



MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Sheila Wood Foard

FICTION:

Harvey Girl, Texas Tech University Press

NONFICTION:

Diego Rivera, The Great Hispanic Heritage, Chelsea House

Fred Harvey's Fast Food Empire,
Yesterday & Today, Amazon Shorts

MAGAZINE:

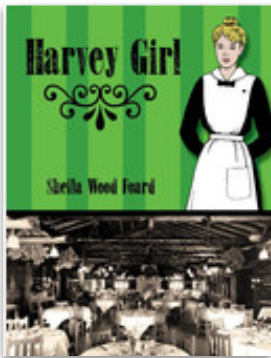
Stories, articles, essays, and poems for over 300 publications including *'TEEN*, *Highlights for Children*, *Cicada*, *Cricket*, *Spider*, *Ladybug*, *Wee Ones*, *Hopscotch for Girls*, *Nature Friend*, *I Love Cats*, *Missouri Conservationist for Kids*, *Albuquerque Journal*, *Byline*, *Country Home*, *Highlights' Hidden Picture Playground Booklets*, and more.

Sheila Wood Foard is an award-winning author and dedicated writing teacher.

Ms. Foard, who earned a bachelor's degree in English and Communication Skills and a master's degree in Education from the University of New Mexico, enjoys writing profiles and biographies. "Everyone has a story to tell," she says, "and I'd like to write it—or teach others how to write it." For young readers, she has written magazine profiles of famous Americans, including scientist Rachel Carson, architect Mary Jane Colter, and artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Her biography of Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, updated in 2010 to include his wife Frida Kahlo, targets teen readers. Her profiles of the not-yet famous include a Native American teen poet, a Ballet Folkloric dance instructor, a woman sports trainer, an interpreter for the deaf, a woman magician, and a drama professor, who teaches children how to write and perform their own plays.

Ms Foard's first love is writing. Teaching writing is a close second passion. As a high school teacher, she taught creative writing, journalism, and English while sponsoring the school's award-winning literary magazine, yearbook, and newspaper. She has taught for the Institute of Children's Literature for nearly 20 years. Her high school students, as well as her other ICL students of all ages have been published and won awards, too.

Researching and writing historical fiction is one of Ms. Foard's main interests. She completed a middle grade novel, *Harvey Girl*, while enrolled in ICL's Writing Children's Books course. Published by Texas Tech University Press in 2006 and re-released in 2013 (with a new cover), *Harvey Girl*, which a TTUP editor dubbed "a perennial classic," has been on several reading lists and won numerous awards, including the WILLA Literary Award Children's/Young Adult category (from Women Writing the West) and first place in the National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest, Category—YA Books.



"Writing is like hiking in the mountains. If you're down in the hollow, every path leads uphill. But the view from the ridge is worth the strenuous climb."

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In addition to books and magazine articles, Ms. Foard has written press releases and publicity articles, reading passages for educational testing companies, brochures for a museum in a historic Harvey House built beside the tracks of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway. She's written haiku, sonnets, free verse, and rhyming poems for children, rebus stories, blogs for her website, a Teacher's Study Supplement for her novel *Harvey Girl*, and a Junior Ranger Activity Booklet for Ozark National Scenic Riverways, a national park in Missouri.

To stay current in publishing and writing trends, Ms. Foard participates in and presents at regional and national writing groups, workshops and conferences. She also completes writing courses in various genres, including picture book writing, comedy writing, personal essay writing, and blogging. She holds a copy-editing certificate. A frequent visitor to bookstores and libraries (on-line and at the mall), she reads recently published children's books and magazines, books for older readers as well as magazines and how to books for writers. The focus of Sheila Wood Foard's weekly routine alternates between her own writing projects (often involving in depth research) and writing instruction to both new and experienced writers. In other words, She Writes & Teaches.

