



Press Kit

Ride High with the Wave

by
Sharon K. Solomon

RIDE HIGH WITH THE WAVE



~ SHARON K. SOLOMON ~

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Press Release

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JAPANESE AND JEWISH FAMILIES CONNECT IN MIDDLE GRADE CHILDREN'S BOOK

“Competitors on Swim Team Join Forces”

Eleven-year-old Hiro Kojima and Ted Richman don't like each other. Worse than that, they're backstroke rivals on the Dolphins swim team. However, they share a mutual problem. Their parents won't let them participate in Saturday meets. Hiro goes to Japanese School, and Ted and his family attend Sabbath services. Reluctantly, the rivals join forces to change swim meets to Sundays. Will they succeed? And will they resolve their rivalry?

Ride High with the Wave by Sharon K. Solomon, is a novel for 8- to 12-year-old kids about a real-life problem facing children today: Their family's values don't mesh with the needs of today's sports teams.

“Hiro and Ted face a problem many kids have these days,” Solomon says. “So many sports tournaments are held on religious holidays or conflict with other needs of their culture. How can kids keep their heritage and still fit in with their peers?”

Published December 11, 2017, *Ride High with the Wave* is a great gift for boys and girls who are interested in sports and trying to mesh family or cultural needs with challenging schedules.

Solomon (www.sharonsbooks.net) is the author of seven published books for children including science plays, fiction and nonfiction picture books, and fiction for middle grade and teen readers. *Ride High with the Wave* grew out of Sharon's love for swimming.

Solomon has a BS in Education from Penn State and MS in Education as a reading specialist from Temple University. She worked 35 years as an elementary school reading specialist in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She has two grandsons and a granddaughter.

Ride High with the Wave by Sharon K. Solomon is available as a paperback (ISBN 978-0-9860882-5-4, 132 pages) for \$7.99 and as an ebook (ISBN 978-0-9860882-4-7) for \$2.99.

For more information about this book or to schedule an interview with the author, contact Denise Timpko, President, Gettier Group, LLC, at 703-723-3005 or denisetimpko@verizon.net. A high-resolution file for the cover and a photograph of the author may be found at <http://www.gettiergroup.net>.

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Also by the Author

A Walk with Grandpa

Cathy Williams, Buffalo Soldier

Christopher Newport: Jamestown Explorer

How a Lemonade Lid Changed My Summer

James Smith, Four Years a Mohawk

Lewis Tewanima: Born to Run

Primary Science Readers' Theatre

Catalog Sheet

- **Title:** *Ride High with the Wave*
- **Author:** Sharon K. Solomon
- **Cover Art:** Daniel F. Bridy
- **Book Description:** Hiro Kojima and Ted Richman are backstroke rivals on the Dolphins, their swim team. Hiro is the new boy in town and Ted dislikes him. Reluctantly, Ted agrees to work with Hiro to solve their mutual problem, attending swim meets on Saturdays when Ted and his family attend Sabbath services and Hiro goes to Japanese school. The rivals join forces to change swim meets to Sundays. Will they succeed? And how will they resolve their rivalry?
- **Audience:** Elementary school children (8 to 12)
- **Genre:** Mainstream
- **Unique Selling Points:**
 - Features swimming, friendship, and competition
 - Features social themes (religions and faith) and family values
 - Features Japanese Americans and Judaism
 - Shows multigenerational families
- **Formats and Availability**
 - Trade paperback
 - **Price:** \$7.99
 - **Product Dimensions:** 6 x 9 inches
 - **Number of Pages:** 132
 - **ISBN:** 978-0-9860882-5-4
 - **Publication Date:** December 11, 2017
 - **Availability:** Amazon (Ingram, Barnes & Noble, others, forthcoming)

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- Ebook

- **Price:** \$2.99
- **File Size:** 498 Kb
- **ISBN:** 978-0-9860882-4-7
- **Publication Date:** December 11, 2017
- **Availability:** Kindle (Nook, iPubs, others, forthcoming)

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Questions and Answers

Sharon K. Solomon, author of *Ride High with the Wave*, answers questions about her book.

Why did you write *Ride High with the Wave*?

I wrote *Ride High with the Wave* to share my love for swimming and the problem that many American children face when participating in sports. Many are torn between attending their religious or cultural events and their sports competitions.

Sports events, such as football, at schools have traditionally been scheduled for Saturdays. This is not a new problem. Yet many Jews have been on those teams. What's different now?

Traditionally, sporting events occurred mostly on Saturdays, but now they are also held on Sundays and holidays. So it's anything goes for when a competition is scheduled.

What is your experience with Japanese American children?

My experience with Japanese Americans is mostly from my 35 years as an elementary reading specialist. I knew a few students who attended Japanese School on Saturdays. I also have an American friend who lived in Japan and a Japanese friend who has lived here in the United States many years.

What do you know about Japanese customs?

My knowledge of Japanese customs comes from research and my two previously mentioned friends. I've been invited to and enjoyed several authentic Japanese meals. Although I've not had the meal served on Japanese New Year, which is described in *Ride High with the Wave*, I read many sources before including it in the book. My two friends also read it and made suggestions. My publisher also had the manuscript reviewed by an American who's knowledgeable about Japanese customs and language and has taught and lived in Japan and by two of his Japanese friends who live in Japan. Most of all, I wanted it to be real.

What do you know about Jewish customs and faith?

My knowledge of Jewish customs and faith comes from my own Jewish upbringing and faith. I attended Hebrew and Sunday School in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, until I was confirmed at age 16. I am a practicing Jew, so I live the religion and its customs. Although there are many variations on how to celebrate Hanukkah, the chapter in *Ride High with the Wave* shows a realistic way in which a Jewish family celebrates the holiday.

How many children face these problems?

I don't have statistics on how many children face the problem that Hiro and Ted did, but I know it is the majority. Especially now that youth sports competitions are also on Sundays and holidays, which makes it more of a universal American problem.

What reactions have you received about the book from children and parents?

Parents and children who have read *Ride High with the Wave* have verified their situations with choosing what events to attend. Most parents go into this with their eyes wide open and are willing to compromise in order to have their children play on the teams. I suppose there are

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some who don't sign their kids up for these teams because they are not willing to make those compromises. I will be interested in hearing from those parents as well.

Have you reached out to Japanese families about these problems?

I have not yet reached out to Japanese families about these problems. Not all Japanese American children attend Japanese School on weekends. My research shows that Japanese Schools are located in or near metropolitan areas of the United States.

What are your plans for the book?

My plans for *Ride High with the Wave* are to market it to YMCAs, swim clubs and swim teams, public and synagogue libraries, and Japanese cultural centers. I hope to start a dialogue so that parents and children who share Hiro and Ted's situation will join together to make suggestions to those who run sports teams. I think their input and involvement is crucial or change will not happen.

How did you get interested in writing?

I became interested in writing when I lived in New Jersey and created science plays for my students who had difficulty reading science textbooks. Because not all students learn in the same way, the plays used humor, art, and music to present the same concepts the textbooks did. In other words, the plays used different parts of the brain, allowing students to learn and understand scientific concepts.

After Pieces of Learning published those plays in 2002 as *Primary Science Readers' Theatre*, I joined local writing groups and organizations. The rest is history. I love doing research and writing reaction nonfiction. I have more fun finding out about someone when I am writing his or her biography. Research is like finding the missing piece of a jigsaw puzzle. It's almost more fun to me than the actual writing. So far, I've published three picture book biographies. I'm currently working on two more.

Ride High with the Wave, however, is fiction and the characters are make believe. The novel is realistic fiction, because the events that occur in the novel could really happen. It occurs in Pittsburgh because I grew up nearby in McKeesport. The Yiddish and Japanese proverbs, swimming facts, Japanese New Year, and Hanukkah are all factual. Although their grandparents offer advice in the form of proverbs, Hiro and Ted solve their problem themselves. And they wind up being very good friends!

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