

Low-Residency MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults faculty information:

JACKIE BRIGGS-MARTIN

<http://www.jacquelinebriggsmartin.com/>

Biography

I have always loved the sounds of words from my earliest memory and was especially fond of the word “obstacle” in “The Night Before Christmas.” I grew up on a dairy farm in Maine and recall repeating our cows’ sonorous names with pleasure e.g. “Riverflat Blanche Wisconsin,” “Riceland Marathon Indigo.” I received a B.A. degree from Wellesley College and an M.A. in Child Development from the University of Minnesota.

I began writing books for children because of my own family’s experiences with books. We read stories every day when my children were young. And I decided I would like to write books that children and parents could enjoy together. After a period of “writing apprenticeship” and many rejections my first book BIZZY BONES AND UNCLE EZRA (Lothrhop, Lee & Shepard, 1984) was published.

My publication list includes fifteen picture books for children., including the 1999 Caldecott medal winner SNOWFLAKE BENTLEY and several ALA Notable books.

I still love the sounds of words. And I love talking about writing, stories, and the power of stories to delight, inspire, and bring us all to more fully engage with our world.

I Am Happy to Work with Students in the Following Genres/Areas:

Picture books, early chapter books, non-fiction, easy readers

Other Things to Know About Me as an Advisor:

I never tire of talking or thinking about what makes a good story or a good manuscript. I have taught writing children’s books at the undergraduate level at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. I’ve also taught various topics relating to writing children’s books at the University of Iowa’s Summer Writing Festival and the Loft.

Books of Mine I Recommend That You Read:

(it seems like a long list, but the books aren’t very long)

Washing the Willow Tree Loon, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter, (Simon & Schuster, 1993)

Grandmother Bryant’s Pocket, illustrated by Petra Mathers (Houghton Mifflin, 1996)

Snowflake Bentley, illustrated by Mary Azarian (Houghton Mifflin, 1998)

The Lamp, The Ice, and the Boat Called Fish, illustrated by Beth Krommes (Houghton Mifflin, 2001)

The Water Gift and the Pig of the Pig, illustrated by Linda Wingerter (Houghton Mifflin, 2003)

On Sand Island, illustrated by David Johnson, (Houghton Mifflin, 2003)

Banjo Granny, written with Sarah Martin Busse, illustrated by Barry Root (Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

Chicken Joy on Redbean Road, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Houghton Mifflin, 2007)

When *Chang Tang Chiru* (Houghton Mifflin, 2009) is published I hope you’ll read that, too.