

MY FATHER'S DRAGON

Based on the beloved stories by

RUTH STILES GANNETT



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Ruth Stiles Gannett

Ruth Stiles Gannett was born on August 12, 1923 and grew up in New York City. Her father, Lewis Stiles Gannett, was a book reviewer for the New York Herald Tribune, and her mother, Mary Ross Gannett, was also a book reviewer and an editor. Her parents divorced in the early 1930's and her father remarried Ruth Chrisman, an award-winning illustrator. Ruth Stiles Gannett attended George School in Newtown, PA and graduated from Vassar College in 1944 with a degree in chemistry.

When Ruth was twenty-three years old, during "two rainy weeks" in 1946 while between jobs, she began writing what would become My Father's Dragon. At the time she wrote the story "to amuse myself" and never anticipated that her delightfully funny tale would be published. But her family encouraged her to show the story to a Random House editor, who accepted the book and then asked her stepmother, Ruth Chrisman Gannett, to illustrate it. The book became a family affair when her husband to be, Peter Kahn, chose the type. My Father's Dragon was published in 1948 and went on to become a Newbery Honor Book and ALA Notable Book. Ruth wrote two "Dragon" sequels, all three of which have been in print continuously. The books have been translated into sixteen languages and are much beloved in Japan, where the book is required reading in elementary schools. Children and parents from around the world continue to write Ruth fan letters about her magical tales. In talking about where the stories came from, Ruth says, "I attended the City and Country School in New York City where I was encouraged to read and write 'just for the fun of it' and to explore the world of my imagination. My books came out of a happy childhood."

In 1947, Ruth married Peter Kahn, an artist and professor of art, calligraphy and art history, who taught at Cornell University for more than 30 years. Ruth raised seven daughters and has continued to be active in her community and involved with activities related to her books. She lives in a large yellow Victorian house in the outskirts of Trumansburg, NY.



about the author

MY FATHER'S DRAGON | STORY ADAPTED BY JENNIFER BLATCHLEY SMITH, LESLIE REIDEL AND LANDIS SMITH

MUSIC BY CHARLES GILBERT | PRODUCTION DESIGN BY C. DAVID RUSSELL

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