



Lee Wardlaw

Children's Book Author

Lee Wardlaw claims her first spoken word was 'kitty'. Since then she's shared her life with 30 cats (not all at the same time!), and published close to 30 award-winning books for young readers, which have sold more than one million copies around the world.

Where does Lee get the ideas for so many books?

"From my own life," Lee says. "The inspiration for *Dinosaur Pizza* came from my childhood love of bologna-mustard-and-barbecued-potato-chip sandwiches. Adopting three cats from an animal shelter led to *Won Ton - A Cat Tale Told in Haiku*. And my years as both a teacher and a student gave me the idea for my novel *101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher!*"

Lee wrote her first book in 2nd grade. She continued to write poems, stories and plays all through elementary school. In 6th grade, Lee and three of her friends formed a rock 'n' roll band called the Shooting Stars, with Lee playing guitar and writing songs the girls performed.

Lee graduated with honors from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, with a B.A. in education, and taught school for five years before deciding to write full-time. She recently received her AMI Primary Diploma from the Montessori Institute of San Diego and will earn her M.Ed. from Loyola College of Maryland in 2013. She still enjoys teaching, and does numerous presentations each year for students, teachers, librarians and parents at schools, libraries and conferences.

Lee lives in Santa Barbara, California, with her husband, teenaged son and three former shelter cats. Her newest novel is *101 Ways to Bug Your Friends and Enemies*; her newest picture book *Red, White and Boom!*

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