



NANCY POYDAR

Nancy Poydar grew up in eastern Massachusetts. After earning degrees in English and Education from Tufts University, Nancy studied art at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Massachusetts, and the Boston Museum School. She taught sixth grade for fourteen years in Concord, Massachusetts.

Nancy always used illustrated books heavily in her reading programs, encouraging her students to use drawings and other art work to illustrate their own book reviews and projects. She encouraged her students to think of themselves as authors, illustrators, and critics as well as readers. Classroom visits from authors and illustrators inspired Nancy to try working in the children's book field herself.

After developing an illustrator's portfolio, she left teaching to illustrate and eventually write full time. Nancy draws her ideas from motherhood, the classroom, and especially, from her own childhood.

"I have always loved to draw. When I was a young girl, I had a subscription to Little Lulu comic books. I hung the bright covers on my wall each month. The comic books inspired me to draw my own characters—ballet dancers with impossibly long legs, queens with changeable gowns, and boy and girl twins with names like Paul and Pauline or Steve and Stephanie.

As an only child, I entertained myself for hours acting out stories about the dancers, the queens or the twins in a big mirror in our living room. I gave drawing lessons to my friends and told them stories using the pictures. It was only natural that teaching, drawing and stories would always be central to my life (because I wasn't good at ballet!).

I was a sixth-grade teacher for fourteen years so the picture books I write, as well as the many I have illustrated, have classroom settings. I'm intrigued with the drama of the classroom, especially the stories swirling just below the surface—the girl preoccupied with the lack of snow, those first day jitters, the worried boy who left his Halloween costume on the bus, or running out of red construction paper on Valentine's Day!

Recently, my husband surprised me with old Little Lulu comic books. They sit between my drawing board and computer, serving not only as an inspiration still, but also, as a reminder of where it all began."

Visit Nancy Poydar on the web at
www.NancyPoydar.com

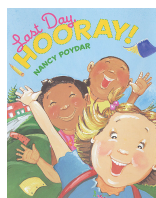
Written and illustrated by Nancy Poydar



★ *New in Fall 2004* ★

BRAVE SANTA

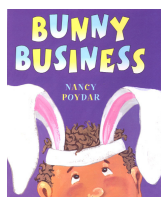
A shy boy meets a timid Santa in this sweet, reassuring story full of holiday cheer.



★ *New!* ★

LAST DAY, HOORAY!

The last day of school is finally here. For Ivy and her friends it's time to take down pictures, clean shelves and say good-bye. But there is also time for one last surprise in this companion to *First Day, Hooray!*



BUNNY BUSINESS

The show must go on in this story about turning stage fright into stage might.

"A realistic, entertaining school story about the value of listening."

—School Library Journal



FIRST DAY, HOORAY!

"A satisfying exploration of the anxiety and joy experienced before and during the first day of school."

—School Library Journal



MAILBOX MAGIC

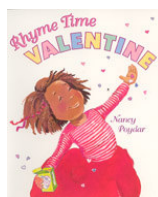
"Poydar captures all the anticipation of waiting for something special to come in the mail."—Booklist



THE PERFECTLY HORRIBLE HALLOWEEN

Fearing embarrassment, Arnold uses his imagination to save the day.

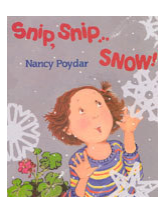
"Captures the chaotic fun of dressing up for a perfectly horrible day."—Booklist



RHYME TIME VALENTINE

Ruby's homemade valentines blow away on the way to school, but she still finds a way to give everyone a valentine.

"Poydar peppers her text with quirky wordplay as Ruby toys with language, exploring rhymes."—Kirkus Reviews



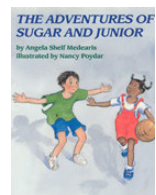
SNIP, SNIP... SNOW!

Sophie has to make due with paper snowflakes until she notices something out the window that promises winter fun.

"A seasonal treat for all of those impatient children who anticipate the arrival of wintry weather."

—School Library Journal

Illustrated by Nancy Poydar...

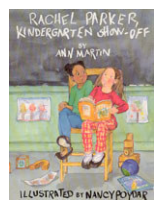


THE ADVENTURES OF SUGAR AND JUNIOR

Written by Angela Shelf Medearis

Four stories about the everyday adventures of two interracial friends.

"The watercolor-and-colored-pencil drawings set against crisp white space show the two new pals in perpetual motion."—Booklist



RACHEL PARKER, KINDERGARTEN SHOW-OFF

Written by Ann M. Martin

Olivia thinks Rachel is a show-off, but finally they become friends.

"Filled with entertaining touches, Poydar's true-to-life illustrations... adroitly capture the girls' changeable emotions."—Publishers Weekly