



# MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR

## Lori Mortensen

### PUBLISHED WORK:

If Wendell Had a Walrus, (Henry Holt, 2018)

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 Léon Foucault (Tricycle Press, 2010)

In the Trees, Honey Bees! (Dawn, 2009)

And many more

### NONFICTION CAPSTONE PRESS:

Simone Biles, Gymnastic Star

Maya Moore, Basketball Star

Veronica Roth, Author of Divergent

Stephanie Meyer, Author of Twilight

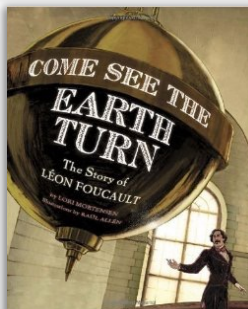
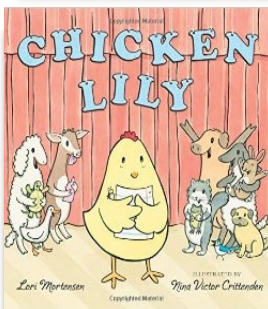
Voices of the Civil Rights Movement

And many more

Once upon a time, award-winning author, Lori Mortensen, was a stay-at-home mother of three. 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 *If Wendell Had a Walrus* (Henry Holt) illustrated by New York Times bestselling author/illustrator Matt Phelan, *Mousequerade Ball* (Bloomsbury) illustrated by New York Times bestselling illustrator Betsy Lewin, *Chicken Lily* (Henry Holt) and *Cowpoke Clyde Rides the Range* (Clarion), a sequel to *Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg*, one of Amazon's best picture books of 2013. Other popular titles include *Cindy Moo* (HarperCollins) on the 2013 Texas Library Association's 2x2 Reading List, *Come See the Earth Turn –The Story of Léon Foucault* (Random House), a Smithsonian Notable Book for Children, 2010, and *In the Trees, Honey Bees!* (Dawn Publications) a 2010 winner of the NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Book K-12 and the National IWL A Book of the Year. Keep an eye out for two new picture book biographies in 2019 and 2020

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 Steve Nash 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."



*"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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LITERATURE

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Ms. Mortensen's work has appeared in the Mountain Democrat, Country Woman, LDS Living, Ensign, The Sacramento Bee, and Canada's Essential Skills Reading Software that's used by over 53,000 educators. Ms. Mortensen's work also appears in Canada's Essential Skills Reading Software that's used by over 53,000 teachers. One article, "Confessions from the Gene Pool," won first place in ByLine Magazine's Advice for Beginning Writers contest.

She appears at libraries, bookstores, book festivals, and gives presentations at schools and writing conferences. Recent events included three school assemblies in Yuba City, a Skype visit with Susanville, and book signing events. 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 with her husband and her mega fluffy cat, Max. When she's not letting her cat in, or out, or in, she's pinching, prodding, and coaxing manuscripts to life. She tries to write the sort of picture book she loves—funny, whimsical, and unforgettable.

