Jon Scieszka

By Phil, Natalie and Katie
The Facts:

- Born in Flint, Michigan on Sept. 8th 1954
- Grew up with his parents and his five brothers
- His father was an elementary school principal and mom was a nurse.
- He got his undergrad in pre-med at Albion University
- He got his M. F. A in fiction from Columbia University
Influences:

- His family and education
- The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show
- Ten years of teaching (1st grade through 8th grade)
- Living in Brooklyn for 20 years
- MAD magazine
- Robert Benchley (comedian, actor, columnist)
- Five years of painting apartments in New York City
- Dr. Seuss
Style:

- PICTURE BOOK AUTHOR
- LANE SMITH AS PREMIER ILLUSTRATOR
- REMAKES OF FAIRY TALES
- FONT AND TEXT TRICKS
- HUMORISTIC
- IRONIC
- ZANY
• Illustrates many of Scieszka books.
• Influenced by N.C. Wyeth, Maurice Sendak, Arthur Rackham, and many more.
• Was involved in the production and conceptual designs in movies such as: James and the Giant Peach, Monsters, Inc, and How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Critic Reviews
• “Smith's highly imaginative watercolors eschew realism, further updating the tale, though some may find their urbane stylization and intentionally static quality mystifyingly adult. Designed with uncommon flair, this alternative fable is both fetching and glib.”

- Washington Post
• “The expose of the 3 little pigs as told by their arch rival, A. Wolf, should be a sensation among those who dote on inside stories. These revelations are accompanied by colorful impressionistic illustrations.”

–The Horn Book
The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales

• “The illustrations are similar in style and mood to those in the earlier book, with the addition of more abstraction plus collage in some areas. The typeface, text size, and placement varies to become a vital part of the illustrations for some of the tales.”

- School Library Journal
Text and art work together for maximum comic impact--varying styles and sizes of type add to the illustrations' chaos... The collaborators' hijinks are evident in every aspect of the book, from endpapers to copyright notice. However, the zaniness and deadpan delivery that have distinguished their previous work may strike some as overdone here.

--Publishers Weekly
"Bold in design and bizarre in expression, Smith’s paintings clearly express the child’s feelings of bemusement, frustration, and panic as well as her eventual joy when she overcomes the math curse."

--Booklist
This book follows the Frog Prince in his quests to turn back into a frog.

A compilation of fairy tales and stories that included: The Ugly Duckling, The Tortoise and the Hair, Chicken Little, and of course The Stinky Cheese Man.

Tells the “real” story of the true little pigs from the perspective of the wolf.
"That's funny. You don't look like a frog. Well, no matter. If you're a prince, you're a prince. And I'll have to cast a nasty spell on you. I can't have any princes waking up Sleeping Beauty before the hundred years are up."
"Frog Prince, you say? That's funny. I thought frogs were little green guys with webbed feet. Well, no matter. If you're a prince, you're a prince. And I can't have any princes rescuing Snow White. Here—eat the rest of this apple."
He broke off a corner of the windowsill and tasted it. Gingerbread. "I hope you don't mind my asking, Miss Witch. But do you happen to know any children by the name of Hansel and Gretel?" "Why yes, Prince darling, I do. I'm expecting them for dinner."
"Well, I'm on my way to see a girl in the village about going to a ball, but I suppose I could give it a try. I've never done frogs before, you know." And with that the Fairy Godmother waved her magic wand, and turned the Prince into a beautiful . . . carriage.
Title Page.

(for The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales)
“I planted the wheat. I watered the wheat. I Harvested the wheat. Now do I get to tell my story?” said the Little Red Hen. “Say, what’s going on here? Why is that page blank? Is that my page? Where is that lazy dog? Where is that Lazy cat? Where is that lazy mouse? How do they expect me to tell the whole story by myself? Where is that lazy narrator? Where is that lazy illustrator? Where is that lazy author?
The Little Red Hen
From the Stinky Cheese Man

“I found the wheat. I planted the wheat. I grew the wheat. I harvested the wheat. I ground the wheat. I made the dough. I baked the bread,” said the Little Red Hen. “And did anyone help me? Did anyone save space for my story? So now,” said the Little Red Hen, “who thinks they’re going to help me EAT the BREAD?”
“Kids are the perfect audience, much more willing to be goofy and wonder what if.” (Berry 41).
The Really Ugly Duckling

Once upon a time there was a mother duck and a father duck who had seven baby ducklings. Six of them were regular-looking ducklings. The seventh was a really ugly duckling. Everyone used to say, “What a nice looking bunch of ducklings- all expect that one. Boy, he’s really ugly.” The really ugly duckling heard these people but he didn’t care. He knew that one day he would probably grow up to be a swan and be bigger and look better than anything in the pond.
Well, as it turned out he was just a really ugly duckling. And he grew up to be just a really ugly duck. The End.
IRONY

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs: A. Wolf says it was all an accident...he was just sneezing!

The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales: The red hen is always complaining that she’s the only one who bakes the bread throughout the whole story. The giant puts her in between two pieces of bread and eats her in the end.

The Frog Prince: The frog ends up turning his princess into a frog by kissing her.
"Our audience is hardcore silly kids, and there are a lot of them out there! My motto in writing is: Never underestimate the intelligence of your audience. Kids can be silly and smart" (Graham 1).

All of Jon’s books have a bit of zaniness to them!

