



LOREEN LEEDY

"I LOVE TO MAKE PICTURE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN BECAUSE IT COMBINES MY FAVORITE THINGS: WORDS, ART, LEARNING, CREATIVITY, AND AN OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK ON LIFE. "

Loreen Leedy has written and illustrated more than thirty picture books in her career. She has been reading, writing, and drawing since she was a small child. After graduating from college with a degree in art, Loreen started a crafts business. For three years, she made whimsical hand-sculpted jewelry and chess sets that featured pigs, dragons, bears, and many other creatures. These jewelry pieces soon became the characters in Loreen's picture books when she decided to write and illustrate for children at the age of twenty-five.

"Finding out about the world is part of growing up, and my goal is to share information with children in a playful way." And Loreen accomplishes just that in all of her books, where she successfully presents useful information from the subject areas of math, science, social studies, and language arts in a fun and inspiring way.

Loreen Leedy's *There's a Frog in My Throat*, illustrated by Pat Street (Holiday House 2003), was an ALA Notable Children's Book, and her books have also been named to numerous reading lists, including the Wyoming Buckaroo Book Award Master List, Children's Book of the Year, Child Study Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College, NCTE Notable Children's Trade Book in the Language Arts, and a Reading Rainbow Feature Book.

Loreen writes and illustrates in her studio in central Florida. She has recently collaborated with her husband, Andrew Schuerger, a scientist who works on space biology research at Kennedy Space Center, on *Messages from Mars* (Holiday House 2006). When Loreen is not busy with creating a picture book, she likes to read books, exercise, travel, and explore the Internet. "As I continue to grow and learn myself, I plan to keep scribbling my ideas down on paper, drawing lively characters, and putting them into pages of the picture book."

For more on Loreen Leedy, visit her website: www.loreenleedy.com.



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LOREEN LEEDY

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