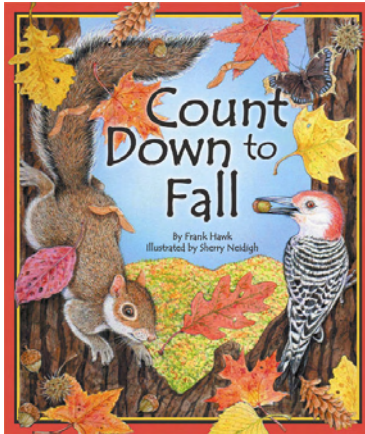


A Conversation with Fran Hawk, author of Count Down to Fall



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, Sara Dobie:

SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com

(877) 958-2600