



Random House Children's Books presents . . .

Jeanne DuPrau



Photo courtesy of Random House Children's Books

“**W**hat could be more interesting than thinking of mysterious happenings, finding the answers to intriguing questions, and making up new worlds?”

—Jeanne DuPrau

Jeanne DuPrau has been a teacher, an editor, and a writer of nonfiction. She's the remarkable force behind the acclaimed Books of Ember series, which she introduced with *The City of Ember*, an ALA Notable Children's Book and an IRA Children's Choice.



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A Note from the Author

I didn't really set out to be a writer. I just wrote. Reading and writing have always been my favorite things, though for a while I wanted to be a writer and an illustrator. Using red and green crayon, I illustrated my very first book, which I wrote when I was about five years old. It was called *Frosty the Snowman* and was six pages long. I still have it.

All through school, I wrote and wrote. Some of this writing my teachers assigned—book reports, college essays, my senior thesis. Some I assigned myself—stories, poems, journals, letters. After I graduated from college (an English major, of course), I did several different kinds of work, but they all involved writing and reading in one way or another. I taught high school English (and started a creative writing club for my students). I worked as an editor in educational publishing companies (and wrote stories for reading textbooks). I worked for a computer company (and wrote about how to use computers).

At the same time, after work, on weekends, whenever I could fit it in, I was doing my own writing. I wrote about people I knew, experiences I'd had, books I'd read, ideas that had occurred to me. I started sending these pieces of writing out into the world, and quite often they were published. I wrote a book, and then another book. The more I wrote, the more things I thought of to write about.

So the answer to the question "When did you decide to be a writer?" is: Never. I never decided anything—I just wrote and kept on writing, because writing was what I liked to do. What could be more interesting than thinking of mysterious happenings, finding the answers to intriguing questions, and making up new worlds? Writers have a great job. I'm glad to be one.

For more information on Jeanne DuPrau, visit her Web site at www.jeanneduprau.com

Praise for:

THE CITY OF EMBER

★ "The likable protagonists are not only courageous but also believably flawed by human pride, their weaknesses often complementing each other in interesting ways."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred

★ "While *Ember* is colorless and dark, the book itself is rich with description. . . . Part mystery, part adventure story, this novel provides science fiction for those who do not like science fiction."

—*VOYA*, Starred

THE PEOPLE OF SPARKS

"This novel will make [readers] stop and think."

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THE PROPHET OF YONWOOD

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—*Kirkus Reviews*

The Books of Ember

THE CITY OF EMBER

978-0-375-82273-5
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Yearling PB: 978-0-375-82274-2
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