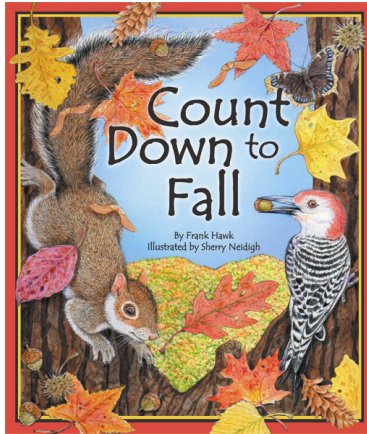


# *A Conversation with Fran Hawk, author of Count Down to Fall*



**What was your incentive to write this particular book?**



One autumn day, as thousands of leaves were falling around me, I realized how few I could identify. I decided to write the book so that children would start early to learn the names of leaves—and have fun in the process.

**When did you become interested in writing?**

In first grade, as soon as I could write, I wrote a story about a mouse named “Wittle James Woo.” I’ve been writing ever since.

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

Most frequently, children ask me if I like to write. The answer is that I love to write! Even on family vacations, I’m writing just to be writing. I have notebooks full of writing that nobody will ever read, including me!

**When are you most creative? (Or what sparks your creativity?)**

I’m most creative when I take time out from my usual places and activities and spend time alone. I wrote *Count Down to Fall* when I was vacationing by myself and had time to take long walks every day.

**Do you have any advice for parents (or other group) about...?**

I’ve taken many courses on writing and am certified as a writing teacher. I know a lot more about writing than I know about leaves.

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



Everything about writing children's books is rewarding. I enjoy everything about hanging out in children's libraries and doing research. I enjoy putting everything together into the form of the book. I enjoy presenting the finished product to children and getting their feedback.

**Your choice. Please think of an interesting question to ask yourself!**

Of all the things you could be doing, why do you write children's books?  
I write children's books because I think children are the most important people in the world. I want them to have countless books that encourage them to be excited about reading and excited and fascinated by the world.

**Want to continue this conversation?** Schedule an interview!

**Contact Sylvan Dell's publicist**

[PR@SylvanDellPublishing.com](mailto:PR@SylvanDellPublishing.com)

(877) 243-3457