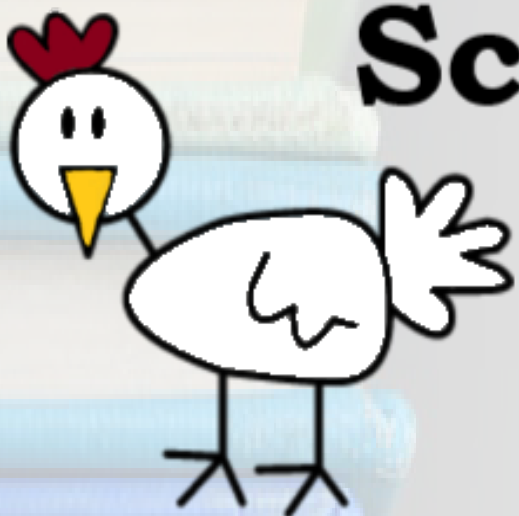


Chicken Scratch Books

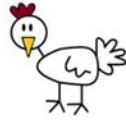


Our only agenda is
good literature

Product Catalog
Spring 2025

www.chickenscratchbooks.com

Chicken Scratch Books



Chicken Scratch Books is a traditional publisher of middle grade novels. Our books are clean, based in traditional values, and have no social agendas woven throughout. The quality of both writing and story are industry high. The quality of our design and production is equally strong. Our goal is to provide families and teachers with literature they can trust, and stories they will love.

For each book we publish, we also create two online novel study courses for students. Our Explore Course helps families explore the virtues embedded in the story through interviews. Our Analysis Course is an academic deep dive into studying the novel for strengthening individual Language Arts skills. All of our courses include video instruction, online work, and paper and pencil assignments. Each course also includes videos from the authors themselves.

At Chicken Scratch Books we specialize in serving the homeschool, private school, and rural school markets. You can often see us at homeschool conventions across the country.

We hope you will explore all Chicken Scratch Books has to offer. Our bulk and wholesale ordering policy can be found here:

<https://chickenscratchbooks.com/wholesale-orders/>

CONTEMPORARY



Sophie Murphy Does Not Exist

T. Blanchard

As Sophie and her family heal from the loss of her father to cancer, she discovers what it means to leave your mark on the world. She tries seeking for fame in popular ways, but ultimately learns that being loved by one is more valuable than all the fame of the world, and that serving others is where real value is found.

Power of Family

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Contemporary Humor

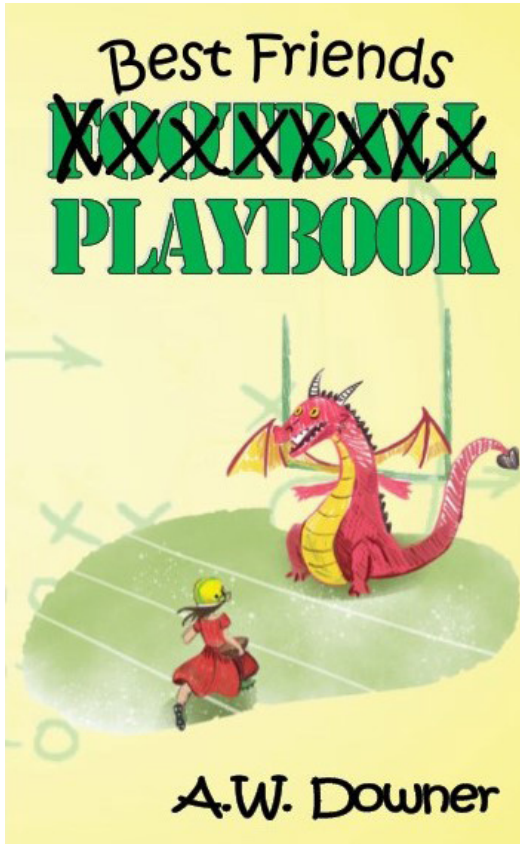
Topics: family relationships, serving others, meaning of life's value, online fame

- Publication Date: March 1, 2021
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-02-2 eBook: 978-1-953743-03-9
- Price: \$10.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 224 pages
- Carton Quantity: 48
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

T. Blanchard, who won a fourth grade reading contest by reading 132 books (picture books didn't count), believes in the power of words and imagination. She loves new adventures, running, reading, writing and eating raspberries, and thinks the world would be a much better place without slimy frogs and snakes. She lives in the desert with her husband, 4 children, cat, two fish and parakeet. This is her debut novel.



CONTEMPORARY



Best Friends Playbook

A.W. Downer

When Hannah is left alone in her homeschool group, she has to make new friends. But no one else likes football like she does. They play princess. She must learn the difference between having friends and being a friend, all while staying true to who she is.

Being A Friend

Age Category: Lower Middle Grade, ages 9-12

Genre: Contemporary Friendship

Topics: adjusting to change, friendship, football, princesses, homeschool

- Publication Date: December 1, 2021
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-08-4 eBook: 978-1-953743-09-1
- Price: \$10.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 202 pages
- Carton Quantity: 52
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

At the age of twelve, A.W. Downer decided to become a published author, with the desire of writing books that both kids and parents could be comfortable reading. In her high school homeschool group, she and a group of friends had an unofficial writing club where they would swap characters, share stories, and write in the round. She earned a BA in Digital Writing from LeTourneau University and went on to earn an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She now teaches creative writing classes online to students in elementary grades through high school. She loves sharing her passion and encouraging young writers. Mrs. Downer lives in her husband's home-state of Montana with her husband, daughter, barn cats, and chickens.



CONTEMPORARY

Miss Classified Susan Phelan



For the first time, Blythe finds herself struggling at school. She doesn't want her parents to know about it, so she chooses to cheat to try to improve her grades. Her skills in math, and her new found passion for photography both bring confusion to her choices. Ultimately, she learns that honesty with her family, her friends, and herself is the best course of action for success.

Honesty

Age Category: Upper Middle Grade, ages 11-14

Genre: Contemporary School Story

Topics: honesty, school challenges, ADHD, photography, math, family relationships, friendship

- Publication Date: August 1, 2022
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-16-9 eBook: 978-1-953743-17-6
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 218 pages
- Carton Quantity: 52
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

When Susan was in Junior High, she announced that she was going to be an actress. She eventually did become a professional actress, but before that, she rode horses, raised five children and several guide dog puppies, nursed a zoo of assorted animals, and worked (if you could use that term) in a library. Somewhere in the midst of wrestling kids and animals, she took up writing, because, as she puts it, life is made up of stories. When she's not acting in stories or telling stories, Susan likes to play with her family and make messes in the kitchen, or any other flat surface she can find. This is Susan's debut novel.



CONTEMPORARY



Jeff Pennant's Field Guide To Raising Happy Parents

Kelli McKinney

Jeff finds himself grounded all the time. He doesn't understand why his parents are always mad at him, so he starts a science experiment to determine what makes them happy. His friendships are also confusing, and he blames that on his parents. Ultimately, Jeff learns to see beyond himself and understand other people's perspectives. He learns how to find happiness in both his family life and his friendships.

Beyond Self

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Contemporary Friendship

Topics: seeing beyond self, family relationships, friendship, science experiments, video games

- Publication Date: October 1, 2022
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-18-3 eBook: 978-1-953743-19-0
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 264 pages
- Carton Quantity: 44
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

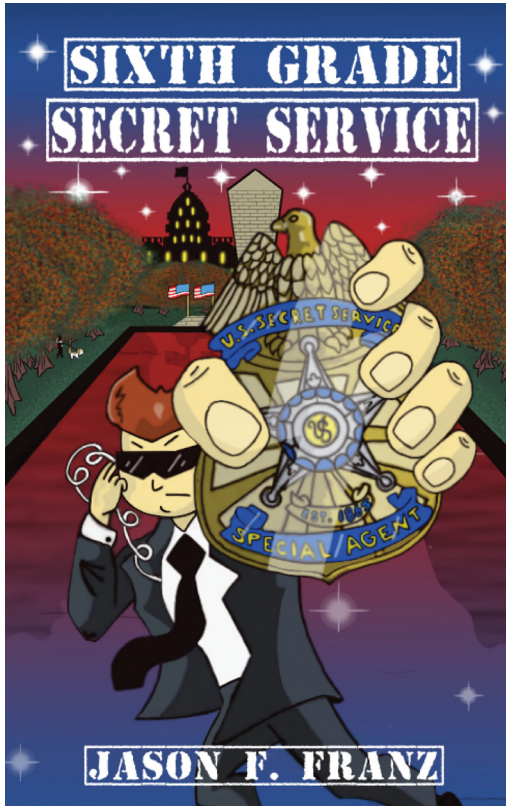
When Kelli McKinney and her family aren't exploring national parks, she can be found on the sidelines at her son's tennis tournaments, brewing a cup of cinnamon spice tea, or chucking a toy across the backyard for her English Mastiff to chase. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and her graduate degree in radio/tv/film from the University of North Texas. She enjoyed an eclectic-yet-fulfilling fifteen-year career in corporate marketing before wandering off on her own to be a freelance copywriter. Now, she is a part-time copywriter, full-time mom, and a children's author. She lives in Texas but a huge piece of her heart belongs to Oklahoma. This is Kelli's debut novel.



CONTEMPORARY

Sixth Grade Secret Service

Jason F. Franz



When Abe's best friend is elected Student President, she asks him to be her secret service agent, but then she goes missing. Abe must learn to trust himself and overcome his family's curse, as well as his own busted belly. With the help of friends, family, and lots of cool gadgets, Abe solves the mystery and saves the day.

Trusting Self

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Contemporary Adventure Mystery

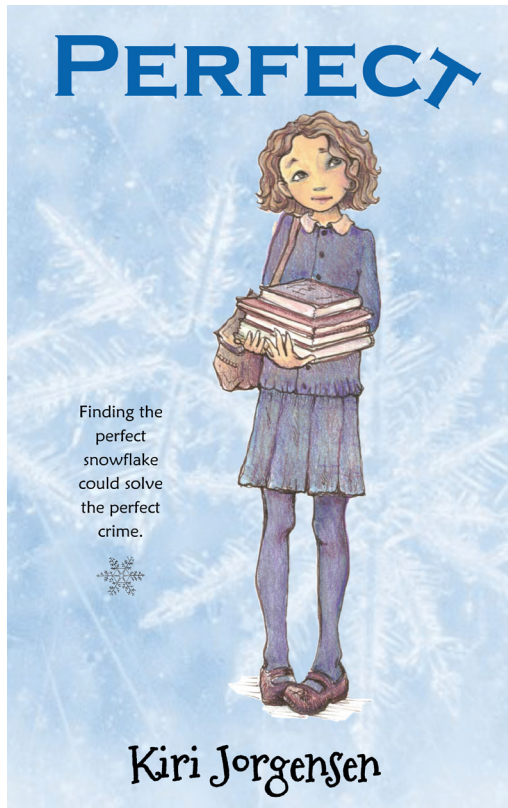
Topics: trusting yourself, secret service, digestive issues, bullying, family relationships, friendship

- Publication Date: December 1, 2022
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-20-6 eBook: 978-1-953743-21-3
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 242 pages
- Carton Quantity: 48
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Reading and writing wasn't always fun for Jason F. Franz. In elementary school, he needed to read out loud to comprehend. This disrupted the class, so he was forced to read by himself in the hall. In sixth grade he discovered the book series that would change his life forever. Thanks to his mother, the town librarian, he collected and read all sixty-four books in the series. This inspired Jason to try his hand at writing, and thus began the twenty-four-year quest to be a published author, despite, or rather, in rebellion against, his early barriers. He hopes his stories can encourage other reluctant readers like him to overcome their unique hurdles. Jason lives in a small Wisconsin town with his amazingly patient, supportive, and beautiful wife. When he isn't conducting the characters in his head like a chaotic chorus, he can be found watching 90's cartoons, caring for his critters, or walking the shores of Lake Superior.



CONTEMPORARY



Perfect Kiri Jorgensen

When Saloma learns about photographing snowflakes her pattern-driven OCD mind is hooked, but that means joining the Weather Club and interacting with other kids. At the same time, phones are being stolen at her school. Sal must learn to change her perspective to not only understand what friendship is, but also to find the perfect snowflake, and solve the perfect crime.

Changing Perspective

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Contemporary Mystery

Topics: changing perspective, snowflakes, OCD, hearing loss, family relationships, friendship

- Publication Date: February 1, 2023
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-008 eBook: 978-1-953743-01-5
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 208 pages
- Carton Quantity: 56
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Kiri Jorgensen has been writing stories since she was in elementary school. Many of them are in the form of stage plays. She's written and produced over 30 plays for kids, and even a few musicals. She is a teacher, a writer, an editor, a publisher, a gardener, and a quilter, but her favorite roles are wife and mother. Even though her husband and kids are all avid snow skiers, Kiri is content with the extreme sport of snowflake catching. Throw in a good middle grade novel to read and a mug of hot cocoa, and she's set. Kiri lives in rural Montana with her husband and lots of pets.



CONTEMPORARY



Gallop Away Robin Kolb

When 12 year old Alex bonds with a newborn colt on her family's ranch, she vows to make him her own, but like all the other horses, he's slated to be sold. Alex thinks that if she can prove her horse training skills, she may have a shot at keeping him. But after her attempts end in disaster, she must use her hard work and resilience to win the day.

Resilience

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Contemporary Horse Story

Topics: resilience, ranch life, horses, horse training, family relationships, strong work ethic

- Publication Date: February 1, 2024
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-30-5 eBook: 978-1-953743-31-2
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 272 pages
- Carton Quantity: 40
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Robin's first pony, King, was a gift from her Grandpa when she was five years old. Together, Robin, King, and her smiling dog, Snowy, galloped through open fields, explored dense woodland, and forded streams while Robin's imagination became woven with the horse stories she loved (like the Misty series by Marguerite Henry). Robin's passion for horses grew into the opportunity to work at a Quarter Horse breeding and training barn. There she immersed herself in everything from handling the fuzzy newborn foals to competing on the horses she helped train. Her quest to continue her education led to degrees in English literature and the Earth Sciences. Robin is a former teacher and riding instructor. She and her husband live in Montana where they raised two daughters riding ponies of their own. Rhythmic hoofbeats will forever gallop through Robin's veins.



CONTEMPORARY

Ghost Town Treasure Hunt

Book 1 in the Geocache Club Series

Abbi Lee



When twelve year old Layton Clark's best friend moves away, he thinks all his adventures have come to an end. But then Sherry moves into town, introduces him to the world of geocaching, and helps him find a new kind of adventure. He uses his sleuthing skills and modern technology to solve a 100 year old mystery, and learns to embrace change in a whole new way.

Embracing Change

Age Category: Lower Middle Grade, ages 8-12

Genre: Contemporary Mystery

Topics: embracing change, geocaching, friendship, family relationships, moving, ghost town

- Publication Date: October 1, 2024
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-37-4 eBook: 978-1-953743-38-1
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 144 pages
- Carton Quantity: 76
- Online Explore Course available

Abbi Lee has always found joy within the world of a book. In grade school, she remembers regularly riding her bike to the small town library to check out the next book in the A to Z Mysteries series. With a passion for learning, Abbi pursued her degrees in Secondary Education in Social Studies and English and after teaching for a few years, she decided to stay at home with her daughters. From an early age, her girls loved to read so it wasn't long before ideas started working themselves into words on a page. Abbi is passionate about creating stories and embraces the challenge that comes with writing realistic contemporary books for kids. She also works as a part-time copywriter and is an active volunteer within the PTO at her daughters' school. Outside of reading and writing, Abbi also enjoys making (and eating) no-bake cookies, perusing her Julia Child cookbook, and going on adventures with her family. She doesn't like to exercise, but makes time for it anyway... sometimes. Abbi was born and raised in Kansas and has no intention of ever moving away from the state she calls home.



CONTEMPORARY

Year of the Meatball

Angela Calabrese



When Joey Marconi's family moves from the Bronx to a rural town, he believes he'll never have good pizza or play baseball again. But then he meets Bobbi, another baseball fan who is scarred from a tragic accident. Together they navigate the challenges of new experiences, and learn what it means to shift your outlook.

Shifting Your Outlook

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Contemporary Sports

Topics: shifting your outlook, baseball, friendship, family relationships, moving, not judging others, Italian culture

- Publication Date: February 1, 2025
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-41-1 eBook: 978-1-953743-42-8
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 216 pages
- Carton Quantity: 52
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

In third grade, Angela discovered the power of words when a holiday poem she wrote moved her teacher to tears. She's been tinkering with those words ever since. A former middle school reading specialist, Angela's students were resistant readers who would rather visit a dentist than read. She appreciated their leap of faith when they embraced her unconventional multisensory methods. Her greatest joy was observing a student devour an entire book for the first time. Her stories generate laughter, portray endearing characters, and offer kids a sense of hope. Belonging to a quirky family has its perks. There's always a steady supply of unique material to write about! A proud mama to two talented and kind daughters, Angela is married to a warm-hearted guy whose specialty is making her laugh. They live with their pampered tabby cat in a bucolic town in upstate New York where every season's beauty takes her breath away.



CONTEMPORARY

Rowley Peters and the Lumberjack Ghost Carol L. Paur



Rowley Peters has never liked camping, but it's worse when her family's trip also includes spiders, ghosts, and mysterious frogs. When her best friends join the campout, things get even worse. Solving the mystery of the lumberjack ghost might be the only way to save their friendship.

Advocating for Yourself

Age Category: Lower Middle Grade, ages 8-12

Genre: Contemporary Mystery

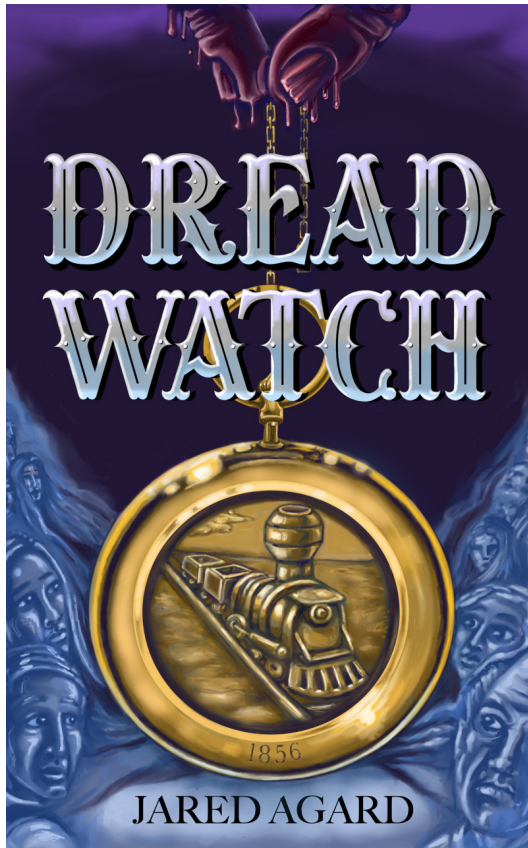
Topics: advocating for yourself, camping, ghost stories, mystery, frogs, friendship, family relationships, cleft lip and palate

- Publication Date: April 1, 2025
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-45-9 eBook: 978-1-953743-46-6
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 192 pages
- Carton Quantity: 56
- Online Explore Course available

Carol L. Paur was born with a cleft palate. That meant surgeries and speech therapy. Because of this, she thought she'd become a doctor. However, she spent more time writing than working on her math homework. In elementary school she wrote plays for her classmates. In high school and college, she was a reporter for the schools' newspapers. She had a collection of poems published in her high school anthology and won some writing competitions. Carol has done stand-up comedy and written a sitcom. She has an MA in Communication and worked as a freelancer for newspapers and magazines. Carol has five published books – three that are indie-published and two that are traditionally published. When she's not writing, she's picking up chewed up garbage left by her puppy Zuko, volunteering at her church, or traveling with her husband and daughters.



FANTASY / SPECULATIVE



Dread Watch

Jared Agard

Caleb is angry and afraid – the perfect victim for an evil ghost that inhabits an antique watch. Caleb gets lured into the watch and must learn how to overcome his fears to save himself and the other victims that have been trapped for a century. Through it all he learns what unconditional love really is.

Love Over Fear

Age Category: Upper Middle Grade, ages 10-14

Genre: Supernatural Thriller

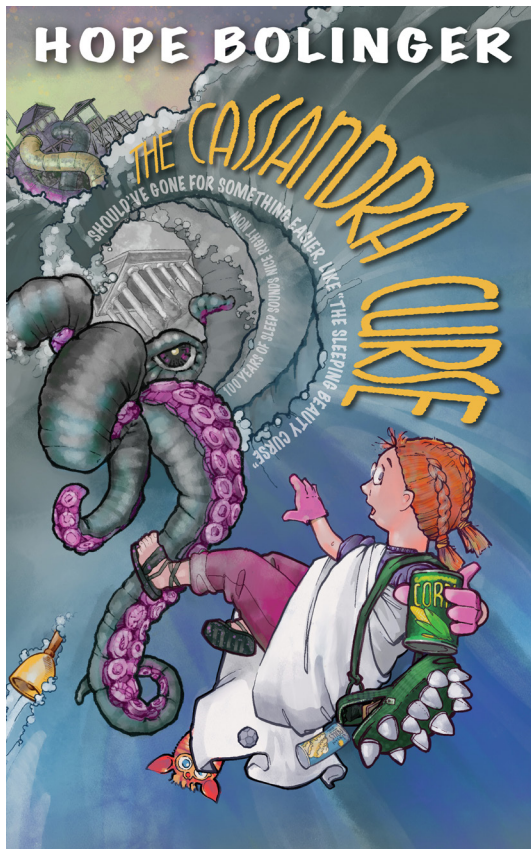
Topics: overcoming fears, grief, family relationships, friendship, ghosts, historical tragedy

- Publication Date: September 1, 2021
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-06-0 eBook: 978-1-953743-07-7
- Price: \$10.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 264 pages
- Carton Quantity: 44
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Jared Agard was writing and illustrating books as far back as he can remember. His mother was a school librarian and knew all the best books to read. Now, he teaches Art and Film at the Beaverton Academy of Science and Engineering in Beaverton, Oregon, which is his dream job, besides being an author. He values creativity and always has a new idea rattling around in his brain. He loves watching cartoons, goofing off with his boys, and chili dogs. He is married to the most gorgeous woman on the planet and has three amazing boys, two tiger oscar, and the most pathetic dog you've ever seen.



FANTASY / SPECULATIVE



The Cassandra Curse

Hope Bolinger

Charity is cursed. Every act of kindness she tries to do ends in disaster. But then she realizes she's not the only one. A group of kids discover that they are cursed, and the curse is spreading – turning people into gray, emotionless 'zombies'. They must discover how to stop the curse, end the apathy invasion, and save the world. All before school starts.

Kindness

Age Category: Upper Middle Grade, ages 10-14

Genre: Zany Speculative Mystery

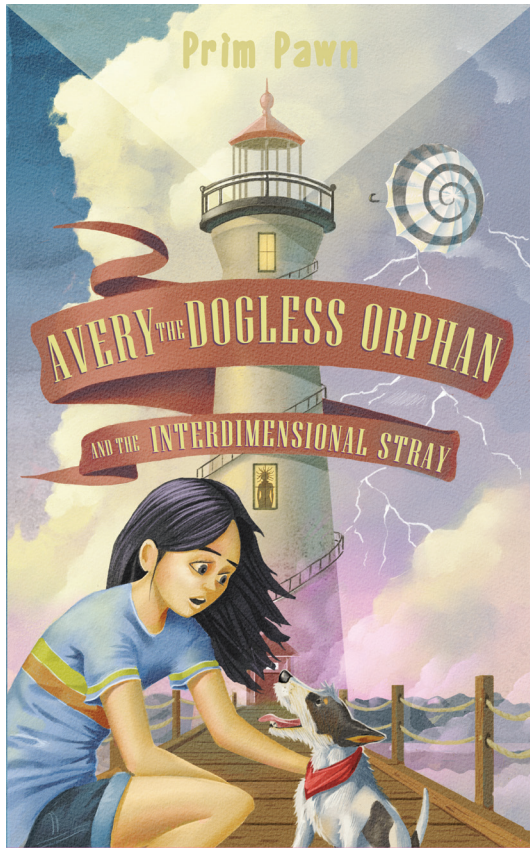
Topics: kind acts, role playing games, world portals, ancient Greece, friendship, trusing yourself

- Publication Date: February 1, 2022
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-10-7 eBook: 978-1-953743-11-4
- Price: \$10.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 280 pages
- Carton Quantity: 40
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Hope Bolinger is a Managing & Acquisitions Editor at End Game Press and the Founder of Generation Hope Books. More than 1300 of her works have been featured in various publications ranging from Writer's Digest to Keys for Kids to HOOKED to Crosswalk.com. She has worked for various publishing companies, magazines, newspapers, and literary agencies and has edited the work of authors such as Jerry B. Jenkins and Michelle Medlock Adams. Twenty of her books are under contract or out now with traditional publishers, and she hopes more of her stories will find a home soon.



FANTASY / SPECULATIVE



Avery the Dogless Orphan and the Interdimensional Stray

Prim Pawn

More than anything else, Avery wants a dog. She learns that she is a Slider - a race of humans that can slide through time and dimensions. Interdimensionally, Sliders and Dogs are sworn enemies—that's why she can't have a dog. But when she learns that evil Sliders are plotting to destroy dogkind, she must decide whether to be loyal to ancient prejudice, or learn the truth and save dogkind, and ultimately her family too.

Loyalty

Age Category: Upper Middle Grade, ages 10-14

Genre: Zany Speculative Adventure

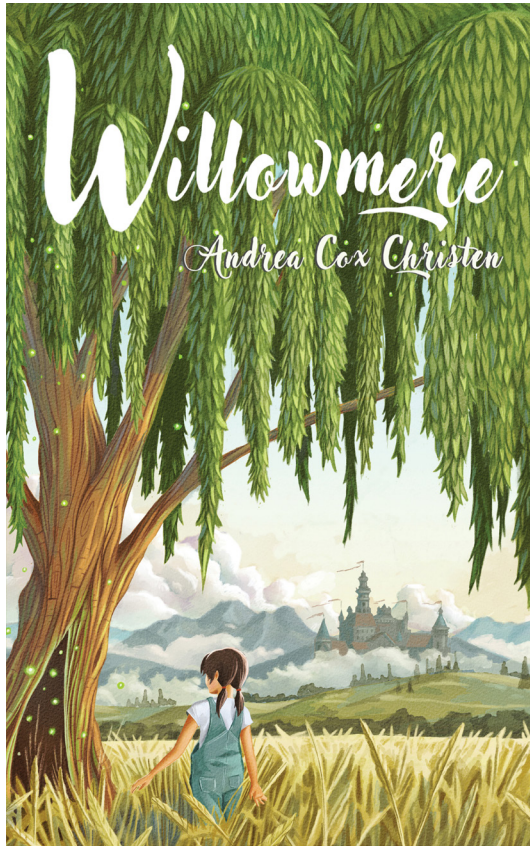
Topics: dogs, science fiction, family relationships, time travel, other dimensions, loyalty, friendship

- Publication Date: April 1, 2023
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-22-0 eBook: 978-1-953743-23-7
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 268 pages
- Carton Quantity: 40
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Since Prim Pawn could hold a crayon, she's been writing plays, poems, and short stories. She grew up on the shores of Lake Superior, where she spent summers swimming and fishing, and winters cross-country skiing, writing, and dancing ballet. While living aboard a motor trawler on Lake Michigan with her husband, yellow Labrador, and Persian cat, she developed the idea for her middle-grade novel inspired by the beauty and adventure of the Great Lakes. She presently lives on land in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.



FANTASY / SPECULATIVE



Willowmere

Andrea Cox Christen

When Pea finds the necklace from her mom high up in the old willow tree, she knows it's special. When it opens a tunnel through the tree, Pea discovers a magical world created by her late mom's stories. But this world is falling apart without stories to keep it alive. Pea must learn to unite with the new people she meets in Willowmere to discover how to overcome the dangers, save their world, and ultimately save herself.

Unity

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Fantasy

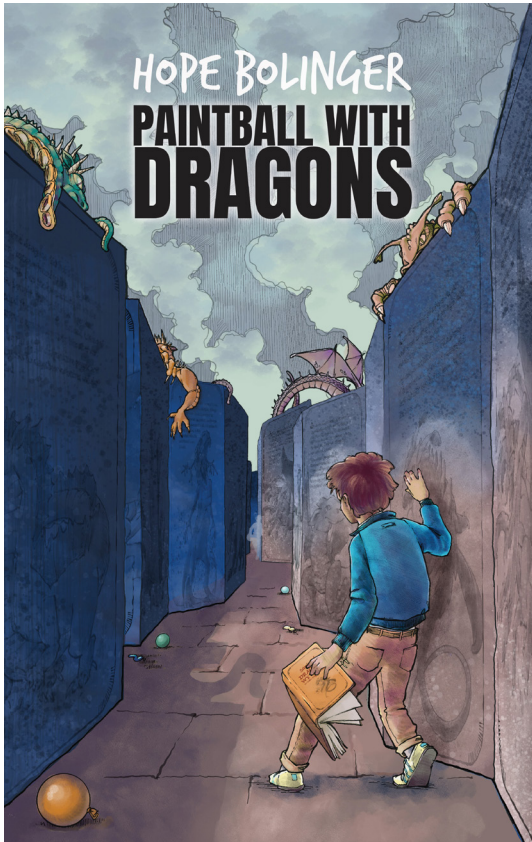
Topics: stories, storytelling, family relationships, grief, unity, adventure, fantasy worlds, courage

- Publication Date: August 1, 2023
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-24-4
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 244 pages
- Carton Quantity: 44
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Andrea Cox Christen was born and raised in Montana, but after her children were born, she and her husband decided to teach abroad. Since then they've lived in two countries: Indonesia and Latvia. In Indonesia, Andrea loved bike riding through villages, eating Indonesian food, exploring different islands, and snorkeling in the ocean. In Latvia, Andrea can't get enough of the craft markets, art nouveau architecture, sour cream, and forests. The different places she's lived have also inspired her short stories. In the classroom, Andrea's favorite part of teaching is when her students debate about the books they've read. Seeing them dive into the texts and analyze the character's motivations and choices is such fun. She hopes her readers will do the same with her books.



FANTASY / SPECULATIVE



Paintball With Dragons

Hope Bolinger

On the first day back to school in 7th grade, Xander discovers a huge dragon blocking his locker, but no one else seems to see it. Soon he's seeing dragons everywhere. He's grieving the loss of his brother who had been killed in a car accident that summer, and now dragons. With the help of a new friend, he learns legends and myths about historical dragons, and discovers how they can help him heal and move forward with his family.

Empathy

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Contemporary Speculative

Topics: dragons, empathy, family relationships, friendship, grief, legends

- Publication Date: December 1, 2023
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-28-2
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 236 pages
- Carton Quantity: 48
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Hope Bolinger is an acquisitions editor and the author of almost 30 books. When she isn't accidentally writing a middle grade book in five days, she likes to do theater, model for runways and shoots, and get lost on hikes. She wishes she could have a pet dragon but will settle for her two silly cats. Find out more about her at hopebolinger.com



FANTASY / SPECULATIVE



Wingless

Book 1 in the Wingless Cycle

Catherine Witzaney

Since being orphaned at a young age, wingless sprite Asher Songfeather has been sure of one thing: Bat sprites aren't to be trusted. But when his adoptive sister Carinen falls deathly ill, he'll risk anything to save her—even if it means striking a bargain with a mysterious Bat sprite newcomer. The deal sends Asher on a perilous quest into the heart of the Bat Colony itself, where nothing is as it first appears. Saving his sister will require more than just courage and wits. It will take trust, too. And Asher will have to rethink everything he knows about Bat sprites—including himself.

Selflessness

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Fantasy

Topics: selflessness, trust, sprites, high fantasy, prejudice, good vs evil, disabilities, talents

- Publication Date: April 1, 2024
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-32-9
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 288 pages
- Carton Quantity: 40
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Catherine Witzaney spent much of her childhood immersed in Middle Earth, Narnia, and Tortall. At the age of seven, she discovered the magic of creating her own worlds through the written word, and has been writing stories ever since. As a homeschooler with parents who loved to read, she grew up steeped in the historical fiction of G. A. Henty and Rosemary Sutcliff, which bestowed on her a greatly oversized vocabulary for which she was often teased. As an adult, she can now blame her verbosity on the handy excuse of being an author. She resides in a lovely town in central Alberta, Canada, and is happily married to her knight in shining armour who flies helicopters instead of dragons. When she isn't writing, she is likely to be found teaching piano, doting on her numerous nieces and nephews, or striving to keep her two birds, a puppy, and a hedgehog out of mischief.



FANTASY / SPECULATIVE



Dog Talk

LuAnn M. Rod

After a dare stunt gone wrong, GT's punishment is to tend his mom's bratty dog Fifi for the summer. But a faulty phone app - a bit of technology mixed with magic - gives him the ability to talk to Fifi, and she talks back. Then he finds himself gradually turning into a dog too. Together they must save their town and get to the bottom of the misguided magic before GT becomes a dog forever.

Being Yourself

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Contemporary Speculative

Topics: being yourself, dogs, magic, stray dogs, friendship, family relationships, folklore, weredogs

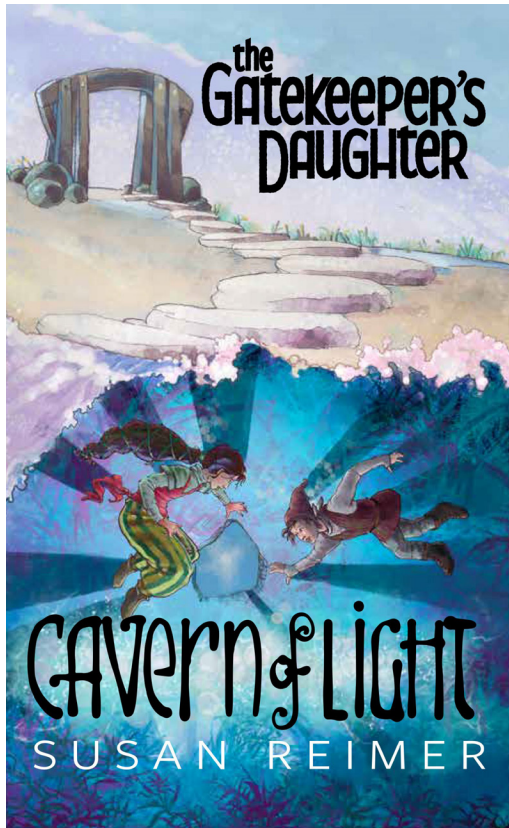
- Publication Date: August 1, 2024
- ISBN: paperback 978-1-953743-34-3, eBook 978-1-953743-35-0
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 248 pages
- Carton Quantity: 44
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

A graduate of Montana State University with a B.A. in English, LuAnn Rod has worked as a newspaper editor, writer, and freelance copy editor and proofreader. Prior to that she was a veterinary technician and is a lifelong animal lover.

Her first novel, "Maddie McDowell and the Rodeo Robbery," was a finalist for the Western Writers Of America Spur Award for Children's books. A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, she lives in Montana with her husband, two Arabian horses, a Maine coon cat, and three crazy Pyrenean shepherd dogs.



FANTASY / SPECULATIVE



The Gatekeeper's Daughter: Cavern of Light

Susan Reimer

Maira is destined to take her father's place as the keeper of the gate to the inland sea, but she sometimes wishes she could just be like the other kids. When she discovers an underwater cavern of light, she decides to keep it secret. But greed and evil enter her village and threaten to destroy their way of life. Maira must learn to appreciate the history of her people to be able to save them in the present.

Appreciating History

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Fantasy

Topics: appreciating history, legends, protecting sea life, friendship, family relationships, underwater world

- Publication Date: December 1, 2024
- ISBN: paperback 978-1-953743-39-8, eBook 978-1-953743-40-4
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 224 pages
- Carton Quantity: 48
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Susan Reimer has always loved to read. From a very young age, books were her constant companions, sources of entertainment, escape and limitless possibilities. It wasn't long before she began writing her own stories. This passion led to a diploma in journalism and a short career in newspaper before she began writing full time. The author of four young adult novels and two picture books, *The Gatekeeper's Daughter* is her first book for middle grade readers. A homeschooler for many years, she lives with her husband in a rural community in Northern Ontario, Canada where she enjoys hiking and kayaking.



FANTASY / SPECULATIVE



Clanless

Book 2 in the Wingless Cycle

Catherine Witzaney

As young sprites Asher and Siobhan work to save the clanless of the Bat colony and prevent a civil war, they both must learn to trust their new friends. Using their talents in new ways, they learn to forgive themselves for the mistakes of the past. But underneath it all lies a natural disaster that will change their world as they know it.

Forgiving Yourself

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Fantasy

Topics: forgiving yourself, sprites, good versus evil, prejudice, slavery, earthquakes, natural disasters, friendship, family relationships

- Publication Date: June 1, 2025
- ISBN: paperback 978-1-953743-47-3, eBook 978-1-953743-49-7
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 264 pages
- Carton Quantity: 40
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

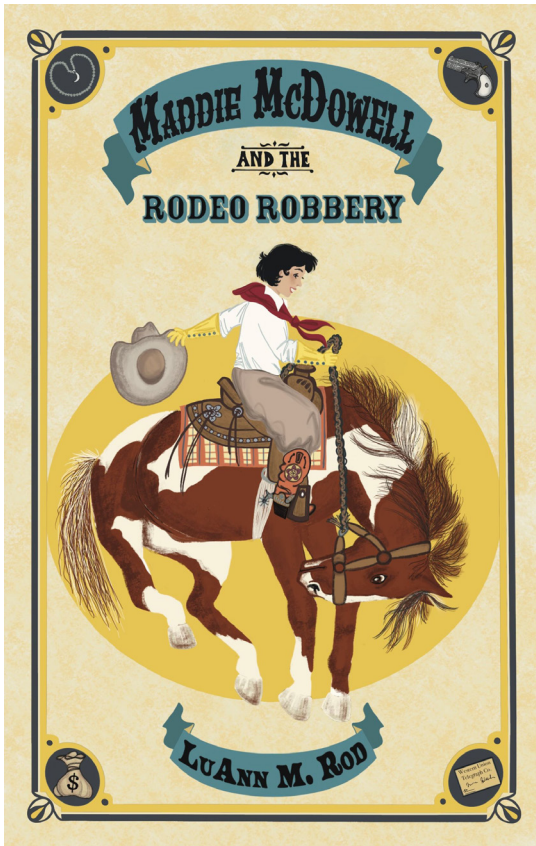
Catherine Witzaney spent much of her childhood immersed in Middle Earth, Narnia, and Tortall. At the age of seven, she discovered the magic of creating her own worlds through the written word, and has been writing stories ever since.

As a homeschooler with parents who loved to read, she acquired a greatly oversized vocabulary for which she was often teased. As an adult, however, she can now blame her verbosity on the handy excuse of being an author.

She resides in the lovely town of Lacombe in Alberta, Canada, and is happily married to her knight in shining armour who flies helicopters instead of dragons. When she isn't writing, she is likely to be found teaching piano, doting on her baby daughter, and striving to keep her two birds out of mischief.



HISTORICAL



Maddie McDowell and the Rodeo Robbery

LuAnn M. Rod

When Maddie runs away from boarding school to join the rodeo in 1919, she didn't expect to accidentally impersonate the rodeo's missing star. But the mystery has her trapped, and she must prove herself innocent of crime while also proving herself worthy of riding the toughest bronc. Ultimately, what she finds is her love of family.

Integrity

Age Category: Upper Middle Grade, ages 10-14

Genre: Historical Mystery

Topics: integrity, family relationships, adventure, Pinkerton-style mystery, historical rodeo

- Publication Date: June 1, 2021
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-04-6 eBook: 978-1-953743-05-3
- Price: \$10.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 264 pages
- Carton Quantity: 40
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Growing up on a dairy farm in Minnesota, LuAnn Rod had three loves: reading, writing, and horses. That hasn't changed, except for the additions of a husband, son and daughter-in-law, one big cat, and four crazy dogs. Her reading list tends toward titles with plucky heroines and heroes, adventure with a generous dollop of humor, and heartfelt friendships—both animal and human. Now living in Montana under the great Big Sky she enjoys riding her Arabian horses across prairies and mountains, playing with her dogs, and sharing her stories with young readers and kindred dreamers. LuAnn earned her bachelor's degree in English literature through Montana State University, and worked twenty-five years in the newsroom at her local newspaper.



HISTORICAL

Raccoon Summer

Betty Vanderwielen



When Lance rescues the orphaned baby raccoons, he learns quickly that there's a lot involved in caring for them and raising them to be released into the wild. But he loves the experience. At the same time, his mom is considering adopting a baby with Down syndrome. Lance learns the sanctity of life – both animal and human.

Sanctity of Life

Age Category: Upper Middle Grade, ages 11-14

Genre: Historical Animal Story

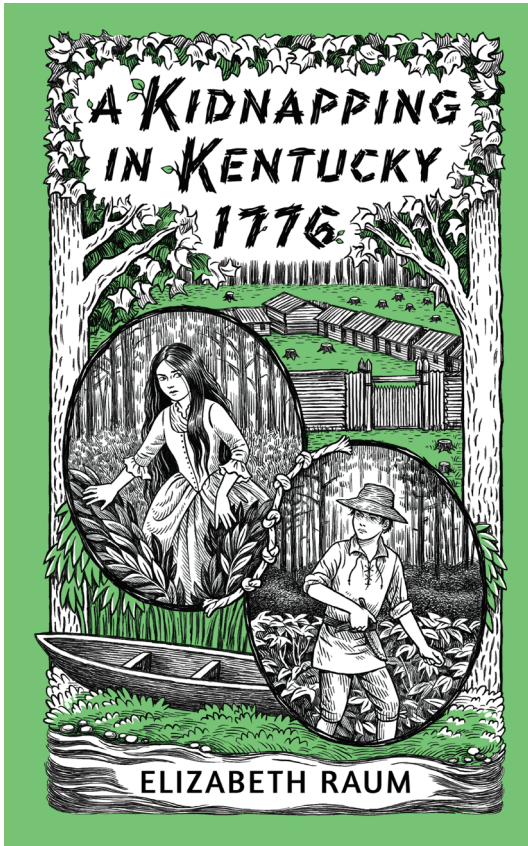
Topics: sanctity of life, raising wild animals, caring for people in need, disabilities, divorce, friendship

- Publication Date: April 1, 2022
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-12-1 eBook: 978-1-953743-13-8
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 280 pages
- Carton Quantity: 40
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

In the fourth grade Betty loved the mysteries in the Nancy Drew series but didn't think they were very well written. So she set about rewriting them. She has been writing and rewriting in one role or another ever since. When she married and began raising two children, the family each summer cared for orphaned baby birds, squirrels, opossums, and raccoons until the critters were ready for release into the wild. Currently Betty and her husband live in Montana where she is a reporter for the Seeley Swan Pathfinder in addition to working on her own novels.



HISTORICAL



A Kidnapping In Kentucky 1776

Elizabeth Raum

Based on the true story of Daniel Boone's daughter, this story tells of Jemima's kidnapping by Indians, and how Daniel tracked her for 3 days and rescued her. Packed with historical details, the story is told from the perspective of Jemima herself, and a boy named John Gass who was part of the rescue party. With alternating perspectives, the reader feels the adventure from all sides.

Freedom

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Historical Adventure

Topics: freedom, determination, ingenuity, life on the frontier, relationships with Indians, colonial America

- Publication Date: June 1, 2022
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-14-5 eBook: 978-1-953743-15-2
- Price: \$10.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 184 pages
- Carton Quantity: 64
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

When Elizabeth Raum was in 3rd grade, her teacher predicted that she would become a writer. It seemed impossible. Now, 150 books later, Elizabeth admits that Mrs. Brown could see into the future. Of course, it didn't happen right away. Elizabeth became a teacher and then a librarian before turning to writing fulltime. She's written biographies, nonfiction books on many topics, picture books, and several middle-grade historical novels. She's lived in seven different states and currently splits her time between North Dakota and Tennessee, enjoying the beauty of both prairie and mountains.



HISTORICAL



A Touch of Blue

Tory Christie

Set in 1970, this story explores changing perspective on the world around us. When Celie takes a dare to be the first to photograph the elusive blue lynx in the woods, she sets out on an adventure that helps her learn what it means to be a friend, a daughter, a sister, and how to appreciate all she has. The vivid story is told through the lens of film photography.

Appreciation

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Historical Adventure

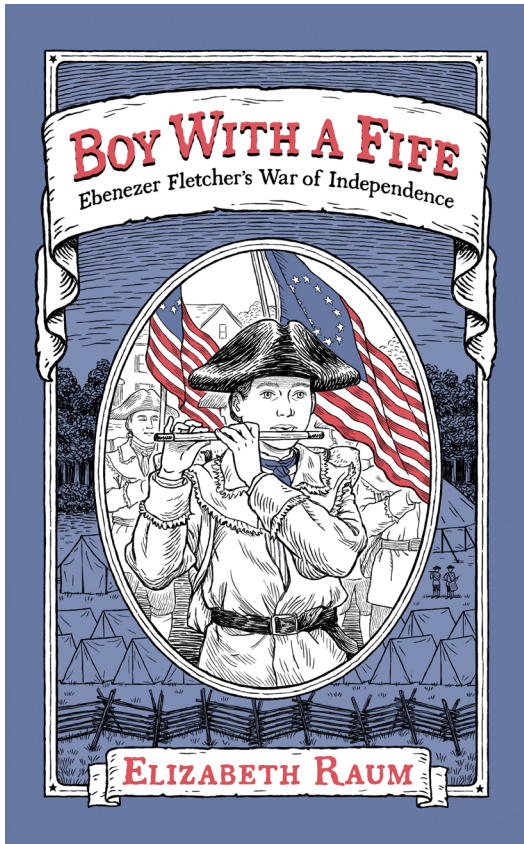
Topics: friendship, appreciation, family relationships, film photography, nature, adventure, sacrifice

- Publication Date: October 1, 2023
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-14-5 eBook: 978-1-953743-26-8
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 204 pages
- Carton Quantity: 52
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Tory Christie is a scientist by day, studying water quality and other environmental issues in remote wilderness areas. After dark, she writes kid's books about science, technology, and nature. One of the goals of her writing is to connect kids with the great outdoors. She is excited to partner with Chicken Scratch Books on her first middle grade novel—a fun adventure about friendship and the healing power of the natural world.



HISTORICAL



Boy With a Fife

Ebenezer Fletcher's War of Independence

Elizabeth Raum

Based on the autobiography of Ebenezer Fletcher, this book follows the adventures of a young fifer in the Revolutionary War. Eb finds himself longing for liberty along with his family and friends, and works to help in any way he can. The effects of the war on families, communities, and individuals are age-appropriately displayed.

Patriotism

Age Category: Middle Grade, ages 9-14

Genre: Historical Adventure

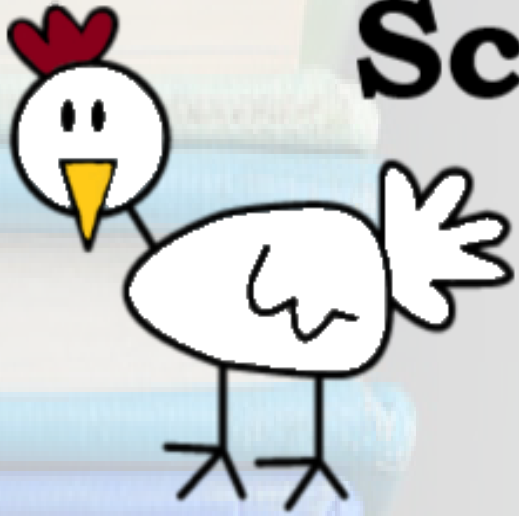
Topics: patriotism, Revolutionary War, colonial life, fife playing, battle, military, family relationships, liberty

- Publication Date: March 1, 2025
- ISBN: 978-1-953743-43-5 eBook: 978-1-953743-44-2
- Price: \$11.99
- Format: Perfect Bound, 5X8
- Page Count: 216 pages
- Carton Quantity: 52
- Online Explore and Analysis Courses available

Elizabeth Raum has written dozens of nonfiction books about history, as well as several historical novels. A recent novel, *A Kidnapping in Kentucky, 1776*, also published by Chicken Scratch Books, is based on a real event: the kidnapping of Daniel Boone's daughter, Jemima, age 13, and her two friends. In *Boy With A Fife*, she explores the early days of the American Revolution, calling on memories of a childhood spent in Vermont and New Hampshire and on the memoir of Ebenezer Fletcher, which she found in her family genealogy. She currently lives in Greeneville, Tennessee, with her husband, Richard, and spends her time reading, writing, and caring for two backyard chickens.



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