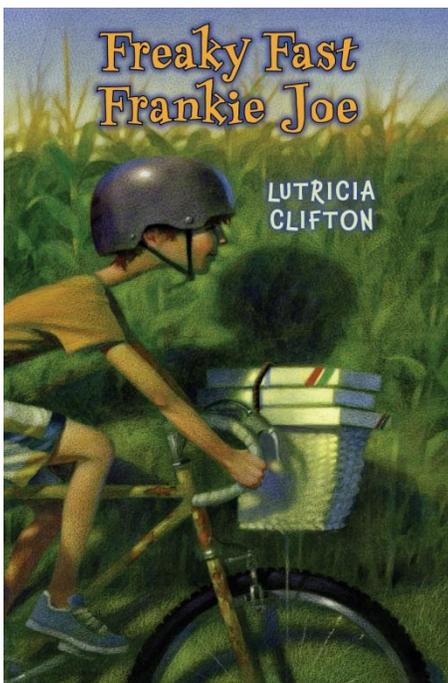


# AUTHOR STUDY

# LUTRICIA CLIFTON



**Lutricia Clifton** was born in Oklahoma but moved frequently when she was growing up, eventually settling in Amarillo, Texas. She married and raised her two sons in Colorado, and she now lives in northern Illinois. Her first novel for young readers, the award-winning *Freaky Fast Frankie Joe*, named a Texas Bluebonnet Award Master List title, takes place in Texas and a middle-of-nowhere town in Illinois. Her second, *Immortal Max*, is set in Country Wood, similar to the gated community in which Ms. Clifton currently lives. And the characters in her third novel, *Seeking Cassandra*, explore Palo Duro Canyon State Park, not far from Amarillo.

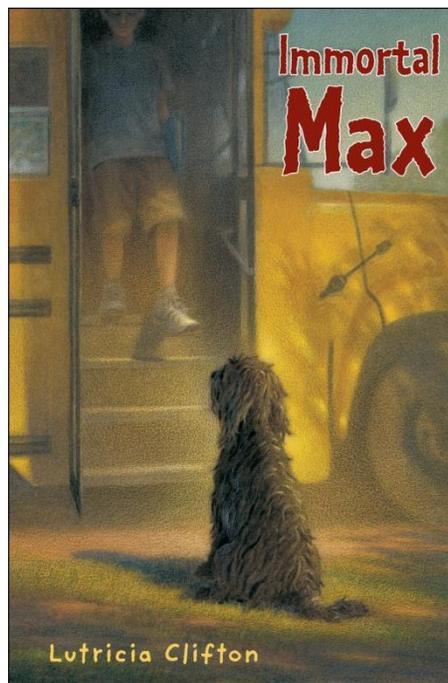


## FREAKY FAST FRANKIE JOE

HC: 978-0-8234-2367-5

PB: 978-0-8234-2867-0

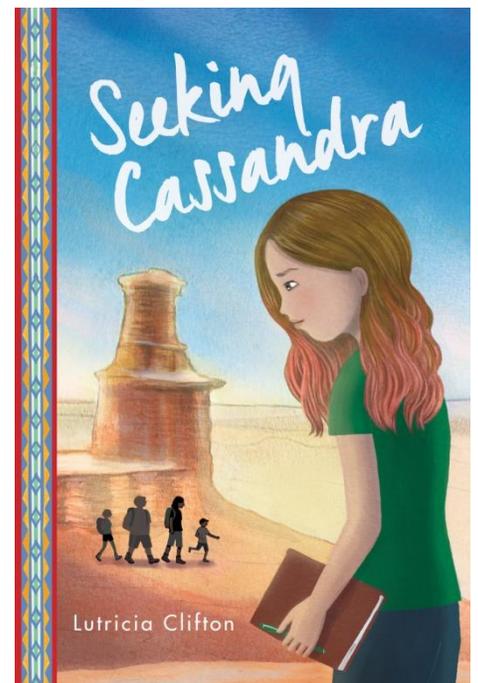
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## IMMORTAL MAX

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## ABOUT AN AUTHOR STUDY

An Author Study is an excellent classroom lesson that offers students a way to more deeply study the themes of an author's work as well as the author's life. The teacher can arrange an author study for the class, small groups or for individual students. Here are just a few suggestions to look at the works of Lutricia Clifton in terms of themes, characters, settings and more. Students will have the opportunity to consider how the author's life impacted her stories and connect the stories to their own personal experiences. As a culminating activity, students may want to write a letter to the author.

**Getting Started** —Encourage students to visit the author's website:

[www.lutricia-lois-clifton.com/children-s-genre/teacher-resources](http://www.lutricia-lois-clifton.com/children-s-genre/teacher-resources) and to click on "About the Author." Reading her biography can provide some insight for students and help them to think about the following questions.

**CCSS 5, RL.9, 5, SL.1, 4**

**Setting**—In each of her novels, the setting of the story plays a very important role. Why did she select these particular settings? How do you think her knowledge of or experiences in each place informed the stories she created in each one? Compare and contrast the three settings. How are they alike and how are they different?

**Characters**—The main character (protagonist) in each story is on some type of a life journey. What do these three protagonists have in common? How are they different? What do you think would happen if these three protagonists met each other? How would they interact? What do you think they could learn from each other? Do you think they would become friends? Why or why not? **CCSS 5, RL.2, 3, 6**

**Themes**—What do you feel is the major "idea" to be found in each plot? What do you think Ms. Clifton wants young readers to gain, learn or feel from reading her books? What incidents from her own life do you think may have given her ideas about what to include in her stories? **CCSS 5, RL.1**

**Trials and Tribulations**—Each protagonist has what seems like an impossible problem to solve, but by the end of the story they solve it. How are the actions of the protagonists similar or different as they work toward solving their problem?

**Families**—All three protagonists have what might be considered as nontraditional families. How are their families similar and how are they different? How do you think the author's own life might have influenced the types of families she created for her characters? How are these families similar to or different from your own family?

**Friendship**—What part does the idea of friendship play in each story? How are each of the protagonists either helped or hindered by friends, or by characters that they thought were friends? Would the stories have been as interesting without the idea of friendship? Why or why not?

**Animals**—From reading these three novels, what do you think Ms. Clifton feels regarding animals? Are there any similarities in the way she uses animals to move the stories along, or to add interesting details for the reader? What did you learn about animals from having read these stories?

Author Study prepared by Sandy Schuckett, School Library Consultant