

Merrily Kutner

Biography

Originally she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in dental hygiene from Columbia University when she lived in New York City. After she moved to California, she began creating stories to entertain her children. She joined the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, took writing courses and seminars and formed a picture book writer's critique group. In 2000, she attended the Highlight's Foundation Writer's Workshop in Chautauqua, New York. Years later, she attended The Institute of Children's Literature Training Program and she was accepted as an instructor. She has served as an Advisory Board Member to develop the California State University Fullerton Extended Education Writing for Children Curriculum.

A long time member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, she has given workshops on Writing in Rhyme and Book Diagramming at author's retreats; and she was a first reader for the Barbara Karlin Grants given through the Society. She has shared her picture books by reading and volunteering as a "cookie mom" at a half-way house for children, and participating in Lullalee's Production's Literacy Car-ni-fair for the Shriner's Hospital and in the Reach Out and Read Aloud program. A member of the Children's Literature Council of Southern California, she attends numerous author festivals and school visits throughout the Los Angeles and Orange County School Districts. She also writes adult screenplays with her son who is an aspiring cinematographer and film director.

Currently, she teaches an online writing course: Writing Picture Books: A Beginning Workshop, given through the UCLA Extension Writers Program. She also has students who study independently with her for one on one instruction. In September 2011, she was on the faculty of the San Luis Obispo Writer's Conference. Monthly, she shares her passion for picture books with Priscilla Burris, Francesca Rusackas, Steve Bjorkman and other Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators at a professional writing group in Orange County, California.

PUBLISHED WORKS

Z IS FOR ZOMBIE, ill. John Manders, Albert Whitman & Company, 1999
ISBN#0-8075-9490-3 (hardcover)
ISBN#0-8075-94911 (paperback), 2010

DOWN ON THE FARM, ill. Will Hillenbrand, Holiday House, 2004
ISBN#0-8234-1721-2 (hardcover)
ISBN#0-8234-1985-1 (paperback)
ISBN#0-439-85319-2 (paperback/CD through Scholastic school market)
ISBN#-13:978-0-8234-2177-0 (board book) 2010
Harcourt Big Book/Little Book Series in English/Spanish, 2010

PUBLISHED WORKS continued

ZOMBIE NITE CAFÉ, ill. Ethan Long, Holiday House, 2007
ISBN#10:0-8234-1963-0 (hardcover)
ISBN#13:978-0-8234-1963

ALPHABET MAGIC, forthcoming from Roaring Brook Press/Neal Porter Books.

EBOOKS

Z IS FOR ZOMBIE, forthcoming soon
DOWN ON THE FARM, forthcoming soon

AWARDS

IRA/CBC Children's Choice Award Book for the 2000 List
Z IS FOR ZOMBIE

Selected for the 2010 Read On Wisconsin! Program
Z IS FOR ZOMBIE

Texas Library Association's 2005 Texas 2 x 2 Reading List Book
DOWN ON THE FARM

Please Touch Museum Picture Book of the Year 2005 (3 years and under Category)
DOWN ON THE FARM

Moonbeam Children's Picture Book of the Year 2007 Award (Holiday Category)
ZOMBIE NITE CAFE

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

IMdb (International Movie data base) www.imdb.com

Screenwriting—FLASH CLICK, 2008
Set decorating—FLASH CLICK, 2008
Screenwriting—Devil's Land, 2009