

Author Spotlight with Lois Grambling



How did you get your start as a children's book author?

I got started as a children's book author when our grandchildren were born. I started writing them "little anecdotes" every week about things I thought might interest them. Then one Christmas their father (our son) gave me a book, *How To Write A Children's Book And Get It Published*. I read it. And got published!

How long do you usually work on a book before it's a finished product? What's the most difficult part of this process for you?

I usually work on a book for about a year. Like a sloth I work slowly . . . slowly . . . slowly. After I put my thoughts together and write them down on paper, my husband transfers them to the computer.

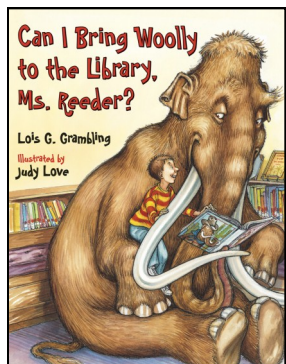
You used to be an elementary school teacher and school social worker. How do those experiences affect the way you write for children and the stories you come up with?

I was an elementary school teacher and then a school social worker. These professions kept me close to children and taught me much about them and what interested them. This certainly proved helpful as I chose my subjects and characters.

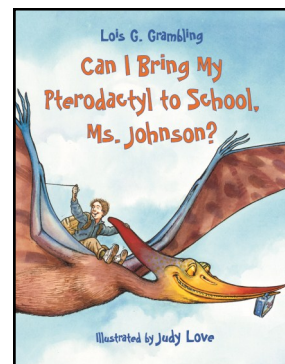
You have an extensive backlist of picture books geared towards elementary school-aged children. Would you ever want to write for an older audience?

NEVER! NEVER!! Older audiences are too reality rooted for me.

Books by Lois Grambling



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Lois Grambling: In her own words

My first vivid memory is that of getting my very own library card. No easy feat for a not-quite-five-year-old who was definitely not into printing or spelling yet. But the town librarian was very kind and said she could “read” the name I “printed” on my application. (Thank you, Mrs. Hunt, wherever you are!) And with that wondrous library card in my hand, suddenly all those books in the children’s section were mine. To be checked out. Every Saturday. By the armful. And that’s what I did—and still do!

As a writer, I was a late bloomer. I never gave much thought to putting pen to paper until our first grandchild was born in 1984. Then I had someone special to write to. And for. And I did. Every Saturday. Just like checking children’s books out of the library. Then in 1987, my grandson was born, giving me another special someone to write to.

To my surprise I discovered that once I started writing I couldn’t stop! Writing became an integral part of my life. I loved it. Besides, I had so much to say!

If I brought Woolly to the library and Cuddly Teddy wasn’t in the Reading Corner ‘cause several of his seams had split open (probably from all the hugs he gets) and he was in the toy shop being repaired, Woolly could take his place. (Woolly is very cuddly.)



Then the little kids would still have plenty of places to sit and someone who’d listen to them read aloud. Woolly loves listening to little kids read. Ms. Page in Literacy Services says being read to will help Woolly with *his* reading, too.



Can I bring Woolly to the library, Ms. Reeder?

Can I?
PLEASE?!

Illustrations © 2012 by Judy Love from *Can I Bring Woolly to the Library, Ms. Reeder?*