



Author Spotlight

With

Mary Corcoran

An interview with author Mary Corcoran
by Sarah Thomas, Charlesbridge Marketing Intern

Did the writing experience for *The Circulatory Story* differ from that of *The Quest to Digest*? Did you find one more challenging to write?

The experience of writing *The Circulatory Story* was unique but also similar to the experience of writing *The Quest to Digest*. I was more familiar with the process the second time around, and took what I had learned/experienced from *Quest* with me. Working with editor Randi Rivers taught me a great deal! She was so encouraging and extremely positive during both experiences. How wonderful to have someone who believes in you!

I had taught both topics in school, but the digestive system was a little more familiar to me. Also, the digestive process seemed a little more sequential to me than blood flow. For both of these reasons, *The Circulatory Story* was a little more challenging to me in its preparation.

The little green sidekick from both books often chimes in with sarcastic or silly comments throughout the stories. Do you think that humor helps children retain the information in these books?

I love the little green guy! Jef Czekaj did such an amazing job creating him from the concepts/ideas from the book. I think humor definitely helps children as well as adults learn and retain the topics at hand. I think I was and am drawn to writing humorously, as it is the way I teach. My father and brother always made me laugh growing up—maybe that's where I get my "funny bone."

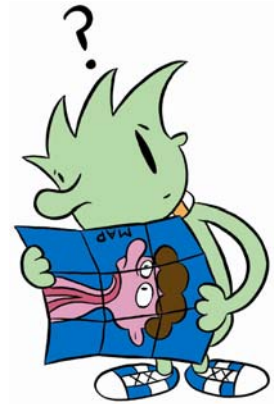
How do you think Jef Czekaj's drawings complement your work?

Jef is so talented and I feel so fortunate that he was chosen by Charlesbridge to illustrate the books. I think his illustrations match so beautifully with my words. They blend perfectly with the content, as well as the humor.



It is clear that you love to write about science. Now that you have covered the circulatory system and digestive system, which other areas of science would you like to write about?

I have so many ideas in my head! Right now, it's time for me to bone up on bones, because I am working on a skeletal system book. I am also interested in writing a book about trees.



Since you have taught high school science, would you consider writing a science book for older readers?

I seem to write for the age 8–11 group, but I would love to write for other age groups as well. I would even like to do more fiction.

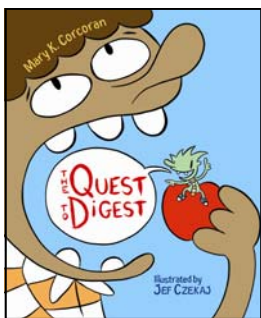
You have worked as a National Park Service ranger. Have you considered writing a children's book about your experience in that profession? Would you treat this as fiction or nonfiction?

Oh, yes, I have thoughts there, too! I think these could be a children's book series with an exciting blend of fiction and nonfiction.

Are you a fan of science fiction? Given your scientific expertise, would you ever consider writing science fiction for children?

I do like some science fiction. In fact, growing up, my brother and I were crazy about the original *Star Trek*. I haven't considered writing science fiction, but you never know!

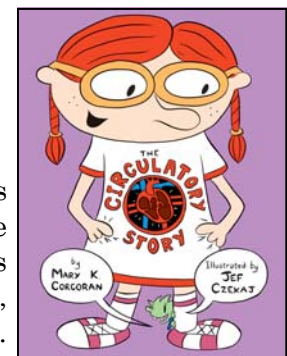
Books by Mary K. Corcoran



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