

## Questions and Answers—Interview With Award-Winning Author—Carl Sommer

How many books has Mr. Sommer written?

*Mr. Sommer has written over 100 books.*

What are some of Mr. Sommer's experiences?

*Carl Sommer has five children and 14 grandchildren. He's been a high school teacher, assistant dean of boys, a tool and die maker, foreman of a tool and die shop, tool designer, and operations manager of a large tool and die stamping company. Today, he is a business owner of three companies, one of which is the largest of its kind west of the Mississippi River.*

How do Mr. Sommer's life experiences help him write 20 children's books that have won numerous awards?

*Mr. Sommer's wide and varied experiences as a parent, grandparent, school teacher, assistant dean of boys, foreman, operations manager, tool designer and owner of three businesses, gives him valuable insight into what helps children to become successful, which helps his books win many outstanding awards.*

In what branch of the service and what war was Mr. Sommer in?

*Mr. Sommer served in the Marine Corp during the Korean War.*

What did Mr. Sommer do after serving in the military?

*Mr. Sommer worked as a tool and die maker and as a foreman of a tool and die shop.*

What disturbed Mr. Sommer when he became a high school teacher at the age of 40?

*Mr. Sommer was disturbed as to why so many of the students were ignorant of basic learning skills.*

What did Mr. Sommer do about it?

*Mr. Sommer decided to investigate the schools. He took a one-year leave of absence and became a substitute teacher in 27 different schools in all five boroughs of New York City. After ten years of writing and research, he wrote the book, *Schools in Crisis: Training for Success or Failure?**

Ten years is a long time to write a book. Why did Mr. Sommer say he did not get discouraged?

*Mr. Sommer did not get discouraged because he has a passion to help boys and girls as well as the educational system.*

When Mr. Sommer moved to Texas, why didn't he continue teaching?

*Mr. Sommer didn't continue teaching because he couldn't support his family with the pay they offered him.*

After working as a tool and die maker and operations manager for a large tool and die stamping company, what did Mr. Sommer decide to do?

*Mr. Sommer decided to start his own business. (It can be seen at [www.ReliableEDM.com](http://www.ReliableEDM.com))*

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What principle did Mr. Sommer practice that made his machining company become the largest of its kind west of the Mississippi River?

*Mr. Sommer firmly believed in practicing the Golden Rule.*

What is the Golden Rule?

*The Golden Rule states: “Do to others what you want them to do to you.”*

Why did Mr. Sommer write children’s books after having such a successful business?

*Mr. Sommer wanted to write picture books with interesting stories that taught children how they can become successful.*

Mr. Sommer uses his varied life experiences in writing his award-winning picture books. List some of Mr. Sommer’s life experiences.

*High school teacher*

*Assistant dean of boys*

*Tool and die maker*

*Foreman*

*Tool designer*

*Operations manager*

*Business owner*

*Father of five children*

*Grandfather of 14 grandchildren*

*Owner of three businesses*

What business example did Mr. Sommer put in the book *Time Remote* that showed the importance of knowing math?

*One of his workers who kept the shop clean wanted to work on the machines. In Mr. Sommer’s company they give a math test before they hire anyone. One day Mr. Sommer told him, “If you want to work on the machines, you’ll have to take a math test.”*

What did the worker do?

*The worker never asked again. Mr. Sommer is teaching that those who are lazy and don’t study will suffer the consequences.*

Are the books available in any other format?

*Yes. Mr. Sommer’s books were also produced in “read-along” form with narration, music, sound effects, and a song.*

Some boys and girls think by living right they’ll be miserable. What does Mr. Sommer believe?

*Mr. Sommer believes that by living right and having character one can have lots of fun. (His publishing company’s motto is: “Fun Times With Timeless Virtues.”)*

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What are two of Mr. Sommer’s programs in teaching reading?

*Reading Adventure is a reading program for children, and Reading Success is a reading program for adults.*

What is unique about Mr. Sommer’s reading programs?

*His reading programs use the scientific method of teaching reading with phonics. But along with phonics, it is a literature-based reading program. There are lots of interesting stories in both literacy programs.*

What is Mr. Sommer’s project for teaching math?

*Number Success is a complete math program from addition to trigonometry.*

What is unique about his *Number Success* math program?

*The course is taught by four teachers who have each won the National Science Foundation Award for Excellence in Mathematics, while Mr. Sommer is the practical math teacher demonstrating where math is used at hundreds of locations.*

How long has Mr. Sommer been working on the three literacy programs?

*Mr. Sommer has been working on these literacy programs for 15 years.*

What is Mr. Sommer’s aim in writing his 20 picture books that teach character education?

*Mr. Sommer’s aim is to teach children the principles of how they can become successful.*

What important lesson does *No Longer a Dilly Dally* teach in becoming successful?

*One of the important lessons in becoming successful is to be willing to work and not be lazy.*

What did Family Dilly Dally do?

*Family Dilly Dally first played and then they worked.*

What did Family Work First do?

*Family Work First did their work first, and then they played.*

What important lesson does *Can You Help Me Find My Smile* teach?

*Can You Help Me Find My Smile teaches that happiness comes by helping others.*

What did Mr. Sommer say would happen if one follows the Golden Rule that says, “Do to others what you want them to do to you”?

*Mr. Sommer said that by making others happy, you’ll be making yourself happy.*

What does Mr. Sommer do to stay healthy?

*Mr. Sommer, age 73, exercises five days a week and eats healthy foods.*

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What did Mr. Sommer say is one of the best ways for children to get exercise?

*One of the best ways to get exercise is to go outside and run around and play, and not just sit in front of a TV set and play video games.*

In the book, *Time Remote*, what did Christopher do with his remote when his mother served food he did not like?

*Christopher used his time remote so he wouldn't have to eat the food he didn't like.*

What happened to Christopher because of not eating properly?

*Christopher became weak and sickly.*

What are some of Mr. Sommer's hobbies?

*Mr. Sommer likes to go swimming and fishing.*

What does Mr. Sommer say when he is asked, "If you had one piece of advice to give to children, what would that be"?

*Mr. Sommer says, "Learn to listen to your parents. Many children get into lots of trouble because they do not listen. There is no one who loves you more than your dad and mom. If you learn to listen, you'll avoid many problems in life."*

What does Mr. Sommer say is that two-letter word children must learn to say when someone wants them to do bad things?

*Mr. Sommer said that two-letter word is, "NO!"*

What is the last bit of advice that Mr. Sommer gave?

*Mr. Sommer says, "You can have fun times with timeless virtues."*