



Catherine Austen

Photos available on the author's website: www.catherineausten.com

Published Works:

28 Tricks for a Fearless Grade 6

(James Lorimer & Co., 2014)

ISBN: 978-1-45940-618-6

A middle-grade comedy, ages 9-12.

All Good Children

(Orca Book Publishers, 2011)

ISBN: 978-1-55469-824-0

Dystopian fiction for ages 12+

* 2012 Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award Winner, 2012 Sunburst Award Winner, and a White Pine Honour Book.

26 Tips for Surviving Grade 6

(James Lorimer & Co., 2011)

ISBN: 978-1-55277-925-5

A middle-grade comedy, ages 9-12.

Winner of the 2012-13 Hackmatack Children's Choice Award and the 2012 QWF Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature.

My Cat Isis

Illustrated by Virginie Egger

(Kids Can Press, 2011)

ISBN: 978-1-55453-413-5

A picture book for all ages.

Walking Backward

(Orca Book Publishers, 2009)

ISBN: 978-1-55469-147-0

A novel for ages 9-13.

Nominated for the 2010 CLA Children's Book of the Year, the 2010 QWF Prize for Children's Literature, the 2010 MYRCA, the 2011 Diamond Willow, and the 2012 Red Cedar Awards.

Catherine Austen – Author's Biography

Catherine Austen was raised in Kingston, Ontario, the youngest of five children. Her earliest memories are those she carved out alone with nature: catching snakes, taming squirrels, sketching ducks.

Catherine studied Political Science at Queen's University and Environmental Studies at York University. As a student, she practiced productive procrastination and wrote short stories whenever major papers were due. A dozen of her stories were published in small literary journals (*Quarry*, *Writ*, *The New Quarterly*) in the 1980s and 1990s.

Catherine moved to the Ottawa area to work for several national conservation organizations throughout the 1990s. Eventually, she quit office life to raise children and write freelance.

Catherine wrote her first story for children in 2003. After years of practice, she began to get the hang of it. Her first children's book, *Walking Backward* (Orca Book Publishers, 2009) was nominated for several literary awards (see left). In 2011, Catherine saw the release of her first picture book, *My Cat Isis*, illustrated by Virginie Egger (Kids Can Press), and two novels, a middle-grade comedy with Lorimer, *26 Tips for Surviving Grade 6*, and a teen novel with Orca, *All Good Children*, both of which became award-winners.

Catherine writes for all ages. Her most recent short story for adults was featured in *Tesseract 17: Speculating Canada from Coast to Coast to Coast*. Her latest middle-grade novel, *28 Tricks for a Fearless Grade 6*, was released by Lorimer in March 2014. Her new picture book, *When Squirrels Stole my Sister*, is in development with Fitzhenry and Whiteside.

Catherine works from her home in Aylmer (Gatineau), Quebec, where she lives with her husband and two sons. She is grateful for the financial support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Canada Council.

Learn more at www.catherineausten.com.