

Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge
Children's & Young Adult Author

Fact Sheet

Published Books:

Just Fine the Way They Are, Boyds Mills Press/Calkins Creek-2011
The Brave Escape of Edith Wharton, Clarion Books,-2010
Thank You Very Much, Captain Ericsson!, Holiday House-2005
When Esther Morris Headed West, Holiday House-2001
The Legend of Strap Buckner, Holiday House-2001
Wicked Jack, Holiday House-1995

Honors and Awards:

Wicked Jack - Irma S. and James H. Black Book Award, N.C. Children's Book Award
The Legend of Strap Buckner - Spur Award from Western Writers of America
When Esther Morris Headed West - "2002 Notable Social Studies Book" by the National Council for the Social Studies – Children's Book Committee
The Brave Escape of Edith Wharton – 2011 YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Award Nominee; Amelia Bloomer Project's Recommended Titles for 2011

Ideas and Inspiration:

"I would say all my ideas come from my reading. I read widely (journals from different fields), but selectively. I'm a member of three book clubs/discussion groups and I have to feel a book is really worth it before I'll commit to reading it. I write because there are delightful old tales begging to be dusted off and shared with today's young readers. I write because there are historical figures hiding in out-of-the-way places that I know children would love to meet. I write because I tried not writing and completely failed at it!"

Greatest Influence:

"When I was in graduate library school I worked as a student assistant for Zena Sutherland, the editor of the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books. I got to see all the latest children and young adult books as they poured into her office and I got to type her reviews. It was that job for Zena that taught me what a good book really was."

Favorite books from your childhood:

"*The Princess and the Goblin* and *The Princess and Curdie* by George MacDonald. Any mystery I could get my hands on including all of Nancy Drew. I wasn't interested in non-fiction, only fiction! The one exception was *Carry On, Mr. Bowdich*. But that wasn't really an exception because I thought it was fiction!"

Education:

Mount Holyoke College - 1972
University of Chicago - Master's in Library Science/Master's in Education - 1977

Personal:

Connie resides in Indianapolis, Indiana, with her husband. They have four grown children and a growing number of grandchildren.