

Douglas Florian's Books

by Gail Mack



The Boy Who Loved Drawing

Douglas Florian wasn't the first artist in his family. His dad was.

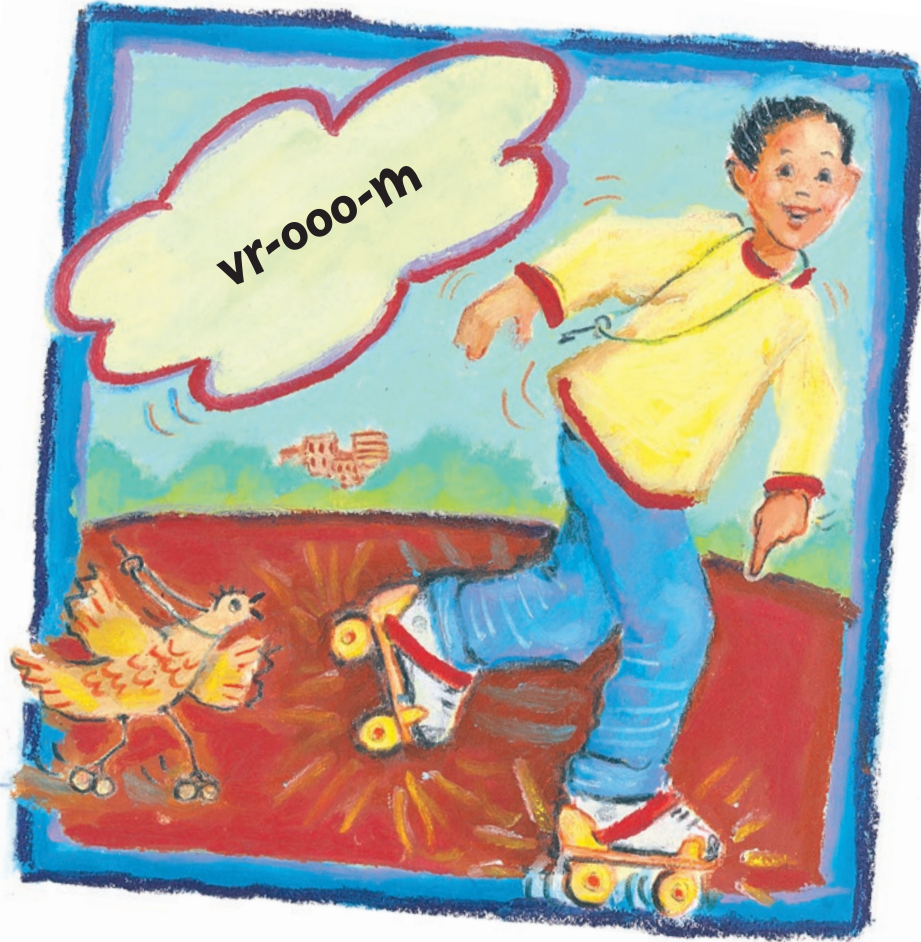
Douglas's dad loved to make sketches of things in nature. He showed Douglas how to draw. He taught Douglas how to look closely at nature.

READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

Who taught Douglas how to draw?

Drawing was fun for Douglas. When he was ten years old, he entered a coloring contest. His art won second place. His prize was a pair of roller skates.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Text and Graphic Features

How does the picture help you to know what roller skates are?

An Art Student

One summer, Douglas took an art class. He loved it. He learned to use different art tools. Artists use many tools. They might use paint or pen and ink. They might even use chalk.

Douglas was just fifteen years old. He already knew what he wanted to become. He was going to be an artist.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

What kinds of tools might an artist use?



A Working Artist

Douglas did become an artist. He sold his drawings to magazines and newspapers. He made art for children's books, too.

At first, he would illustrate other people's stories. Later, he wrote his own stories. His first books were about nature. Douglas filled them with drawings of things like frogs, turtles, and shells.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

What did Douglas do as an artist?

A Writer of Poems

One day, Douglas saw a book of silly poems. He smiled as he turned the pages. "A book like this would be fun to make!" he thought.

So he wrote some poems. He used funny sounds and silly words. He made enough poems to fill a book. Then he drew pictures for the poems.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Text and Graphic Features

How does the picture show a funny sound?



A Winner

Douglas liked to imagine made-up animals. He wrote a book of poems about them. After that, he wrote a book of poems about real animals. It was called *Beast Feast*. His books were a big hit. One book even won an award!

Douglas still loves making art and writing poems. His books make kids laugh.

Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Text and Graphic Features

What detail in the text does the picture of Douglas Florian show?

Douglas Florian Timeline

This timeline shows events in Douglas Florian's life.

1950 Douglas Florian is born.

1960 He wins second prize in an art contest.

1965 He decides to become an artist.

Around 1970 He studies art in college.

1994 His poem book, *Beast Feast*, comes out.

1995 *Beast Feast* wins the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Text and Graphic Features

What is one event on the timeline that you don't read about anywhere else in this story?



Reread and Respond

1 What did Douglas Florian do after he made pictures for other people's stories?

Hint

Look on page 37.

2 How did Douglas Florian's dad help him become an artist?

Hint

Look on page 34.

3 Write three words that tell about Douglas Florian's art. Explain.

Hint

Clues are on almost every page!