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## MS-154: Eileen Spinelli Papers

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## MS-154: Eileen Spinelli Papers

### Description

The collection consists mainly of materials used by Spinelli in the writing and publication processes of her books. Handwritten, typed, and word processed drafts from various stages of the books' development are included. E-mail and written correspondence between Spinelli, publishers, and editors is also part of the collection. Several of the books were turned down by multiple publishing houses before being sold, and some manuscripts were never accepted at all. The electronic communication between the author and her editors provides insight into the complicated and lengthy process of revising childrens' books for printing, as well as the task of choosing and collaborating with an illustrator.

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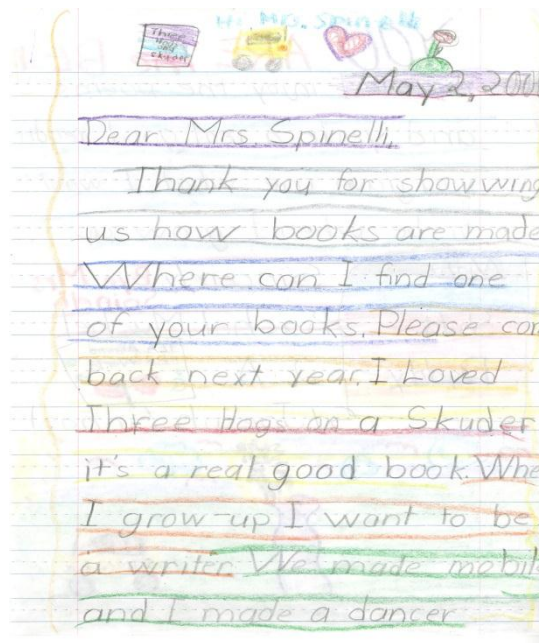
### Keywords

Jerry Spinelli, children's author, book manuscripts

### Disciplines

Children's and Young Adult Literature | English Language and Literature

## Guide to the Eileen Spinelli Papers



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives

Processed by Jenna Fleming  
October 2013

## **MS-154: Papers of Eileen Spinelli**

(3 boxes, approximately 3 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1987—2012

Bulk Dates: 2000—2012

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### **Provenance**

The papers were donated to Musselman Library by Eileen Spinelli in 2012. Her donation followed one made by her husband, author Jerry Spinelli, winner of the 1991 Newberry Award and graduate of Gettysburg College, class of 1963.

### **Biography**

Eileen Spinelli was born Eileen Mesi in 1942. She was raised in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, and was inspired to become an author following her first visit to the local public library at the age of six. She worked as a creative writing teacher and a secretary prior to the publication of her first book, *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*, in 1991. Since then, Spinelli has written over sixty books for children, as well as poems and stories published in *Highlights for Children* and other magazines. Her books *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch* and *Hero Cat* were recognized by the Christopher Awards in 1992 and 2007, respectively, for their “affirmation of the highest values of the human spirit.” Spinelli was presented with the Bank Street College of Education’s Best Children’s Book of the Year Award, the Philadelphia Children’s Reading Round Table Book of the Month Award, and 2010 National Green Earth Book Award for *Miss Fox’s Class Goes Green*, among other honors. She is also a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. She is married to Newberry Award-winning author Jerry Spinelli, Gettysburg College Class of 1963. The couple has six children and twenty-one grandchildren. Spinelli currently lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where she continues to write stories and poetry for children.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

The collection consists mainly of materials used by Spinelli in the writing and publication processes of her books. Handwritten, typed, and word processed drafts from various stages of the books’ development are included. E-mail and written correspondence between Spinelli, publishers, and editors is also part of the collection. Several of the books were turned down by multiple publishing houses before being sold, and some manuscripts were never accepted at all. The electronic communication between the author and her editors provides insight into the complicated and lengthy process of revising childrens’ books for printing, as well as the task of choosing and collaborating with an illustrator.

In some cases, Spinelli’s research for her books, mostly in the form of articles printed from the internet, is included in the files. This is largely applicable to those books that are based in historical or factual information. Copies of published reviews, along with occasional notes from Spinelli’s publishers, are also part of the collection. A few files contain samples of cover art or illustrations, proofs of printed versions, information on book awards, or newspaper and

magazine articles announcing publications. The collection also contains a small selection of Spinelli's personal papers, comprising of interviews and fan mail.

### **Series Description**

This collection is divided into three Series. **Series 1:** Manuscripts: drafts, correspondence, reviews, research, and other publication information; **Series 2:** Personal Papers: author biography, interviews, and fan mail; **Series 3:** Proofs: oversized publication proofs.

### **Box 1**

#### **Series 1: Manuscripts**

- 1-1 Advent Song: Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-2 Baby Animals: Draft
- 1-3 *Baby Loves You So Much* (published 2007): Drafts
- 1-4 *Baby Loves You So Much* (published 2007): Correspondence
- 1-5 *The Best Story* (published 2008): Drafts
- 1-6 *The Best Story* (published 2008): Correspondence and Cover Art
- 1-7 *A Big Boy Now* (published 2012): Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-8 *Buzz* (published 2010): Drafts
- 1-9 *Buzz* (published 2010): Correspondence
- 1-10 *Callie Cat, Ice Skater* (published 2007): Drafts
- 1-11 *Callie Cat, Ice Skater* (published 2007): Correspondence, Reviews, and Research
- 1-12 *Cold Snap* (published 2012): Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-13 *Coming Through the Blizzard* (published 2009): Drafts
- 1-14 *Coming Through the Blizzard* (published 2009): Correspondence and Reviews
- 1-15 *Do You Have a Cat?* (published 2010): Drafts
- 1-16 *Do You Have a Cat?* (published 2010): Correspondence, Reviews, and Research
- 1-17 *Do You Have a Dog?* (published 2011): Drafts
- 1-18 *Do You Have a Dog?* (published 2011): Correspondence and Research
- 1-19 *Do You Have a Hat?* (published 2004): Drafts
- 1-20 *Do You Have a Hat?* (published 2004): Correspondence
- 1-21 Emily Dickinson and Me: Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-22 *Farm Animals* (published 1992): Draft
- 1-23 *Heat Wave* (published 2007): Drafts, Correspondence, and Reviews
- 1-24 Her Sister's Wedding: Draft and Correspondence

- 1-25 *Here Comes the Year* (published 2002): Drafts
- 1-26 *Here Comes the Year* (published 2002): Correspondence and Reviews
- 1-27 *Hero Cat* (published 2006): Drafts
- 1-28 *Hero Cat* (published 2006): Correspondence, Research, Review, and Awards
- 1-29 History of Cats: Draft
- 1-30 *Horses* (published 1992): Draft
- 1-31 *How to Clean Your Room* (published 2009): Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-32 *Hug A Bug* (published 2008): Drafts, Correspondence, Newspaper Clipping, Proof
- 1-33 *I Like Noisy, Mom Likes Quiet* (published 2006): Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-34 *In My New Yellow Shirt* (published 2001): Drafts, Correspondence, Reviews
- 1-35 *Jonah's Whale* (published 2012): Drafts, Correspondence, Cover Art
- 1-36 *Kittens* (published 1992): Draft
- 1-37 *Little Bunny Stories for Highlights High Five* (published 2005-2011): Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-38 *Little Bunny Stories for Highlights High Five* (published 2011-2012): Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-39 *Lizzie Logan Gets Married* (published 1998): Drafts, Correspondence, and Reviews
- 1-40 *Lizzie Logan, Second Banana* (published 2000): Drafts, Correspondence, and Reviews
- 1-41 *Lizzie Logan Wears Purple Sunglasses* (published 1998): Drafts, Correspondence, and Reviews
- 1-42 *Lulu Stories for Highlights High Five*: Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-43 Miscellaneous Drafts
- 1-44 Miscellaneous Correspondence and Research

## **Box 2**

### **Series 1: Manuscripts (continued)**

- 1-45 *Miss Fox's Class Earns a Field Trip* (published 2010): Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-46 *Miss Fox's Class Gets It Wrong* (published 2011): Drafts, Correspondence, and Proof
- 1-47 *Miss Fox's Class Goes Green* (published 2011): Drafts, Correspondence, Award Information, Proof
- 1-48 *Peace Week in Miss Fox's Class* (published 2009): Drafts, Correspondence, Reviews
- 1-49 *Miss Fox's Class Shapes Up* (published 2011): Drafts and Correspondence

- 1-50 *Night Shift Daddy* (published 2000): Drafts, Correspondence, Reviews, and Cover Art
- 1-51 *Nora's Ark* (published 2013): Drafts and Correspondence
- 1-52 *Now It Is Summer* (published 2011): Draft, Correspondence, Review
- 1-53 *Now It Is Winter* (published 2004): Drafts, Correspondence, Reviews
- 1-54 Poetry for *Highlights* and *Highlights High Five* Magazines: Drafts, Correspondence, and Photocopy
- 1-55 *Puppies* (published 1992): Draft
- 1-56 *Reptiles* (published 1992): Draft
- 1-57 *Sharks* (published 1992): Draft
- 1-58 *Sing Til Sundown* (Song): Drafts, Correspondence, Published Copies
- 1-59 *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch* (published 1991): Japanese Edition
- 1-60 *Summerhouse Time* (published 2009): Draft
- 1-61 *Tea Party Today* (published 2006): Proof and Review
- 1-62 *Teddy Bear and His Friends* (published 1990): Drafts
- 1-63 *Together at Christmas* (published 2012): Drafts, Correspondence, and Proof
- 1-64 *Where I Live* (published 2007): Drafts
- 1-65 *Where I Live* (published 2007): Correspondence and Illustrations
- 1-66 *You Be Sue*: Drafts
- 1-67 *Zoo Animals* (published 1992): Draft

## **Series 2: Personal Papers**

- 2-1 Biographical Information
- 2-2 Fan Mail
- 2-3 Writing Poetry for Children Workshop

## **Box 3**

### **Series 3: Proofs**

- 3-1 *The Best Story* (published 2008): Draft
- 3-2 *The Best Story* (published 2008): Final
- 3-3 *Heat Wave* (published 2007)
- 3-4 *Jonah's Whale* (published 2012)