaps of love. It is my proudest accomplishment

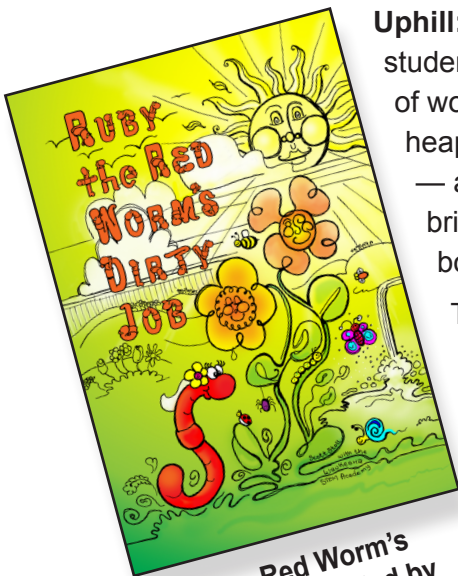
— a community project involving about 1500 people, bringing the real-world of inspiration into the classroom, and creating a book that will inspire generations.

This project has expanded to other schools with books about the environment and living a life of passion. And I am working with the US Embassy as the Cultural Ambassador to Argentina to create a Spanish edition of "Falling Uphill".

For more information please, visit our website to see how these books were created. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions about co-creating this project at your school. ~ **Scott**.



Falling Uphill: The Secret of Life. Illustrated by Poplar Creek Elementary School.



Ruby the Red Worm's Dirty Job. Illustrated by the Waukesha STEM Academy.



Some benefits of this project:

Students, teachers and parents often point out benefits of this project to me, and it seems there is a never-ending list of benefits, one for every person involved. Here are a few:

- * **Developing a love to read books.** This may be the number one benefit. I'm repeatedly told that it is increasingly difficult to get kids to read anything; however, kids love to read and share their own book. This project will also teach by example that books are still the best way to truly let your imagination fly, and to feel a flavor of adventure that can't be felt in any other form.
- * **Participating in a real-world project** that will be on bookshelves everywhere forever and create memories to last a lifetime! In addition, it is teaching that the end product (such as passing a test or winning an award or learning some magical formula) is not the solution to life, but that participating in life (including getting your hands dirty and making mistakes) is the solution, in other words, showing students how to find their inner passion, taking a step of action and cooperating with others.
- * Dreaming dreams and turning them into tangible realities—not only the book itself, but the ideas within the book, and the ideas within the reader of the book!
- * Creating miracles that someone somewhere will be inspired by a student's drawing and that person will think twice about their path through life and rather than do what they feel they have to do, will instead do what they love to do, perhaps becoming a Nobel Laureate or a president or even a cupcake baker and touching the lives of millions more with the passion of a dream.

Some more bonuses:

- * Scott can present his inspirational slideshow about his journey around the world on a bicycle as a fun introduction.
- * Scott can attend a week of art classes, as an artist-in-residence, to help guide and inspire the students drawings, including reading them the story.
- * We can organize an artistic school photograph similar to the ones above. A 12x18" framed photo is hanging in both school offices.
- * We can organize a school book signing where every student signs their drawing in the book. We can also invite friends and family for an awards ceremony.
- * Teachers can organize complimentary classroom activities; for example, the STEM Academy will start vermicomposting lunchroom scraps to compliment the red worm book.
- * This is also a project that the local media loves and it would create a great opportunity to promote your school and your philosophy of learning. Examples: WPR and The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

Some upcoming books that might interest your school:

- * **Walter the Water Drop.** Like Ruby the Red Worm's Dirty Job, this story personifies an eco-friendly theme. Through the eyes of Walter we explore the life cycle of water from a rain drop to a glass of water. I have a potential sponsor for this project, or a similar conservation idea like recycling, for school districts in Waukesha County.
- * **The Weather Book.** A fun book based on the Weather Stone seen across the world. "If this book is wet, it is raining." "If this book is underwater, there has been a flood." "If this book flew away like a bird, it's windy."
- * **And more.** Customize your own idea. Currently Amy Belle Elementary has committed to doing a book about landfills. Where does it all go? And there are more stories begging to be told: local food, eco-friendly transportation, and I have lots of stories about living a life of passion, featuring cupcakes, bunnies and more.