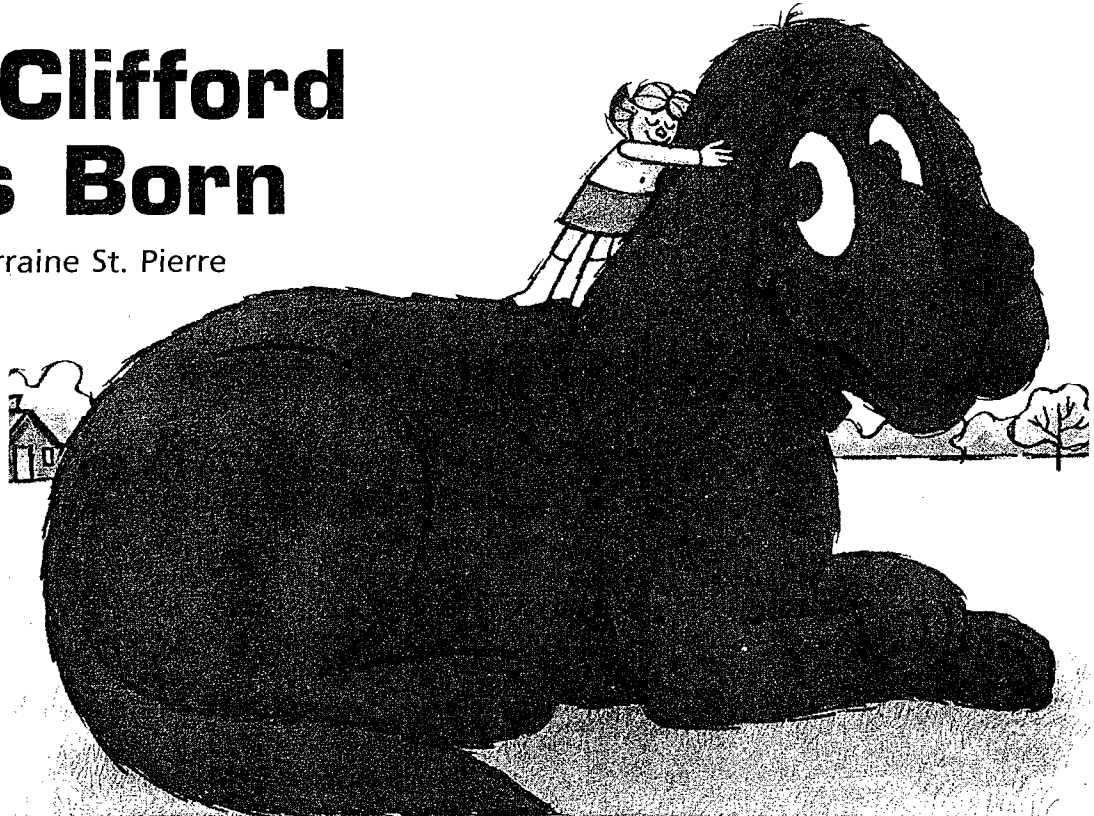


Directions

Read these two passages about the man who created Clifford the Big Red Dog. Then do Numbers 8 through 12. You may look back at the passages as often as you like.

How Clifford Was Born

by Lorraine St. Pierre



There is only one Clifford the Big Red Dog, and children all over the world enjoy reading about his adventures. But why is Clifford red? Why isn't he brown or black or tan, like other dogs? When I visited Norman Bridwell, who is Clifford's creator and my neighbor, I asked him just that. His answer surprised me.

"There was a jar of red paint on the end of my drawing table," he said, laughing. "I dunked my brush in it and decided the dog would be red."

Clifford wasn't even the dog's name at first. When Mr. Bridwell finished painting him, he wanted to give him a funny name. Because the dog was so big, he thought Tiny would be a good name. But Mr. Bridwell's wife, Norma, felt that it didn't suit the dog.

"He needs a strong name," she said. She suggested Clifford, the name of the imaginary playmate she'd had as a child. Mr. Bridwell liked the sound of it and decided it was perfect.

He also thought the big red dog would need a friend, so he drew a little girl with a happy smile. Mr. Bridwell named her Emily Elizabeth, after his daughter. Then he wrote a story about them and drew pictures for it.

Mrs. Bridwell made a bright gingham cover for the story and bound it like a real book. Then the Bridwells sent it off to a publishing house. Luckily, it reached an editor who fell in love with it, and that's how Clifford was born.

Over the past 36 years, more than 60 books about Clifford have been published. What makes him so popular? When I asked Mr. Bridwell, he said, "Maybe it's because, even though Clifford is klutzy and funny, he always, always tries to be helpful."

Mr. Bridwell has a sunny studio in his home, which is on the island of Martha's Vineyard, in Massachusetts. His studio is

gingham: a type of cloth

publishing house: a place where books are prepared for printing

editor: a person who prepares books to be printed

small and cluttered, but very comfortable. Glued all over the ceiling are covers from all the books he has written. Mr. Bridwell does most of his work there.

Every now and then, however, he finds a quiet spot on one of the beaches and works for an hour or two. I see Mr. Bridwell down by our town's dock. He stands there looking out at the ocean, deep in thought. I always wonder if he's planning another Clifford story.

Writing Tips from a Pro

Here is some writing advice that Mr. Bridwell has given to kids:

Write about things you know and enjoy. Think about something, and then write down all the things that go with it. You'll be surprised how much there is. I always carry a small pad in my pocket. That way I never miss anything.

For example, suppose you want to write a baseball story. Think of all the things that go with the sport. Watch how the people act. Is there something funny or unusual you can draw or jot down? Did the pitcher spit on the ball before he threw it? Find out why. Ask a lot of questions.

When you get home, look at your notes, and try to chain your ideas together. Do it over and over again until the words feel right and seem to flow. You'll know when it's OK.

SESSION 1 Reading
HOW CLIFFORD WAS BORN/WRITING TIPS
Item 8 (Page 8)

On the lines below, write **three** places where Mr. Bridwell works, according to the first passage. Write one place on each line.

Exemplary Response

Any three of the following:

- Massachusetts
- studio
- beach/ocean
- town dock
- island/ Martha's Vineyard
- home
- quiet spot
- drawing table
- any other relevant, text-based response

Score Points

2 points Response provides three lines completed correctly.

1 point Response provides two lines completed correctly.

0 points Other

This item appeared at only one grade level.

Grade 3

Standard 1: Students read and understand a variety of materials.

Benchmark 1.c: Identify main idea and find information to support particular ideas.

Subcontent Area: nonfiction

8

On the lines below, write **three** places where Mr. Bridwell works, according to the first passage. Write one place on each line.

1) At home.

2) At the beach.

3) At the dock.

2 Point Anchor
3 exemplars on three lines
home, beach, dock

8

On the lines below, write three places where Mr. Bridwell works, according to the first passage. Write one place on each line.

- 1) At the publishing house
- 2) At his house
- 3) On the beach

1 Point Anchor

Two correct places- house and beach

The passage does not state that Mr. Bridwell works at the publishing house.

8

On the lines below, write **three** places where Mr. Bridwell works, according to the first passage. Write one place on each line.

- 1) Mr. Bridwell work at a studio
- 2) Mr. Bridwell was a editor
- 3) Mr. Bridwell was a publisher too

0 Point Anchor
1 correct place - studio
The other two lines provide work Mr.
Bridwell does rather than the places
he works.