

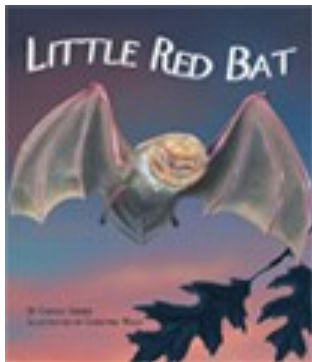
A Conversation with Carol Gerber

author of

Little Red Bat



How did you get the idea to write *Little Red Bat*?



I read that a book about bats titled "Hello, Bumblebee Bat," had received a starred review in *School Library Journal*. I looked at the book and saw it was very, very simple - just a Q&A with great art AND noted that it described a bat that doesn't even live in the U.S. I have always found bats fascinating (if a tad scary), so began reading up on them. I have an extensive file of research on which I built my story. The bat that grabbed me as a potential children's book topic was the red bat.

When did you become interested in writing?

I began writing poems and stories in elementary school.

What is the most frequently asked question you encounter as an author and what is your answer?

Where do you get your ideas? Answer: I have to be patient and set aside free time to "do nothing" – that's when ideas come to me. If I am impatient or too busy to set aside this "creative time" writing becomes a chore rather than a joy.

What sparks your creativity?

I am most creative in the morning with a chai latte in my hand. When I am stuck, I make a point of reading outstanding children's books written by others - this helps to inspire me.

Do you have any advice for parents about encouraging children to be creative?

Turn off the television, the cell phone and the Ipod and encourage children to read, read, read and also to get outside and experience the natural world. Good writers began as good readers and good observers.

What is most rewarding and/or challenging about writing children's books?

It was an absolutely joy to read up on the habits of red bats. I love doing research about natural science and inevitably come away awed at the diversity and majesty of the animal and plant kingdoms.

What would be an interesting question to ask yourself!

In a field where rejection – rather than acceptance – is the rule what keeps you writing? My husband Mark actually answered this question for me one day when I said I was discouraged and was going to give up writing. He replied, "Honey, you can't. You are COMPELLED to write. It's what you do."

Want to continue this conversation? Schedule an interview!

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