



Laurie Wallmark Writer



I write books for children of all ages, both fiction and nonfiction.

How long have you been a writer?

This is a two part question. I've been writing for kids on and off for about twenty years, but my first book was published in 2015.

Where do you currently work?

I work for myself at home. I have an office with a computer (of course), reference books, a printer, and plenty of space to spread out notes about my works in progress.



How do you spend most of your time at work?

I spend most of my time writing and revising my own manuscripts, but being a published author involves doing more than that. I need to market my books, so people know about them – reaching out to people, giving lectures, doing school visits, attending book festivals, and the like – which takes time. Another activity is participating in critique groups, where I make suggestions on other people's manuscripts, and they do the same for me. After all the people on the publishing team do their work, I need to go through the manuscript page by page to see if there are any problems. As you can see, being a writer is much more than writing a book.

Why did you choose this career?

I've always loved reading middle grade novels, so when I had an idea for one, I thought I'd give a try at writing it. After that, I had an idea for another novel. Then I realized that picture books would also be a good fit for me.

LAURIE'S FUN FACTS

I love most any songs by Peter, Paul, and Mary, Simon and Garfunkel, or John Denver. I also enjoy songs from musicals.

What did you do to prepare for this career?

I took, and continue to take, a lot of writing workshops and read a lot of craft books. In 2016, I graduated from the Vermont College of Fine Arts with an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Every day is different.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Because most of my books are about women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), I often have to find a way to explain difficult concepts in a way that kids can understand.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

This one is easy. Read, read, read.



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