



ICL INSTITUTE OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
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MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Jill Rubalcaba

FICTION:

Uncegila's Seventh Spot, Clarion

St. Vitus' Dance, Clarion

A Place in the Sun, Clarion

The Wadjet Eye, Clarion

NONFICTION:

I.M. Pei: Architect of Time, Place and Purpose, Marshall Cavendish

Every Bone Tells a Story, Charlesbridge

The Ancient Egyptian World, Oxford University Press

The Early Human World, Oxford University Press

Digging for Troy, Charlesbridge

Empires of the Maya, Chelsea House

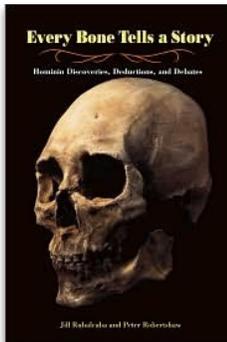
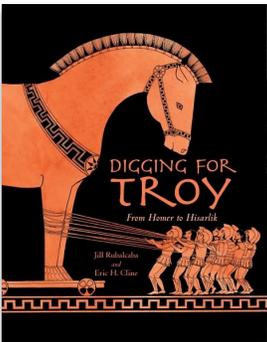
And many more books.

"An exciting, suspenseful tale," wrote the School Library Journal in reviewing Jill Rubalcaba's first book, *Uncegila's Seventh Spot* (Clarion). Such comments from reviewers as "narrative flows smoothly," "writing is crisp and lively" and "sparse yet evocative" describe characteristics of Jill's writing style that led to the sale of her next three middle-grade novels, *St. Vitus' Dance*, *A Place in the Sun*, and *The Wadjet Eye*, also to Clarion.

Jill says she admires the clean writing style of authors like Hemingway who give "the appearance of simplicity when the reality is complexity." She adds, "I think the best children's writing is like that, lean yet powerful."

These days Jill writes books for many publishers—National Geographic, Houghton Mifflin, Oxford University Press, Charlesbridge, and Amazon among them. Her recent biography, *I.M. Pei; Architect of Time, Place, and Purpose* (Marshall Cavendish) was named Booklist's Top 10 Books for Youth, Kirkus' Best of 2011, and is a Junior Library Guild Selection. Her science book, *Every Bone Tells a Story* (Charlesbridge) was a finalist for YALSA's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults and the Subaru/SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books; It is also a Junior Library Guild Selection as well as a NCSS/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book and a CCBC Choice

Jill has garnered many awards over the years writing books in science, history, archaeology, historical fiction, and contemporary fiction. But like many other children's writers she began at home with her two children and armloads of picture books. When she rediscovered the richness of children's literature with its sense of poetry and imagery she wondered (and doubted) if she could write for children, too. "At first I began writing in hopes of finding a job that permitted me to stay at home with my children, but how could I have known I would find a career, a passion? I discovered that the only thrill greater than losing myself in another world through reading, was the thrill of losing myself in another world through writing."



"Manuscripts remind me of pebbles caught in an ocean wave. Each toss polishes the stones. Stories often start out rough and uneven, but with each pass, the smoother they get. Polish your stones."

JILL RUBALCABA

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