



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

# MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR

## Lori Mortensen

### **PUBLISHED WORK:**

*Cowpoke Clyde Rides the Range*  
(Clarion, 2016)

*Mousequerade Ball* (Bloomsbury, 2016)

*Chicken Lily* (Henry Holt, 2016)

*Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg*  
(Clarion, 2013)

*Cindy Moo* (HarperCollins, 2012)

*Come See the Earth Turn, the Story of  
Leon Foucault* (Tricycle Press, 2010)

And many more.

### **NONFICTION-CAPSTONE PRESS**

*Voices of the Civil Rights Movement*

*Going to the Dentist*

*Working on the Farm*

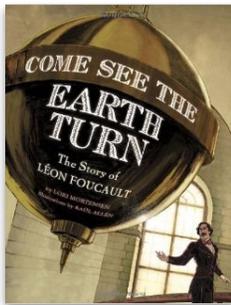
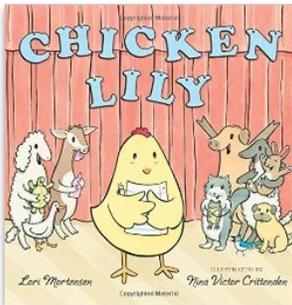
And many more.

Once upon a time, award-winning author, Lori Mortensen, was a stay-at-home mother of three little kids. Although she was an avid reader, writing never occurred to her. All that changed when Ms. Mortensen took a writing course at the Institute of Children's Literature. She was thrilled when an editor snapped up her final assignment.

Since then, Ms. Mortensen has published over 70 books and over 350 stories and articles for children. Recent picture book titles include *Cowpoke Clyde & Dirty Dawg*, (Clarion, 2013) one of Amazon's best picture books of 2013 and the proud recipient of a review in The New York Times, *Cindy Moo* (HarperCollins, 2012) on the 2013 Texas Library Association's 2x2 Reading List and one of HarperCollins 11 Essential Books for Newborns, *Come See the Earth Turn –The Story of Léon Foucault* (Random House, 2010), a Smithsonian Notable Book for Children, 2010, and *In the Trees, Honey Bees!* (Dawn Publications, 2009) a 2010 winner of the NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Book K-12 and the National IWL A Book of the Year. Upcoming picture book releases include a sequel, *Cowpoke Clyde Rides the Range* (Clarion 2016), *Chicken Lily* (Henry Holt, 2016), and *Mousequerade Ball* (Bloomsbury, 2016).

Ms. Mortensen also writes for the educational market. Her publishers include Picture Window Books, KidHaven Press, Stone Arch Books, and Capstone Press. She covers all sorts of subjects from synchronized swimming to sloths, yeast to yo-yo's, and Tony Hawk to Sherlock Holmes. "One of the best things about writing," says Ms. Mortensen, "is the opportunity to learn about so many fascinating things, then sharing that excitement with young readers. I particularly enjoy writing biographies. I never get tired of learning about people and how they achieved great things in spite of the obstacles in front of them."

Ms. Mortensen writes in a variety of genres including early readers, biographies, midgrade nonfiction, first graphic novels, picture books, and poetry.



*"What's the secret to writing for children? Read, read, read! Then, write the story or article that you'd love to read if you were that child. If you keep at it, I'm confident you will succeed."*

LORI MORTENSEN

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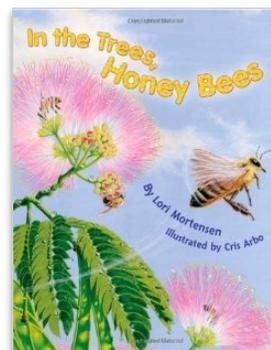
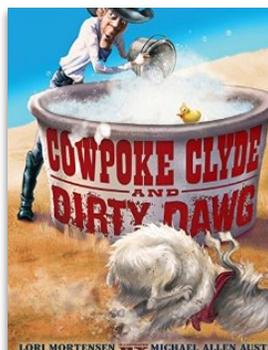
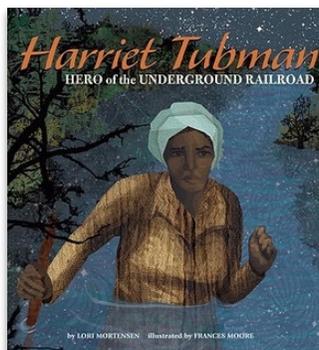
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## Lori Mortensen

Her stories and articles have appeared in Highlights for Children, The Friend, Boys' Quest, Hopscotch, Ladybug, Guide, Know, and many others. Articles for adult readers have appeared in Country Woman, LDS Living, Ensign, and The Sacramento Bee. Ms. Mortensen's work also appears in Canada's Essential Skills Reading Software that's used in over 20,000 schools. Ms. Mortensen has shared her knowledge of the craft of writing by contributing articles to the Institute of Children's Literature website. One article, "Confessions from the Gene Pool," won first place in ByLine Magazine's Advice for Beginning Writers contest.

She also enjoys appearing at libraries, bookstores, book festivals, and gives presentations at schools and writing conferences. Recent events included presenting an all-day picture book workshop for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), and a book signing at the Sacramento Library Foundation on the Move Fundraiser. An active member of SCBWI and an alumna of Brigham Young University, she is a firm believer that people can achieve almost anything with passion, persistence, and a lot of hard work.

Today, Ms. Mortensen lives in the Northern California foothills with her husband and her mega fluffy cat, Max. When she's not removing her cat from her keyboard, she enjoys putting her green thumb to the test in her garden, whipping up culinary delights, and working on all sorts of new projects filled with extraordinary people, quirky characters, and fascinating subjects that delight her writing soul.



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