



Inside  
**BUS DRIVER**  
An interview with  
award-winning author  
and illustrator  
**Nancy Poydar**

**Q:** *What was the inspiration behind the book?*

**A:** The inspiration for this story was my grandchild's attachment to Red Truck. The grown-ups had to turn the house upside down whenever Red Truck was lost, which was often!

**Q:** *What makes this book special to you? What important message do you feel it brings to young readers?*

**A:** Message for young readers? I tend to write books that I hope entertain first. Perhaps kids can identify with Max and see that they can find lost things themselves eventually, all a part of growing up.

**Q:** *What was your favorite book growing up?*

**A:** I grew up a hop, skip, and jump from the library and was allowed to go on my own early on. I remember *Snip, Snap, and Snur* and *The Box Car Children*. My grandfather read *Dorothy Dainty* to me. I read *The Bobbsey Twins* and *Nancy Drew* and *Agatha Christie*. But, most of all, I was a comic-book fan and absolutely adored *Little Lulu*.

**Q:** *What is your favorite memory from childhood?*

**A:** I am an only child, and early on I had an imaginary friend. His name was Peter. My mother played along and held the door for him, etc.

**Q:** *Do you have any pets?*

**A:** Our bearded collie died recently at age sixteen. We have no pets at the moment.

**Q:** *What inspired you to write/illustrate and when did you know you would become an author/illustrator?*

**A:** I was inspired to write after my first child was born and I began reading to him. I always knew I was an artist. I really became aware of book illustration when my kids were small. I admired Chris Van Allsburg, Maurice Sendak, Trina Hyman, and Eric Carle, to name a few. I was teaching and illustrating worksheets for my students, and also encouraging them to be author/illustrators. When I noticed an art class on children's book illustration being given at a local museum, I signed up. I took it three times. I took a year off from teaching to develop a portfolio and never went back. I brought that portfolio to Claire Counihan at Scholastic and now at Holiday House and got my first assignment.

**Q:** *If there is one thing you could tell your readers about life, what would you say?*

**A:** In spite of the frustrations this job may bring, I cannot imagine doing anything else. I am the most alive when I am creating. Therefore, if asked, I would advise my readers to find what it is that makes them feel most alive and find a way to make it their lifework.

**BUS DRIVER**

by Nancy Poydar

ISBN: 978-0-8234-2411-5

E-book available

Ages 3-5 • 32 pages • \$15.95

