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## Curio, The Sheltie, Teaches A Simple Story

By SUE PASCOE  
*Palisadian-Post Contributor*

Jeanette Griver is no stranger to success in publishing. Her *Oh No! Not Another Problem: A Practical Approach to Solve Day to Day Problems*, remained on the *Los Angeles Times* paperback, non-fiction bestseller list for 27 weeks. Still, she was thrilled when she found out a well-known publisher in Mexico was interested in her children's easy chapter books *Curio a Shetland Sheepdog Meets the Crow* and *Curio, a Shetland Sheepdog, and Friends*. Soon her children's books will be translated in Spanish and on bookshelves throughout Mexico and Latin America.

The books can currently be found on Amazon.com, but Palisades residents will have a chance to listen to her read from her second book, *Curio, a Shetland Sheepdog, and Friends* as well as autograph copies on Wednesday, June 8 at 6:45 p.m. at Village Books on Swarthmore.

On a basic level, the story of Curio is about a dog who converses with her owner, Susan. On a deeper level, the two talk about friendship, values and problem solving. In the second book, "Curio and Friends," Curio tells her friend Mr. Crow, "When I meet someone for the first time, I get a little nervous. Especially when they're very different from me."

It's simple language within a story that children can relate to because it also expresses the larger universe a child inhabits. Jeanette feels that although children are hearing the simple story, on another level they are absorbing the deeper message. A crow and a dog are friends, which is a simple lesson in diversity.

In Griver's first book, Curio learns to spell her name with blocks with capital letters on them. Jeanette said that she actually taught her own Sheltie how to spell her name with blocks. A kindergarten teacher took the idea from the Curio books and brought them to her classroom as a teaching aid. Griver says of her books, "What the books are doing is beyond reading, it's a learning tool."

Griver, who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from UCLA in 1961 and a master's degree in human factors (a branch of psychology) from USC in 1964, is the president and CEO of her human factors company, Compsych. She explains, "My reputation is based on my ability to give tools to problem solving in a constructive way." Interestingly enough, she uses that background in writing her children's books.

Jeanette envisioned a four story series about Curio, which was based on her own Sheltie. The first book is about friendship, the second book about change. The third book, which Griver is working on now, will be called *Curio Meets a Cat*. She's doing research and gathering data on the frequency of sound and how it affects animals, and plans to incorporate that into the story.



An illustration by Marna Obermiller that appears in *Curio, a Shetland Sheepdog, and Friends* by Jeanette Griver.



Jeanette Griver

Rich Schmitt/Staff Photographer