

Michael Delaney

presents

The Great Sockathon

Dutton Children's Books, 2004

Michael Delaney began writing due to his lack of being articulate. Writing allows him the freedom to express himself and his thoughts. Born in 1955 and currently residing in Greenwich, Connecticut, Delaney was exposed to writing by his family of authors and illustrators. His mother, Antoinette Barrett Delaney wrote and illustrated several books, even illustrating for *Sesame Street*. His two siblings are published authors and illustrators as well. Mr. Delaney's inspiration for writing comes from the highly acclaimed authors F. Scott Fitzgerald and E.B. White. Among writing children's books, he boasted a career as a writer and freelance illustrator for *Gourmet* magazine from 1981-1996 and as an advertising copywriter for J. Walker Thompson from 1985-1990. Other children's books Mr. Delaney has authored include *The Marigold Monster*, *Henry's Special Delivery*, *Not Your Average Joe*, *Deep Doo Doo*, *Deep Doo Doo and the Mysterious E-Mail*, and *Birdbrain Amos*, *Mr. Fun*.

Annotation

Best friends Sabrina, Megan, Connie and Daisy are looking forward to an ordinary summer vacation before their sixth grade year. That is, until Sabrina hears the ghost of Eliza Baker. Eliza, a ghost from 1932, asks for the girls' help from the 275 year old historic tree she haunts. The town plans on cutting down

the old rotting tree that once shaded a sleeping George Washington. They devise a peculiar plan to save the tree by holding a sockathon to collect socks and raise enough money to buy a brace for it. Along the way the friends face challenges and are surprised by the friendship of an unexpected woman. The Great Sockathon is a quirky, easy-to-read work of fiction with a not-too-scary ghost story plot. The author's use of multiple characters with their unique personality traits are sure to captivate young adult readers. Delaney uses each character as the chapter names with each girl telling the story from her point of view. As the story unfolds, the characters are faced with personal challenges that are relevant to our youth today. Although predictable, the story ends on a highnote with a surprising and twisting victory. This is a wholesome book which emphasizes the quality of perseverance.

Genre

Realistic Fiction

Characters and Traits

Sabrina, 6th grade

- argumentative
- indignant

Connie, 6th grade

- intelligent
- quiet

Megan, 6th grade

- skeptical
- indignant

Daisy, 6th grade

- jealous
- spunky
- loud

Conflict/Conflict Resolution

External