

Margriet Ruurs



is the author of 26 books for children. With a Master of Education degree from Simon Fraser University, she teaches writing workshops at elementary schools across North America and has been a guest lecturer at several universities, including Iowa Writing Project at the University of Northern Iowa. The recipient of the 2005 Region West Presidential Award for Reading & Technology of the International Reading Association, she has conducted writing workshops in Lahore, Pakistan and author visits to International Schools around the world. Margriet writes a regular column on writing, as well as freelance articles, for Reading Today, the magazine of IRA.

Margriet is a popular speaker at conferences, including many State Reading Conferences, National Service Learning Conference, East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools, IRA National and Regional Conferences, Vancouver International Writers' Festival and others. She also conducts school visits throughout the school year, sharing her love of reading and writing with thousands of students and teachers.

"I love to use my imagination!" she says. Several of her books have won awards, including the Storytellers World Award Honor Title for *Emma's Eggs* and short listings for the Mr. Christie Award of Excellence, the Shining Willow and the Chocolate Lily, Blue Spruce, Utah Information Book Award and National Crown Award. *My Librarian is a Camel* was awarded Teacher's Choice Award and named IRA's Notable Book for Global Awareness.

Many of Margriet's books reflect her interest in the natural environment: *A Mountain Alphabet*, *When We Go Camping*, *Wild Babies*, *Logan's Lake* and *In My Backyard*. She also likes humour as shows in *Virtual Maniac*, *Silly & Serious Poems for Kids* and *Ms. Bee's Magical Bookcase*.

For twelve years Margriet conducted children's programming for Okanagan Regional Libraries. She travels extensively to International Schools around the world.

Margriet, her husband and two sons have lived in many different places: The Netherlands, where she was born, Alberta, the Yukon and many other parts of the U.S. and Canada. Currently she makes her home on Salt Spring Island, B.C. where she runs a booklovers' B & B. When she's not busy writing and speaking, Margriet likes to hike or knit. But what she likes best is getting children excited about writing and reading good books!



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