

DEBORA PEARSON

"The common threads running through almost everything I've done is a love of books and reading, and a desire to bring kids and books together.

"Like many other people I know, I wear a number of hats. I'm a children's book author, a mother, and a part-time children's librarian for the Toronto Public Library. On a good day, each of these 'occupations' complements the others; on a bad day, the writing and parenting vie with each other for my undivided attention, and I wonder how the heck anyone can possibly expect me to do well at both of them! Fortunately, the bad days are rare (either that or I just forget about them quickly!) and, overall, the mix really suits me. In fact, I like it.

"As a true big city person, I spend a fair amount of time during the week walking my son to and from his neighborhood school (he still comes home for lunch, so we're on foot a lot), and I've found all this walking is greatly beneficial to me as a writer. Walking forces me to slow down, pay attention to my surroundings, and notice things I might otherwise miss (such as, for instance, a dog walking his man). Walking also gives me a kind of steady beat and rhythm that shows up in my writing."

Debora Pearson was born in Kingston, Ontario. She lived there until she was ready to start kindergarten. "In my mind, I recall it as a kind of *Leave It to Beaver*, friendly, small town place." She has also lived in Sarnia, Ontario, and did all of her growing up in Scarborough, Ontario, where she developed "a deep longing to live in an urban setting, rather than in suburbia. I love the hustle-bustle energy of the city and, really, can't imagine life without it."

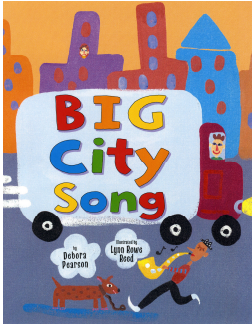
Debora received her BA in English and a masters in library science. Subsequently, Debora worked as a children's librarian for the Toronto Public Library. Her yearning to work in publishing drew her toward educational publishing, where at first she was a freelance researcher and copy editor and later worked in-house as a developmental editor of language arts textbooks. Later she went to work for *OWL*, a children's magazine, starting out as managing editor and working her way up to "capital E Editor."

Debora has written a number of children's books and nine curriculum-related texts for elementary students for several well-respected publishers in Canada, including Annick Press, Nelson (Thompson Canada), and Pearson Education Canada.

For the past thirteen years, Debora has been living uptown in the city of Toronto with her husband, Michael Fattori, and their son, Benjamin. She is involved at Benjamin's school as a parent volunteer and class parent. When she is not writing or parenting, Debora likes to cook; linger in museums, art galleries, and independent bookstores; "and—very important to me—walk."



by DEBORA PEARSON
from Holiday House



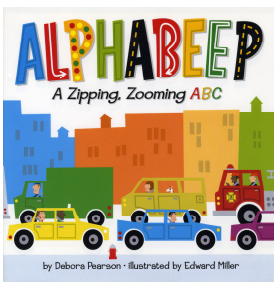
BIG CITY SONG

illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed • Ages 3-6 • ISBN-13: HC - 978-0-8234-1988-3

Swish! Kerplow! Blam! As the city wakes up, revs up, then works up to a real racket, it makes its own kind of curious music. From the soft *sweep* of the street cleaner to the loud *blam* of the wrecking ball to the *tippa-tappa* of raindrops, the big city hums through a day from dawn to midnight. In bold, vibrant paintings and a lyrical text, this book revels in the city's medley of sounds.

"This book will make a good read-aloud; children will want to join in and act out the pulsing images of the people that they see on the pages."—*Booklist*

"The dancing of the text, as well, adds considerably to the work's appeal, as do bright illustrations in acrylic paint on canvas. . . . Bound to bring joy and laughter to the very young."
— *Kirkus Reviews*



ALPHABEEP: A ZIPPING, ZOOMING ABC

illustrated by Edward Miller • Ages 3-6 • ISBN-13: HC - 978-0-8234-1722-3, Pbk - 978-0-8234-2076-6

Beep! Beep! Kids can zoom through the alphabet in this entertaining concept book with colorful bumper-to-bumper traffic they will love. From ambulances to Zambonis, each page describes and defines a vehicle or road sign with charming word play and sound words.

"This colorful picture book is a vehicle lover's dream—a whole alphabet of automobiles, trucks, machinery, and road signs. . . . The book is stunningly illustrated in a deceptively simple stylized manner. . . . A real winner." —*School Library Journal*

"With verbal imagery as bright as the art . . . this is one ride on which children aren't going to whine, 'Are we there yet?'" —*Kirkus Reviews*