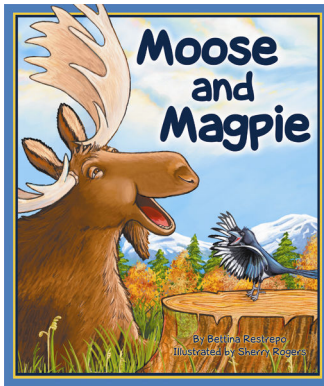


A Conversation with Bettina Restrepo, author of Moose and Magpie



What was your incentive to write this particular book?



I think moose are beautifully awkward. I love their funny face and big antlers. They are majestic in the wild.

When did you become interested in writing?

I had been writing since college and hiding the result away in drawers. In 2002, I wanted to pursue my talents, so I began taking classes and attending SCBWI meetings. I wrote seriously 10-15 hours a week since (even when I had a full time job). It takes time to develop skills. I'm learning every day how to become a better writer.

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

“Is it hard to write a book/ get published?”

My answer is: “Writing from the heart takes years of practice. Getting published takes those years of experience and adds in serendipity.”

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

I'm most creative early in the morning, while reading a good book, or after seeing an emotional movie.

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

Yes, read to your children as often as possible. Read to them a variety of things, even if you don't like it. Ask them open-ended questions about what they think or feel. Listen, participate, and love. It's not about time spent. It's just about doing the best you can.

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

The best part of the process is that I learn how to observe the world. Through the process, I try to become a better person. If I get lucky, maybe someone laughs or cries, or thinks differently about the world.

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

“Why did you write about moose?”

I’ve always been fascinated about migration. Why do animals get up and move from one place to another? How do they know where to go?

Want to continue this conversation? Schedule an interview!

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