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## Arts & Entertainment

# Maplewood Teacher Gears up for Signings of Her New Children's Book



Clair Sinclair and Amir Achitoov  
Amana Books and Media

By TAPINTO SOMA

Published November 21, 2021 at 7:32 AM

Last Updated November 21, 2021 at 8:52 AM

MAPLEWOOD, NJ – Longtime Maplewood teacher Claire Sinclair and Millburn artist Amir Achitoov on Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 will be signing copies of “The Mice Who Came to Story Time,” their newly released book for children.

The Nov. 26 signings will take place from noon to 4 p.m. at WNTR: Holiday Village and Makers Market on Springfield Avenue in Maplewood. The Nov. 27 signings will happen at the South Orange Downtown Open-Air Holiday Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The book “introduces two small mice who enjoy a peaceful, quiet summer in a schoolroom until September arrives along with a horde of noisy, lively children,”

said a press release. “The mice hide away in Ms. Pierre’s classroom, but one day the kids sit quietly on the floor for Story Time. Drawn out by the teacher’s gentle voice, the mice slowly creep into the circle until... EEK! After everyone calms down, Ms. Pierre lets the class vote about the mice: should they stay or should they go?”

The book “is loosely based on the mice who would occasionally appear” in Sinclair’s Tuscan Elementary School classroom. Sinclair has been teaching there for 25 years; her current classroom is the same one she attended as a Kindergarten student.

The book, published by Tom West of Amarna Books and Media, can be purchased through all major online book retailers and local bookstores. For more information, visit: [www.squeakyandcheesy.com](http://www.squeakyandcheesy.com).

Achitoov creates fine art that has been exhibited in Israel, Holland and New York City. He said the book is “a good study into our concept of the world around us and how we respond to it. Those little rodents can be a metaphor for any fears we might have and how to face them.”

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