

AUTHOR FUN FACTS

Jobs

In 1990, Giff combined her two greatest loves—children’s books and her family—and, with her husband and her children, opened The Dinosaur’s Paw, a children’s bookstore named after one of her Kids of the Polk Street School novels.

Family

Three children and seven grandchildren

Hobbies

Reading in the bathtub and going to the movies and eating popcorn

AUTHOR STUDY ACTIVITY

Patricia Reilly Giff gets many of her ideas for her characters from everyday people, wanting to show that ordinary people are special. After reading several of Giff’s books, ask students to discuss how the various characters in her books fit that very mold.

YEARLING

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CLASSICS

Yearling Author Study

PATRICIA REILLY GIFF

Reading and writing have always been an important part of Patricia Reilly Giff’s life. Giff loved reading so much that, while growing up, her sister had to grab books out of her hands to get Giff to pay attention to her; later, Giff’s three children often found themselves doing the same thing. As a reading teacher for 20 years, the educational consultant for Yearling and Young Yearling books, an adviser and instructor to aspiring writers, and the author of more than 60 books for children, Patricia Reilly Giff has spent her entire life surrounded by books.

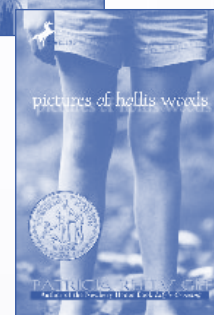
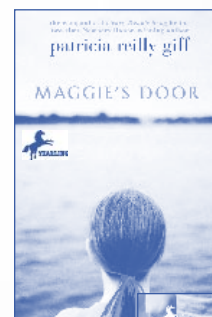
After earning a B.A. degree from Marymount College, Giff took the advice of the school’s dean and decided to become a teacher. She admits, “I loved teaching. It was my world. I only left because I was overwhelmed with three careers—teaching, writing, and my family.”

During the 20 years of her teaching career, she earned an M.A. from St. John’s University, and a Professional Diploma in Reading and a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Hofstra University. Then one morning she decided to write books “that say ordinary people are special.”

Patricia Reilly Giff and her husband live in Connecticut, close to their children and grandchildren.



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DELVE INTO THE BOOKS!

Many of Giff’s books can be considered historical fiction. Ask students to list some of the historical facts they learn as they read *Lily’s Crossing*, *Maggie’s Door*, *A House of Tailors*, and some of Giff’s other works. Discuss the research that is entailed to make sure these facts are accurate.

All the Way Home 0-440-41182-3

The Beast and the Halloween Horror
0-440-40335-9

The Beast in Ms. Rooney’s Room
0-440-40485-1

The Candy Corn Contest 0-440-41072-X

December Secrets 0-440-41795-3

Emily Arrow Promises to Do Better This Year 0-440-40369-3

Fish Face 0-440-42557-3

Fourth-Grade Celebrity
0-440-42676-6

In the Dinosaur’s Paw
0-440-44150-1

Lazy Lions, Lucky Lambs
0-440-44640-6

Lily’s Crossing 0-440-41453-9

Maggie’s Door 0-440-41581-0

Monster Rabbit Runs Amuck
0-440-40424-X

Nory Ryan’s Song 0-440-41829-1

Pickle Puss 0-440-46844-2

Pictures of Hollis Woods
0-440-41578-0

Purple Climbing Days
0-440-47309-8

Say Cheese 0-440-47639-9

Snaggie Doodles 0-440-48068-X

Sunnyside Up 0-440-48406-5

The Valentine Star 0-440-49204-1