

# Lois Lowry

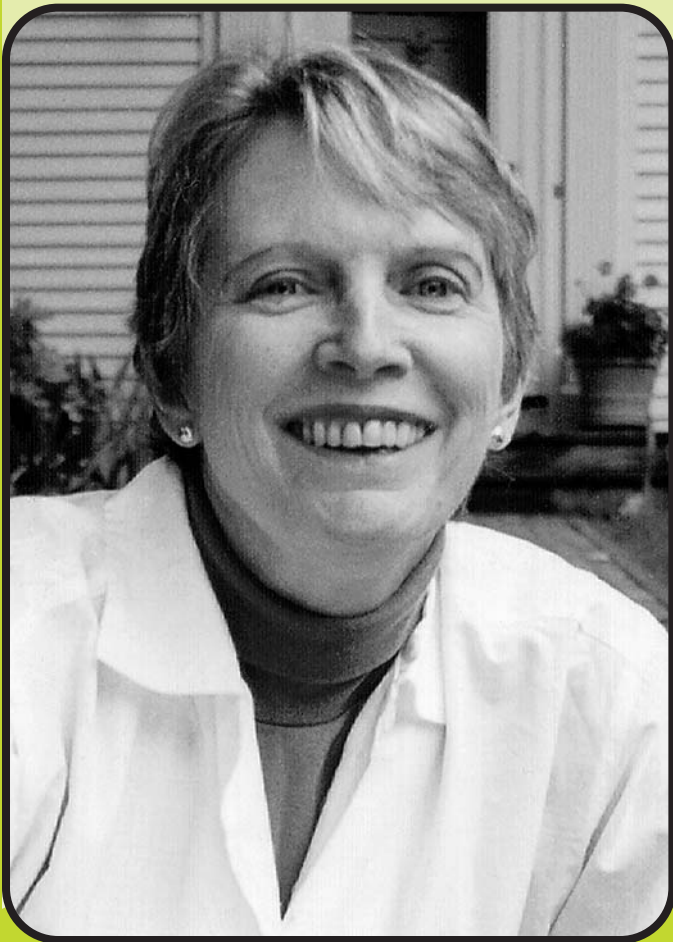


Photo Courtesy of the Author

“**A**s a child, I was always writing lists and keeping journals—much like Anastasia does. Today, I still do these things. I guess I’ll always be like Anastasia; I’m still a kid at heart.” —Lois Lowry

Lois Lowry has twice won the prestigious Newbery Medal for *Number the Stars* and *The Giver*. She was named the 2007 Margaret A. Edwards Award winner for her lifetime contribution to young adult literature.

# About the Author

**W**hether she's writing comedy, adventure, or poignant, powerful drama—from *Attaboy, Sam!* and *Anastasia Krupnik* to *Number the Stars* and *The Giver*—

Lois Lowry's appeal is as broad as her subject matter and as deep as her desire to affect an eager generation of readers. Lois Lowry has written over 30 books for young adults and is a two-time Newbery Medal winner, for *Number the Stars* and *The Giver*. In 2007, Lois Lowry was named the American Library Association's Margaret A. Edwards Award winner for her lifetime contribution to literature for young adults.

Lois Lowry was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and attended junior high school in Tokyo, Japan. Her father was a dentist for the U.S. Army and his job entailed a lot of traveling. Lowry still likes to travel.

At the age of 17, Lowry attended Brown University and majored in writing. She left school at 19, got married, and had four children

before her 25th birthday. After some time, she returned to college and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maine.

Lois Lowry didn't start writing professionally until she was in her mid-30s. Now she spends time writing every single day. Before she begins writing a book, she usually knows the beginning and end of her story. When she's not writing, Lowry enjoys gardening during the spring and summer and knitting during the winter. One of her other hobbies is photography, and her own photos grace the covers of *Number the Stars*, *The Giver*, and *Gathering Blue*.

Lois Lowry has four children and two grandchildren. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

For more information on Lois Lowry, visit [www.loislowry.com](http://www.loislowry.com)

## Praise for:

### **THE GIVER**

- ★ "The simplicity and directness of Lowry's writing force readers to grapple with their own thoughts."  
—*Booklist*, Starred
- ★ "A richly provocative novel."—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred
- ★ "Will stay with its readers for a long time."  
—*School Library Journal*, Starred
- ★ "The theme of balancing the values of freedom and security is beautifully presented."  
—*The Horn Book*, Starred
- ★ "Lowry is once again in top form."  
—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred

### **GATHERING BLUE**

- ★ "Readers will find plenty of material for thought and discussion here."—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred
- ★ Lowry has once again created a fully realized world full of drama, suspense, and even humor."  
—*School Library Journal*, Starred
- ★ "Lowry is a master at creating worlds, both real and imagined."—*Booklist*, Starred

### **MESSENGER**

- ★ "A beautiful simplicity."—*Booklist*, Starred

### **GOSSAMER**

- ★ "Lyrical, richly descriptive prose ushers readers into a fascinating parallel world inhabited by appealingly quirky characters."—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred
- ★ "A beautiful novel with an intriguing premise."  
—*School Library Journal*, Starred

# A Word From Lois Lowry About Censorship

**I**n my early years as a writer for young people, I occasionally received letters from people who wondered why I had used a “bad word” in a book. I always wrote back, explaining that an author tries to reflect reality, and so book characters have to speak the way real people would speak; it didn’t mean, I always explained, that the reader should speak that way, or that the author does.

When I wrote *The Giver*, it contained no so-called “bad words.” It was set, after all, in a mythical, futuristic, and Utopian society. Not only was there no poverty, divorce, racism, sexism, pollution, or violence in the world of *The Giver*; there was also careful attention paid to language: to its fluency, precision, and power.

The reaction to the book was startling. It was startling in the number of letters and responses I received almost immediately, but it was even more startling in the degree of differences in the responses.

- A Trappist monk wrote from his monastery that he and his brothers were reading the book as a Christian metaphor and finding it profoundly significant as a message of redemption.
- At about the same time, a parent in California demanded that it be taken off the library shelves of her child’s school because of its immorality.
- A private school in Michigan made it required reading not only for all the upper-school students, but for their parents.
- At the same time, a teacher wrote to me that the Newbery committee should be chastised for their awarding the 1994 medal to a sensationalistic piece of trash.
- The children of Belgium and France chose the book, in translation, as their favorite of the year.
- A parent wrote to me that I should be ashamed for exposing children to “messy data.”

What’s wrong with this picture? I found myself thinking.

I went back and re-read the book myself. I tried to figure out whether these disparate people were, in fact, all responding to the same thing: whether there was actually a theme in the book that people found either uplifting or terrifying, or maybe both. And I discovered that it was the concept of choice. *The Giver* is about a world where those decisions are made for them. It seems very safe and comfortable, and I bet a lot of parents—later to object and censor—liked the book until they were two-thirds of the way through it.

Then it got scary. It got scary—and they decided to take it away from their own kids—because it turned out that it wasn’t safe and comfy to live in a world where adhering to rigid rules is the norm. It turned out, in the book, that such a world is very, very dangerous, and that people have to learn to make their own choices.

I sympathize with the fear that makes some parents not want that to be true. But I believe without a single shadow of a doubt that it is necessary for young people to learn to make choices. Learning to make right choices is the only way they will survive in an increasingly frightening world. Pretending that there are no choices to be made—reading only books, for example, which are cheery and safe and nice—is a prescription for disaster for the young.

Submitting to censorship is to enter the seductive world of *The Giver*: the world where there are no bad words and no bad deeds. But it is also the world where choice has been taken away and reality distorted. And that is the most dangerous world of all.

# Booklist

## **AUTUMN STREET**

Ages 9–12

PB: 978-0-440-40344-9 (0-440-40344-8)

## **FIND A STRANGER, SAY GOODBYE**

Ages 12 up

PB: 978-0-440-20541-8 (0-440-20541-7)

- A Colorado Blue Spruce Award Master List Book

## **GATHERING BLUE**

Ages 12 up

Laurel-Leaf PB: 978-0-440-22949-0 (0-440-22949-9)

Bantam PB: 978-0-553-49478-5 (0-553-49478-3)

Readers Circle PB: 978-0-385-73256-7 (0-385-73256-2)

- An IRA Young Adults' Choices
- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award Nominee
- An Illinois Rebecca Caudill Award Master List Book
- An Indiana Young Hoosier Award Nominee
- A Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award Master List Book
- A Nebraska Golden Sower Young Adult Award Nominee
- A New Mexico Land of Enchantment Award Master List Book
- A Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominee

## **THE GIVER**

Ages 12 up

Laurel-Leaf PB: 978-0-440-23768-6 (0-440-23768-8)

Bantam PB: 978-0-553-57133-2 (0-553-57133-8)

Readers Circle PB: 978-0-385-73255-0 (0-385-73255-4)

- An ALA/ALSC Newbery Medal Winner
- An ALA/ALSC Notable Children's Book
- An ALA/YASLA Best Book for Young Adults
- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Book Award Winner
- A Colorado Children's Book Award Nominee
- An Illinois Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Award Winner
- A Kansas William Allen White Award Winner
- A Kentucky Bluegrass Master List Title
- A Maine Student Book Award Winner
- A Massachusetts Children's Book Award Nominee
- A New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award Winner
- A Virginia Young Reader's Program Award Winner

## **GOONEY BIRD GREENE**

Ages 7–10

PB: 978-0-440-41960-0 (0-440-41960-3)

- An ALA/ALSC Notable Children's Book
- A Colorado Children's Book Award Nominee
- A Florida Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Master List Book
- A Massachusetts Children's Book Award Master List Title
- A Minnesota Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award Nominee
- A New Mexico Land of Enchantment Book Award Master List Title
- A North Carolina Children's Book Award Nominee
- An Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Awards Master List Book
- An Oregon Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award Winner

- A Pennsylvania Keystone to Reading Book Award Master List Book
- A Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominee
- A Utah Beehive Award Nominee
- A Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Master List Book
- A West Virginia Children's Book Award Master List Book
- A Wyoming Buckaroo Award Nominee

## **GOONEY BIRD AND THE ROOM MOTHER**

Ages 7–10

PB: 978-0-440-42133-7 (0-440-42133-0)

- A Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year with Outstanding Merit

## **GOSSAMER**

Ages 12 up

PB: 978-0-385-73416-5 (0-385-73416-6)

- A Florida Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Master List Book
- A Maine Student Book Award Nominee
- A New Hampshire Great Stone Face Award Master List Book

## **LOOKING BACK**

All Ages

PB: 978-0-385-32699-5 (0-385-32699-8)

- A Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Master List Book

## **MESSENGER**

Ages 12 up

Laurel-Leaf PB: 978-0-440-23912-3

(0-440-23912-5)

Readers Circle PB: 978-0-385-73253-6 (0-385-73253-8)

- A New York Public Library Best Book for the Teen Age
- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Master List Book
- An Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award Nominee
- A Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award Master List Book

## **NUMBER THE STARS**

Ages 10 up

Yearling PB: 978-0-440-40327-2 (0-440-40327-8)

Laurel-Leaf PB: 978-0-440-22753-3 (0-440-22753-4)

- An ALA/ALSC Newbery Medal Winner
- A Sydney Taylor Book Award Winner, Association of Jewish Libraries
- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Master List Book
- A Kansas William Allen White Master List Book
- A Kentucky Bluegrass Master List Book
- A Maine Student Book Award Winner

## **SHINING ON: 11 STAR AUTHORS' ILLUMINATING STORIES**

Ages 12 up

PB: 978-0-385-73472-1 (0-385-73472-7)

GLB: 978-0-385-90470-4 (0-385-90470-3)

## **THE SILENT BOY**

Ages 12 up

PB: 978-0-440-41980-8 (0-440-41980-8)

- A Kentucky Bluegrass Master List Book
- A Wyoming Indian Paintbrush Award Nominee

## **STAY! KEEPER'S STORY**

Ages 9–12

PB: 978-0-440-41524-4 (0-440-41524-1)

- An Arizona Grand Canyon Reader Award Nominee

- A Massachusetts Children's Book Award Nominee
- A Michigan Rader's Choice Award Nominee
- A Nebraska Golden Sower Award Honor Book
- An Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award Master List Book

## **A SUMMER TO DIE**

Ages 12 up

PB: 978-0-385-73420-2 (0-385-73420-4)

- A California Young Reader Medal Winner
- A Colorado Blue Spruce Award Master List Title

# Anastasia

Ages 9–12

## **ALL ABOUT SAM**

PB: 978-0-440-40221-3 (0-440-40221-2)

- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award Winner

## **ANASTASIA ABSOLUTELY**

PB: 978-0-440-41222-9 (0-440-41222-6)

- A Massachusetts Children's Book Award Master List Title

## **ANASTASIA AGAIN!**

PB: 978-0-440-40009-7 (0-440-40009-0)

## **ANASTASIA, ASK YOUR ANALYST**

PB: 978-0-440-40289-3 (0-440-40289-1)

## **ANASTASIA AT THIS ADDRESS**

PB: 978-0-440-40652-5 (0-440-40652-8)

- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award Winner

## **ANASTASIA AT YOUR SERVICE**

PB: 978-0-440-40290-9 (0-440-40290-5)

- A Kansas William Allen White Children's Book Award Winner

## **ANASTASIA HAS THE ANSWERS**

PB: 978-0-440-40087-5 (0-440-40087-2)

## **ANASTASIA KRUPNIK**

PB: 978-0-440-40852-9 (0-440-40852-0)

## **ANASTASIA ON HER OWN**

PB: 978-0-440-40291-6 (0-440-40291-3)

## **ANASTASIA'S CHOSEN CAREER**

PB: 978-0-440-40100-1 (0-440-40100-3)

## **ATTABOY, SAM!**

PB: 978-0-440-40816-1 (0-440-40816-4)

- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award Winner

## **SEE YOU AROUND, SAM!**

PB: 978-0-440-41400-1 (0-440-41400-8)

- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award Winner

## **ZOOMAN SAM**

PB: 978-0-440-41676-0 (0-440-41676-0)

- An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Children's Books Award Master List Book
- An Iowa Children's Choice Award Master List Book
- A Pacific Northwest Young Readers Choice Award Nominee
- A Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Master List Book