



**ICL** INSTITUTE OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE  
FOUNDED 1969

# MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR

## Nancy Butts

### FICTION:

*The Door in the Lake*, Front Street Books (Young Adult Novel)

*Cheshire Moon*, Front Street Books (Young Adult Novel)

### NONFICTION:

*Spontaneous Combustion*, Deunamos Press. Adult Non-Fiction.

*Nature's Numbers*, Pearson Learning Group. Nonfiction mathematics book. Part of the iOpeners Math series.

*Another Kind of Language*, Pearson Learning Group. Nonfiction book about American Sign Language. Part of the Paired Reading series.

And many more books.

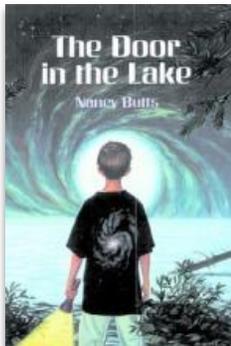
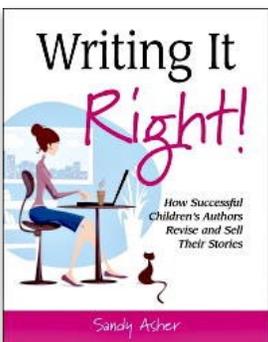
Nancy Butts has had her head stuck in a book ever since she learned to read— and she's been writing stories for just as long. She published her first poem at age ten, and decided afterwards that she wanted to be a writer. But she never thought she was good enough. So it wasn't until after graduating from Duke University, midway through training to become a physician's assistant, that she suddenly remembered what she had known back in fifth grade: she wanted to write.

She quickly landed a job as a reporter at a small-town newspaper, but once her son was born she secretly started to write her first children's book—the story that ultimately became her debut novel, 'Cheshire Moon.' This book was soon followed by the science fiction novel 'The Door in the Lake,' which was an ALA Quick Pick and a Scholastic Book Club selection. Of course it wasn't that easy. It took her years to finish that first book, then more time to find a publisher—which is why she finds so much joy in teaching other writers to polish their stories so that one day they too can shout, "Hallelujah! I'm published."

Nancy is a freelance writer who has published several books for the direct-to-school education market, and is also the editor of a how-to book on revision entitled 'Writing it Right!' by the author Sandra Asher. Somewhere during these years she also managed to land a spot on the TV game show "Jeopardy" and was a one-day champion.

But writing fiction for kids continues to be her passion, and she is working on another middle grade novel set in a sleepy Southern town much like the one where she lives: but with more ghosts.

When she's not teaching, editing, or trying to carve out time for her own writing, Nancy is an avid walker, and she also likes to grow herbs, spend time with her family, make quilts, play the dulcimer, be the Mac tech support person for everyone she knows, and tend to her neurotic Newfoundland dogs.



*"Those of us who succeed are the ones who come back to our desks every day, facing that blank page and telling that demon of doubt to "get thee behind me" on a regular basis."*

NANCY BUTTS

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### Magazine:

"Oh No! Not Me! Not Now! Back Up," October 2013 issue of *Children's Writer*. Article on the importance for writers of keeping multiple back-up copies of all their work.

"Finding the Funny Bone," July 2006 issue of *Children's Writer*. Article on writing humor for children.

### Contributor:

*Infinity and Beyond!*, Creative Curriculum Initiatives for Houghton Mifflin. Mentor and anchor texts for Six Red Marbles

Four fictional easy reader books for grades 2 and 3 for Amplify!, via Six Red Marbles

Scholastics iRead Phonics project with Six Red Marbles

Twenty-one model student essays for grades six through twelve, Pearson Learning for Prentice-Hall, National and Texas Interactive Writing Coach series

Eight DRA assessment passages for grades four through six, Tighe Publishing Service for Pearson Learning

Forty-two chapter intros for a Prentice-Hall series of grammar texts in grades six through twelve via Pearson Learning

Two workbooks for ELL students in California, Tighe Publishing Service for Scholastic. Both workbooks were responses to published American literature, one aimed at grades three through five, and one aimed at grades six through eight.

Eight faux student essays for the Great Gooks/Great Readers program at Pearson Learning Group

### Editor:

*Writing it Right! How Successful Children's Authors Revise and Sell Their Stories* by Sandy Asher, The Writer's Institute

Assistant Editor to Pam Kelly on student manual for the Institute for Children's Literature

