



ICL INSTITUTE OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
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MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Kristin Wolden Nitz

FICTION:

Defending Irene, Peachtree Publishers

Saving the Griffin, Peachtree Publishers

Suspect, Peachtree Publishers

NONFICTION:

Fundamental Softball, Lerner Publications

Play by Play Softball, Lerner Publications

Play by Play Track, Lerner Publications

Play by Play Field, Lerner Sports

MAGAZINES AND OTHER:

Articles in *Highlights*, *Boys' Quest*, *Hopscotch*, and *Cricket*

"With clues and red herrings neatly scattered throughout, the book scores as a darned good little mystery. Intriguing, suspenseful fun," said Kirkus Reviews about Kristin Wolden Nitz's young adult novel mystery.

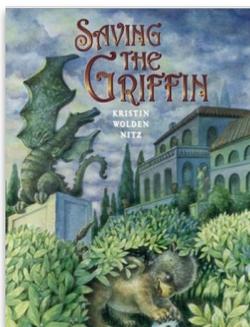
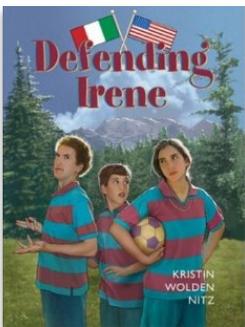
Ms. Nitz often compares writing *Suspect* to constructing the Transcontinental Railroad. After writing the first three chapters, she jumped to the last three chapters. This hopping back and forth continued until the book essentially met in the middle and she drove one last "golden period" into the chapter that linked the manuscript. Different projects require different approaches, of course.

Nitz credits the 1999 Missouri Mentorship Award with noted Children's author Gary L. Blackwood as being a turning point in her writing life. The year long experience gave her new insights into generating plots and conflict. While she can never pay Mr. Blackwood back, she served as the Missouri Mentor in 2005 in order to pay it forward.

Nitz's first novel was *Defending Irene* (Peachtree), the story of a girl playing soccer on an Italian boys' team. The Horn Book wrote: "Soccer fans, especially girls, will appreciate the well-drawn action and Irene's feisty spirit." To make the action off the field as exciting as what happened on it, Ms. Nitz drew heavily on the three years she spent living in Italy.

Her second novel, a middle-grade contemporary fantasy set in Tuscany called *Saving the Griffin* (Peachtree), was a Children's Choice nominee in Kentucky and Georgia.

While novels are her favorite literary form to read and write, Ms. Nitz has also sold short stories and articles to *Highlights for Children*, *Cricket*, *Hopscotch*, and *Boys' Quest*. Reprint rights to some of her work have been sold to SIRS and Harcourt Educational Measurement.



"Don't just write what you know. Write what you care about. Pursue the subjects that fascinate you, and your passion will shine through to the reader."

KRISTIN WOLDEN NITZ

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Nitz agrees with noted science fiction writer Gene Wolfe that one of the best ways to learn about writing novels is to write short stories first since it's essential to generate a winning beginning, meaningful climax and satisfying conclusion with every project.

Ms. Nitz has a degree in electrical engineering from Michigan Technological University. During the time that her family lived in Italy, she was responsible for her children's continuing English language education and selecting a home library. She considers raising three readers to be one of her greatest accomplishments.

