



Laura Ingalls Wilder

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2023

MEET THE AUTHORS



GINA CRAWFORD

Gina Crawford has authored works in a variety of genres, including a thesis, journalistic articles, and poetry. However, her specialty is in children's literature. She has written many picture books since college, mostly in rhyme. She enjoys reading her books to children and giving presentations regarding the joys of writing. Crawford holds Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in English and teaches

composition and literature on the college level. She resides in North Alabama.



SUZANNA LYNN

Author Suzanna Lynn is a happily married, full-time mother of three beautiful, energetic children, and lives in a small town nestled in the deep rolling hills of Missouri. When she is not busy writing or spending time with her family, Suzanna loves to draw and paint, as well as scrapbooking. She also has been known to volunteer with her children's school,

the Ladies Auxiliary, and even the local zoo!



DARLA NOBLE

Darla Noble is a Missouri girl through and through. Born in Jefferson City, which is the state capital, she lived most of her life in Rolla, MO before moving to a small town just outside of Springfield, MO a few years ago. Darla has been writing inspirational nonfiction, historical nonfiction, memoirs, Bible studies, parenting/family resources, and

curriculum for over twenty-eight years. Darla's popularity as an author, ghostwriter, and speaker come from her ability to entertain, encourage, and educate through storytelling and practical advice. Her faith, wit, and wisdom are enjoyed by readers across the United States, Australia, Asia, and Europe.

Darla and her husband John have been married for forty 'plus' years, are the parents of four grown children, four children in-law, and eight adorable grandchildren. When Darla is not writing or speaking, she enjoys raising vegetables and flowers, camping, spending time with her family and friends, and hanging out with her miniature dachshund, Charlotte. Darla loves to hear from her readers, so feel free to visit her website: www.dnoblewrites.com or contact her at dnoblewrites@yahoo.com and 'like' her on Facebook (Darla Noble), on Twitter @dnoblewrites, or on LinkedIn Darla Noble.



MATT MURRIE

Matt Murrie is an expert in curiosity and the creator of Curiosity-Based Thinking, and the author of *The Screaming Hairy Armadillo* and *The Book of What If...?*. He works across sectors to turn curiosity into collaborative actions using easily replicable, repeatable processes to train others to use rational thinking creatively by pushing against what

some would see as irrational.

Matt Murrie is a speaker, author of eight books, and creator of Curiosity-Based Thinking and Learning all designed to empower people across sectors and industries with the tools necessary to create a more curious world--and improve our world in the process. The Curiosity-Based Thinking Matt developed and the experiences he designs unite global networks of educators, entrepreneurs, innovators, scientists, artists, and other curious minds passionate about solving challenges big and small through curiosity-inspired actions. Matt has taught, trained, presented, and facilitated workshops on curiosity and Curiosity-Based Thinking and Learning around the world, helping others improve their ability to get more out of their lives by using their curiosity. Matt has been featured in global publications, given TEDx Talks, and invited by MIT and Ford Motors to present the importance of curiosity in innovation.



"IZZY B"

Izzy B is the author of *A Tightly-Whitie Wind* and other super silly books. He dreamed of being an author/illustrator since the first grade. As a kid he often spent his time creating funny stories and drawing quirky pictures. When Izzy grew up, he became an elementary school teacher and fell in love with books. During his time as a teacher

Izzy loved sharing his stories with his students. That passion grew and grew. Now he makes books full time and illustrates stories for other authors. Izzy's latest book, *When I Caught You*, won the Arkansas Gem award and has been nominated for the Missouri Show Me Award.

Izzy now hopes to inspire young authors to love reading and writing like he did.



ROSETTE ELIZABETH HURST

Rosette Elizabeth Hurst was born in Oregon into a large family. Her sisters taught her to read and write. By the age of three she was telling long stories to her siblings and friends.

Throughout her school years, literature, drama, and creative writing were her favorite subjects.

She was a ghost writer for many years. She is now retired and returning to the world of creative writing. She studied fine arts and produced several

portraits, landscapes, seascapes, and florals using oils. She sculpts in wood, clay and concrete. Volumes of stories and poems reflect her delightful sense of humor and Christian background.

Her father was a country doctor in Kentucky and Tennessee. He relocated to Oregon where Rosette was born in 1948. She loved playing by the ocean and enjoyed years on the farm where she learned to milk cows, ride horses, haul hay, garden, change irrigation pipes, and care for the livestock. Many adventures on the farm included being chased by a mama bear, bobcat, bull, and a snake.

She took long hikes over the hills, through the valleys and rivers. The old swimming hole with the "Huck Finn" island was a favorite spot for fun, picnics, and camping.

After graduating from high school, she moved to Bayonne, New Jersey. She worked in Manhattan and attended Rutgers University.

In the '80's, her mother became ill, and Rosette returned to Oregon. While there, she attended university and returned to writing. She was offered and accepted a job in Redlands, CA. There, she helped form an art association and produced newsletters and Christmas cards. At this time, she returned to fine arts and illustrations.

Rosette's retirement brought her to the Midwest where she now delights in gardening, sculpting, painting, and writing.

One of her favorite memories is tiptoeing to reach the table where her father kept his large-print Bible opened. She tried to read many marked passages in this Bible. What a heritage!



TIFFANY CORYELL

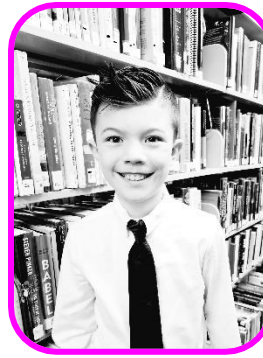
Tiffany Tutu wrote her first children's book when she was a child herself. Her first editor, her mother, Della, instilled belief in Tiffany that she could be a children's author one day. The dream laid dormant until Tiffany became a mother. With the pen name of Tiffany Tutu, a nickname given to her by her kindergarten teacher, she was inspired by the

small moments and memories she collected during quarantine with her son to write a book celebrating him and those moments.

She lives in the Midwest with her husband, three children, a cat that doesn't age, endless dinosaurs, countless baby dolls, and a few tutus, of course.

A common saying is that nothing in life is certain, but when it comes to Tiffany, one can be assured she has a glass of tea in hand, no socks on her feet, and a dream growing in her heart.

She can be found online at tiffanytutu.com or Instagram at [@authoriffanytutu](https://www.instagram.com/authoriffanytutu)



GUNNER J. DUCK

Gunner J Duck lives in Northern Arkansas where he enjoys all that life in the Ozarks has to offer. Gunner has always been a very precocious reader and a creative artist and storyteller. He was reading books at age 3 and by the time he entered kindergarten, he was reading chapter books, and testing well above his own grade level in all areas. In the 4th grade, at just 9 years old, Gunner tested at a 12th grade reading level and a 9th grade math level and is hoping to be

able to add college coursework to his curriculum in the near future. Gunner still spends as much time as he can reading and you can almost always find Gunner with a book in his hand.

In 2019, at age 5, Gunner's kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Staci Tucker, suggested that he enter a statewide book writing contest. Gunner wrote his first book titled Ninja Puppy, which won first place in the PBS Kids Writers Contest in Arkansas. His book was inspired by his new black poodle puppy and his love for ninjas. He enjoyed writing his first book so much that he decided to work on his very own series. Local readers began asking about purchasing copies of his books which led to the decision to release them for worldwide online distribution. Gunner is currently 10 years old and has published 5 children's books.

Altogether, Gunner's books have won awards in 8 different state and nationwide PBS Kids Writer's Contests to date. They are available on Amazon and wherever books are sold online. Gunner's stories are in many ways, a representation of his life and of the experiences he has had. They are also adorable, funny, and full of exciting and challenging new words for children. Each story ends with a valuable life lesson that Gunner has learned and wants to share. He hopes that through his books, he can inspire children everywhere to read, imagine, set goals and work hard to reach them, be kind, and have self-control. As Gunner's book writing continues, it is inspiring to see how his skills in art and writing grow with him and each new book is a beautiful example of his growing talent.

In recent months, Gunner has been awarded as the 1st place winner in the Las Vegas PBS Kids Writers Contest, he was named the Jerry McFarland Outstanding Youth Award recipient, he was featured as the Arkansan Of The Day by an Arkansas news station, and he has been featured in countless magazine articles, news station interviews, and podcast interviews.

You can find Gunner at: Ninja Puppy Co on FaceBook ninjapuppyco.com

"I hope that my books can change the world to become more like my book character Ninja Puppy, and spread friendliness and kindness." - Gunner J Duck



WILLIAM ANDERSON

William Anderson has written for over 100 magazine articles, for publications like TRAVEL & LEISURE, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, and others. He is the author of over 25 books such as River Boy, The World of the Trapp family, Laura Ingalls Wilder Country and more. William Anderson was also a

manuscript consultant for Harper Collins, he has written scripts, texts for CDs, and even put together the words for historical markers. (Those will always stay in print!).



MICHELLE UNDERWOOD

Michelle Underwood is the author of two children's books, an inspirational nonfiction, and most recently a book taking the reader behind the scenes at Laura Ingalls Wilder's Rocky Ridge Farm.

Michelle grew up in Mansfield, Missouri, the final home of the famous Laura Ingalls Wilder. Michelle works at the Wilder Home and Museum. She lives with her husband, Richard, in Seymour, Missouri. They have three grown

children, three granddaughters, and two grandsons. Michelle draws her inspiration from her grandkids and Laura, of course. She gives all praise and thanks to God.