

AUTHOR FUN FACTS

Born

January 4 in
Anderson, Indiana

Hobbies

Writing, reading, singing,
playing the piano, hiking,
swimming, theater, and
snorkeling

Favorite . . .

. . . Foods: anything chocolate

. . . Books: all kinds—
scary, funny, serious

Inspirations for Writing

Absolutely everything that
ever happened to me and
anybody else, all mixed up
with imaginings!

AUTHOR STUDY ACTIVITY

Have students research how Phyllis Reynolds Naylor came up with the idea for the Boy-Girl Battle Books series. Naylor has said that there will be 12 books in all. Who will win the war? Naylor's lips are sealed, but students can have fun trying to figure out the winners, and write a paper with reasons for their choice.

YEARLING

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CLASSICS

Yearling Author Study

PHYLLIS REYNOLDS NAYLOR



Photo Credit: © 2003 Rex Naylor

"I think I wanted to be a writer because my parents read aloud to us every night until we were about 15 years old. They read Grimm's fairy tales, the Bible storybook, all of Mark Twain's books, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wind in the Willows*—and I think I probably felt that if listening to stories was so much fun, writing them would be even better. And it is. I love being involved in the characters and plot and just the whole mess of writing, it's such a wonderful mess to me.

"I would like readers to develop more tolerance for people who are different, for ideas that are different, to come to realize that sometimes there isn't just one right way to do something. People see different possibilities in a situation, and the solutions they come up with may be very different."

Newbery Medalist Phyllis Reynolds Naylor grew up in Anderson, Indiana, and Joliet, Illinois. She wrote her first book when she was in kindergarten and sold her first story when she was 16 for \$4.67. Naylor worked as a teacher and an editor before she began to write full-time. She lives in Bethesda, Maryland, with her husband, Rex who is a speech pathologist. They have two grown sons and two granddaughters.



DELVE INTO THE BOOKS!

Ask students to share what they feel are the most humorous scenes in the novels. There are gross scenes, embarrassing moments, and clever dialogue in all of the books. How do each of these elements contribute to the humor in the various novels?

Boys Against Girls

0-440-41123-8

Boys in Control

0-440-41681-7

The Boys Return

0-440-41675-2

The Boys Start the War

0-440-41841-0

The Girls Get Even

0-440-41842-9

The Girls' Revenge

0-440-41383-4

Girls Rule

0-440-41989-1

Available June 2006

The Girls Take Over

0-440-41678-7

A Spy Among the Girls

0-440-41390-7

A Traitor Among the Boys

0-440-41386-9