

SHELLEY PEARSALL

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Ohio, **Shelley Pearsall** has enjoyed writing and history since childhood. Her first novel, *Trouble Don't Last*, was published in 2002. It received the 2003 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction among other honors. Her other novels, *Crooked River* and *All Shook Up*, were both named Junior Library Guild selections.

Before writing *Trouble Don't Last*, Shelley Pearsall was a public school teacher and a museum historian. In her spare time, she wrote historical scripts and short stories for Cleveland-area museums. She was the recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Fellowship in Writing in 1999 and was named the 2005 Children's Writer-in-Residence for the James Thurber House.

Shelley Pearsall's work and writing often has been influenced by her love of the past. She has taken part in a Revolutionary War shipwreck archaeology project, worked in an 18th century shoemaker shop in Colonial Williamsburg, and performed Great Lakes stories on a steamship—just to name a few of the unique historical jobs she has held over the years. She graduated from the College of Wooster (B.A.) in 1989 and holds a master's degree in education from John Carroll University. Although she no longer works as a classroom teacher, Shelley enjoys visiting schools as a guest author!



Photo Courtesy of the Author

Shelley Pearsall lives in Silver Lake, Ohio, with her husband Mike, stepson Ethan, and rescued barn cat Marbles.

For more information about Shelley Pearsall, please visit her website at www.shelleypearsall.com.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

I grew up in a large suburban neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio—the kind of place where all of the houses are alike, all of the yards are the same size, and each family has 1.5 maple trees on their tree lawn. The sameness of my neighborhood may explain why I craved different-ness as a child. I was the kind of kid who put on pioneer skits in backyard, raised toads on the back porch, and read a lot.

Although I wrote hundreds of little stories and poems when I was growing up, I never considered writing for kids until I took a children's literature class in college. On the first day of class, the instructor began reading from the novel *Nightjohn* by Gary Paulsen and I was spellbound. I knew I'd found my home as a writer.

What I love about being an author is that it lets me continue to be a kid (at least in my own imagination!) and each story takes me on a new journey. Some journeys are serious and others are much more lighthearted — like writing about hip-twisting, leg-jiggling Elvis. What I hope readers take away from my books is the feeling that they've been part of the journey, too. That they've met characters they'll remember and found a story they couldn't put down. And I always like to add a dash of hope and possibility, too.

PRAISE FOR

Crooked River

★ “Packed with believable characters wrapped in a thoroughly researched plot, *Crooked River* is a must-read for fans of historical fiction and would aptly serve as a discussion-rich tool for American studies.”

—*School Library Journal*, Starred

★ “This vivid look into the reality of a crude frontier life and justice is outstanding historical fiction.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred

Trouble Don't Last

★ “Action-packed, tautly plotted . . . realistically blends kindness and cruelty.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred

★ “This powerful historical novel is harsh and realistic, not only about the brutal effects of slavery that the runaways carry with them forever but also about the prejudice and hardship they encounter on their journey to freedom.”

—*Booklist*, Starred

All Shook Up

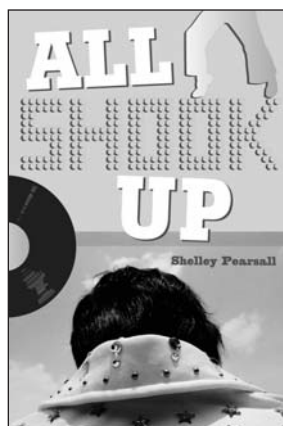
“Wry, silly, thoughtful and laugh-out-loud funny.”

—*Children's Book Page*

“Funny, realistic and slightly sarcastic. . . . The changes in Josh's relationship with his dad are both believable and well-handled. Boys especially will identify with Josh's struggle to escape the stigma of an embarrassing parent.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

BOOK LIST



All Shook Up

Ages 8-14 • Alfred A. Knopf
978-0-375-83698-5
GLB: 978-0-375-93698-2



Crooked River

Ages 10-14 • Alfred A. Knopf
978-0-375-82389-3
GLB: 978-0-375-92389-0
Yearling PB: 978-0-440-42101-6



Trouble Don't Last

Ages 9-13 • Alfred A. Knopf
GLB: 978-0-375-91490-4
Yearling PB: 978-0-440-41811-5