

IT'S TIME FOR THE FLAT STANLEY HOME WRITING PROJECT

GET WRITING! GET EXCITED! GET CURIOUS! GET COLORING!

Dear Families,

We have read the first Flat Stanley chapter book and now we're ready to start a writing project that will end in April. This home writing project will help all of us practice letter writing, teach us geography in a new way and help share information with others in our class.

I would like your child to try to write and send at least three "Flat Stanley letters" over the next couple months. See a letter example enclosed. Also, don't forget to trace and decorate a Flat Stanley to put inside the envelope to go along with your letter. First, think of friends and family that live in other places in the country or world. Next, explain that you are sending Flat Stanley to them so that you and your class can learn about different places in the world. We're hoping they will take pictures with him and write about his adventures. They might like to know that we are trying to get a Flat Stanley letter from every state and continent in the world before April. Finally, bring any Flat Stanley letter you get to school and tell us all about it. Write your name on the back of all your Flat Stanley information because we will put it on a big bulletin board in the hall for all to see. You'll get your Flat Stanley letter and things returned in the spring when we finish.

Here are some things that might be helpful to know:

- 1) It usually takes about a month or longer for people to return a Flat Stanley letter to you.
- 2) Use the Flat Stanley outline to trace, cut and decorate or use your own. You could even change it to be a girl such as Flat Stella ...
- 3) Learn more about Flat Stanley by going to www.flatstanley.com
- 4) Know a business traveler...? Just make them a Flat Stanley and they could attach Stanley to postcards.
- 5) Don't forget to take Flat Stanley with you on any family vacations.



It is very exciting to learn about places with Flat Stanley. Thank you for helping us with this adventurous writing project. I'll write some too.

We can't wait to see what Flat Stanley will teach us about the world!

Jeff Brown, Children's Writer Who Created 'Flat Stanley' Series, Dies at 77

By WOLFGANG SAXON

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Jeff Brown, a magazine editor and short-story writer who created Flat Stanley, the two-dimensional hero of an enduring series of children's books, died on Wednesday in Manhattan. He was 77 and lived on the Upper East Side.

The cause was a heart attack he suffered while walking near his home, his family said.

A native New Yorker, Mr. Brown had worked in Hollywood and as an editor and writer in New York before creating Flat Stanley, a hero for the youngest readers whose adventures, with illustrations by Tomi Ungerer, were first published in 1964.

Flat Stanley became the star of a series of perpetually popular books. The latest, "Stanley, Flat Again!," was published this year by HarperCollins Children's Books. (All together, Stanley's tales have sold nearly a million copies in the United States, HarperCollins said Thursday.)

The character's life extended further, as schoolchildren mailed cut-outs of him to their friends. In translation, he traveled to France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Japan and Israel, among other places.

Jeff Brown was born Richard Chester Brown. Originally a child actor, he became Jeff Brown because Actors Equity already had a Richard Brown as a member. A graduate of the Professional Children's School, he provided a child's voice in a radio drama and appeared onstage.

In Hollywood he worked for the producer Samuel Goldwyn Jr. and was a story consultant at Paramount. Preferring to write himself, he sold fiction and articles to national magazines while working at The New Yorker, Life, The Saturday Evening Post, Esquire and finally at Warner Books, where he was a senior editor until 1990.

The idea for Stanley came to him one night at bedtime when his sons J. C. and Tony were young and stalling for time. One asked what would happen if the big bulletin board on the wall were to fall on J. C., and Mr. Brown said he would most likely wake up flat. That led to speculation about what such a life might be like.

After writing "Flat Stanley," Mr. Brown went on to "Stanley



Dale Hubert, 2006

Jeff Brown



Mr. Brown was inspired by his sons to write the "Flat Stanley" series about a boy who is squashed paper-thin by a bulletin board.

Sample "Friendly Letter"

Today's date goes here _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are sending your letter to someone you know, use your name and address. If you are writing to someone you don't know, use only your first name and put in the library's address: 8801 Portland Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420. School address: 8514 90th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55420

Your street address goes here. Read "Important Note." _____

Your street address goes here _____

Dear: Person's name goes here _____

Introduction text goes here. Let people know your first name, your age and grade. Let them know that you read a book about "Flat Stanley" and why you chose to send a "Flat Stanley" to them. _____

Body text goes here. Ask the person you are writing to if they would take a picture of "Flat Stanley" doing something fun and write something about what "Flat Stanley" could see or do if he lived there. Ask them to send "Flat Stanley" back to you. People can also send maps, postcards or other fun things. Include the address for "Flat Stanley" here. _____

Conclusion text goes here. Thank the person for taking time to answer your letter. _____

Closing goes here _____

Your name goes here _____