



## AUTHOR FUN FACTS

If you look for Scott O'Dell's school records or records of his service in World War I, you will never find them.

His father's name was Bennett Mason Scott, and until Scott was an adult, his name was Odell Gabriel Scott. On one of his earliest writings, a typesetter's mistake produced an article written by "Scott O'Dell." Scott liked the new name so much that he had his name changed legally.

## AUTHOR STUDY ACTIVITY

Scott O'Dell had a rich and varied background. Have students research his early life and writing career. After students have read several books by the author, have them discuss how the works are similar and how they are different. Discuss what they learned from their research that might have influenced Scott O'Dell's writing.

# YEARLING

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CLASSICS

### Yearling Author Study

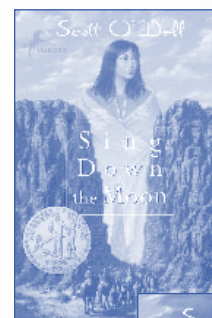
## SCOTT O'DELL



"Los Angeles was a frontier town when I was born there. It had more horses than automobiles (we went to town in a rubber-tired buggy with a red fringe on top) and more jack rabbits than people. The first sound I remember was a wildcat scratching on the roof of our house.

"We moved a lot, but never far. To San Pedro, which was a part of Los Angeles, and Rattlesnake Island, across the bay from San Pedro, where three-masted ships sailed by. To Claremont, just east of Los Angeles, at the foot of Mount Baldy—sagebrush country where descendants of the first Spanish settlers lived. And to Julian, an old gold-mining town southeast of Los Angeles on the Mexican border, in the heart of the Oriflamme Mountains, the ancestral home of the Diegueno Indians.

"That is why, I suppose, the sound of the sea and the feel of the frontier are in my books."



## DELVE INTO THE BOOKS!

The Indians of Ghalas-at, the Chumash, the Cupeno, and the Aleuts are tribes important to the stories of Karana, in *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, and Zia, in the book of the same name. The novels provide some information about these tribes during the 1830s and 1850s. Students may be interested in researching the heritage of these tribes. Do they exist today?

***The Black Pearl***  
0-440-41146-7

***Island of the Blue Dolphins***  
0-440-43988-4

***My Name Is Not Angelica***  
0-440-40379-0

***Sing Down the Moon***  
0-440-40673-0

***Thunder Rolling  
in the Mountains***  
Scott O'Dell and Elizabeth Hall  
0-440-40879-2

***Zia***  
0-440-41001-0