

Book Scene

Tulsa World • Page H-8 • Sunday, May 29, 2005

(\$25, members; \$30 nonmembers.)

booknotes

Get ready for 'Squirt'

It may not be official, but after Memorial Day, summer play is here.

On Thursday at Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks, the Oklahoma Aquarium and Radio Disney are sponsoring a kids' day premiere with face painting, clowns, balloon animals, Jupiter jump, obstacle courses and lots of food to buy.

At noon author Stacy Nyikos will introduce her book, "Squirt" (Stonehorse Publishing, \$15.95), the story of a young squid. Like all young squid, he can change colors, squirt ink, blast through the waters with his jet-propelled tentacles and imagine himself as a swash-buckling, pirate-dueling, storm-defeating sea captain.

And in the book, he does all that ... with the help of a

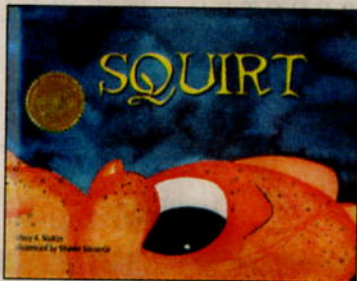
kitchen spoon. As kids read the adventures of this energetic cephalopod, they will learn all sorts of things about squid and their cousins: octopus, nautilus and cuttlefish. The last pages of the book are filled with those facts, called "squid squirts."

At the book party, in between signings, Nyikos will hand out gummi squid and Squirt coloring pages. Kids also can play pin the tentacles on Squirt.

Come September, participating Tulsa schools will hold a drawing contest. Three winners at each school will receive an autographed copy of the book.

Then, in the citywide contest, one artist will win first prize, a sleepover at the Aquarium; second prize is a birthday party at the Aquarium; and third is a one-year youth membership to the Aquarium.

Nyikos is an award-winning academic writer, musician and mother of two. She began writing children's literature two years ago. The book's illustrator is Tulsan Shawn Sisneros. Originally from Maxwell, N.M., he travelled to Tulsa for his undergraduate school work and received a bachelor's from the Art Institute of Chicago. He returned to Tulsa to show his



work and opened a gallery in April.