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Sharing the Moment with Photojournalist Wayne F. Miller

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"Stiffer homework, more demanding classroom work, maturing bodies, and new boy-girl awareness," wrote Miller. "The sixth grade children I photographed were considered an exceptional group. They worked well together." Copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.

school, moms and little ones struggle with their goodbyes, and friends are made - and lost. Children giggle and laugh with heads back at the Orinda Theatre, growing girls sleep over, boys huddle, tweens dance - in what Miller calls "sharing the moment."

"Before my eyes were fabrics being woven and courses charted that would be with these children to their dying day," he wrote. "Failure, frustration, and defeat, success, pleasure, and triumph were being carved into their natures."

Miller, in describing his book's viewpoint, wrote that "all pictures were taken from the subject's eye level, so that the people and the things around them would be seen in a proper context. There were few 'little' children in the book. They are all full size, life size, their size. The best proof I had that this was the right approach came on the playground one day during a Maypole program. I was on one knee making photographs when a pre-schooler came over, threw his arms about me and kissed my cheek. Being on the same level, I decided, creates understanding."

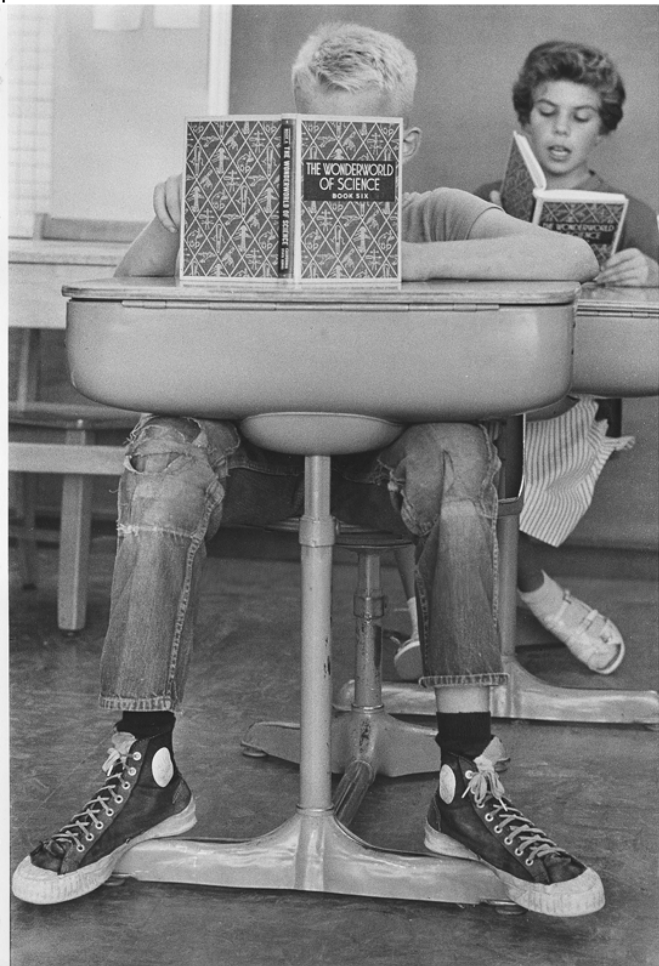
Many of Miller's photographs are available through the U.S. National Archives; others may be enjoyed through his publications available at the Orinda Historical Society and the Orinda Library. His photos may also be purchased through Magnum Photos, the gallery which represents him: www.magnumphotos.com.



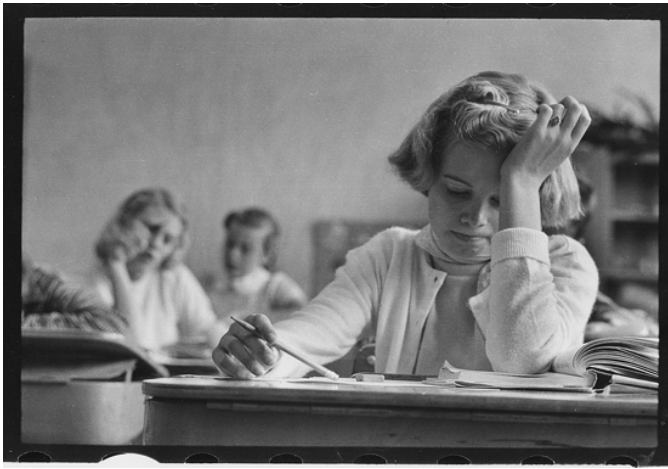
Preschooler, Peter Miller (Wayne and Joan Miller's youngest child), longs to join his siblings at school. Copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.



Peter, the kindergartner, radiates joy the next year as he gets his wish. Copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.



"In Sixth, you get down to business," wrote Miller of his sixth grade subjects at Glorietta Elementary School. All photos copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission. Copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.



"Resignation," responded Miller when asked to describe this math test moment experienced at some point by every student, everywhere. Copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.



Though "her class was being broken up and she was moving to another school," wrote Miller of this sixth grader, "a much-admired teacher would still be with her." Copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.



"Their spirits were always high and they had an extra eagerness to learn. The class had more than its share of leaders in all fields - scholastic, athletic and social. It made me feel good just to be with them," wrote Miller. Copyright, Wayne F. Miller, 1958. Used with permission.

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