Meet the Author

Nancy
Kelly Allen



Nancy Kelly Allen earned her BA in Sociology and Biology from Cumberland College and her MA in Elementary Education from Morehead State University in Kentucky. She also has an MA in Library and Information Science from the University of Kentucky.

Nancy received a writing grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women for seven picture book manuscripts. She has published in the academic periodicals Book Links, School Days, and Good Apple and was awarded the Appalachian Writers Award for Children's Literature in 2005 for *On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas*.

Nancy lives in rural Kentucky in the same log cabin in which she was born. The Appalachian Mountains outside her window form a scenic background when she is writing. Inspired by other writers who have a way of phrasing things 'just so,' Nancy carefully constructs each sentence and phrase for its rhythm and musicality.

She has two faithful 'first listeners' in her canine companions, Pippin and Harietta, and loves to garden and craft in her spare time. She also gives elementary school programs that present helpful hints and usable ideas in a 'keep-the-kids'-attention' approach to introducing literature to children. She also demonstrates how storytelling crosses cultural boundaries and affirms the value of all cultures.

Being a retired elementary school librarian, Nancy has always been close to children's literature. She was able to see kid's reactions firsthand. Drawing from experience, this 'insider' knowledge has been invaluable as she creates her own stories. She sees a whole world of writing opportunities in the future.

Other works by Nancy Kelly Allen include; *Once Upon a Dime* (Charlesbridge Publishing, 1999), *Whose Noise Is This?* (Picture Window Books, 2004), *Whose Food Is This?* (Picture Window Books, 2004), *Whose House Is This?* (Picture Window Books, 2004) and *Daniel Boone: Trail Blazer* (Pelican Press, September 2005).

Contact Nancy Kelly Allen through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.



On the Banks of the Amazon written by Nancy Kelly Allen / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
En las orillas del Amazonas escrito por Nancy Kelly Allen / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-7-8
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

©2005, Raven Tree Press, LLC, All Rights Reserved

Questions for the Author

Nancy
Kelly Allen



1. Who or what inspires you to write?
Nancy's inspiration comes from reading and introducing so many picture books to students. Her career as a primary school librarian enabled her to come in contact with a wide variety of wonderful books. She also had a father who loved to entertain her with stories he concocted.

2. What is your favorite writing environment? Describe your workspace.
When Nancy looks out her windows, she can see the Appalachian Mountains, which she describes as beautiful in any season. Her home, a log cabin, is where she does her writing. Surrounded by all that rustic charm makes her feel comfy and content.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for writing?
Sometimes, Nancy uses a pad of paper to outline a story, inserting conflict and bits of dialog or engaging phrasing. At other times, she uses the computer from start to finish.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
Pippin Pooh and Harietta Scattercat, Nancy's canine writing assistants, are the main part of her writing process. They are the first to hear her creative endeavors. If they don't fall asleep during the reading, Nancy knows she has a keeper.

5. Who are your favorite authors? What influence have they had on your work?
Nancy's favorite authors include Bill Martin, Jr. and Shel Silverstein. The phrasing of their words captured her attention and now she is extremely conscious of the manner in which she strings her words together.

6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
First and foremost, Nancy hopes children enjoy the story. If they have a deeper appreciation of the flora and fauna of the rainforest after reading the book, that's even better. Children naturally love animals. When Nancy reads *On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas* they discuss their favorite animals and the need to preserve animal habitats.



©2005, Raven Tree Press, LLC, All Rights Reserved

Questions for the Author (continued)

Nancy
Kelly Allen



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Reading is Nancy's favorite leisure activity. She also enjoys working in her flower garden and making crafts, especially crafts using dried flowers.

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you write it? Where did your ideas come from?
Nancy spent several months researching and writing this book. She was an elementary school librarian at the time and had read an article about pink dolphins. She thought students would like to read a book about this interesting animal. She couldn't find the kind of book she was looking for on the topic, so she decided to write one.

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Research included vast amounts of reading about the Amazon rainforest, especially its plants and animals. Nancy selected animals that she thought would be of particular interest, such as the three-toed sloth, pink dolphins, and howler monkeys. She also decided to set the story's time frame for a period of twenty-four hours to give students an idea of both day and night inside the jungle.

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Nancy can't believe that people ask for her autograph. Doing school visits and getting fan mail are two of the fun things that have come Nancy's way because she wrote this story.



On the Banks of the Amazon written by Nancy Kelly Allen / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
En las orillas del Amazonas escrito por Nancy Kelly Allen / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-7-8
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com
©2005, Raven Tree Press, LLC, All Rights Reserved

Meet the Illustrator

Elizabeth Driessen



Elizabeth Driessen's first memory is of a blue crayon. Since then, drawing and painting has been her passion, her one and only vocation. Instead of brushing back Barbie's hair Betty was drawing a picture of a horse and stable for Barbie. There was never a question as to what Betty would become.

In school her notebooks had more doodles in the margins than notes in the center, totally rejecting the notions of her teachers that art wasn't an acceptable career and that she needed her clerical skills to fall back on. Mostly self-taught, Elizabeth attended the Milwaukee School of Art. She eventually earned a Certificate of Art and Design, and continues to take courses at Fox Valley Tech and the University Extension in Menasha.

As a fulltime freelance illustrator and designer, Elizabeth has tried her hand at living the corporate life as Vice President of Kaukauna Creative Arts Group for eight years. Now she keeps busy running Betty Driessen Artwork in Kaukauna, WI doing computer graphics, designing logos, creating flyers and brochures, and illustrating for various venues.

Married for thirty-seven years and the mother of three, Elizabeth still loves to take the top off her husband's Wrangler and go driving around the countryside looking for out of the way spots. Standing at the side of her Jeep with a camera around her neck, practicing T'ai chi, or teaching art workshops, Elizabeth doesn't stop for anything. Unless, that is, she is stopping to donate her time, energy, and art to a good cause like the American Cancer Society or the Infant Welfare Circle.

Elizabeth illustrated *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* because it is a fun story about a child who realizes something is changing. His pajamas are too small! Illustrated in the fun and colorful medium of a child's crayons, Elizabeth brings her own memories of a favorite pair of pj's to the story. The idea of taking the initiative and asking for help is one that Elizabeth tried to instill in her children. Betty has also illustrated *On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas* for Raven Tree Press.

Contact Betty Driessen through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.



On the Banks or the Amazon written by Nancy Kelly Allen / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
En las orillas del Amazonas escrito por Nancy Kelly Allen / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2003, ISBN 0-9420192-7-8
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail

Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama written by Kevin Brennan / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama escrito por Kevin Brennan / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2003, ISBN 0-9701107-9-0
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

©2005, Raven Tree Press, LLC, All Rights Reserved

Questions for the Illustrator

Elizabeth Driessen



1. Who or what inspires you to draw?
Elizabeth's children and all of the picture books she has read to them are a great inspiration to her. Bringing a story to life with pictures is not just a job for Elizabeth, it is a fascination.

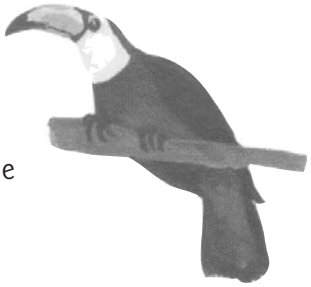
2. What is your favorite illustration environment? Describe your workspace.
It's a home office full of windows so Elizabeth can feel the outdoors and bask in the natural light of the sun. A computer and an art table, replete with brushes, paints, and palette, share this space with Elizabeth. Elizabeth says they make excellent roomies.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for illustrating?
Partial to watercolors, Elizabeth enjoys working with crayons, ink and colored pencil. She likes bright colors and loose, active styles, but also admires and practices tighter, more detailed art.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
Elizabeth needs white noise. Sometimes soft rock, sometimes quiet meditative music works. At other times she just hums. Even if she forgets about it until it's cold, Elizabeth always keeps a cup of coffee within reach. When reading a manuscript she lets the story come together in her mind and then begins by drawing some loose pencil sketches until she is satisfied with the layout.

5. Who are your favorite illustrators? What influence have they had on your work?
Uri Schulivitz, Fred Brenner, Rosemary Wells, Chris Van Allsburg, Maurice Sendak, and the Dillons, have all made their impression on Elizabeth. Even through their diverse styles and picture quality it is easy for Elizabeth to envision the stories from their art. They have made her aware of her own attention to detail and conscious of whether the style of a story is loose and playful or very structured and detailed.

6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
Elizabeth wants readers to feel the story through her paintings. She wants their experience to be a visual journey that takes readers not just through, but into the story. She wants children to leave with not only a smile but a new appreciation of art.



©2005, Raven Tree Press, LLC, All Rights Reserved

Questions for the Illustrator (continued)

Elizabeth Driessen



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Elizabeth enjoys photography, swimming, and lounging by her koi pond. In love with sun and the outdoors, Elizabeth considers anything that gets her outside a hobby.

8. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Though *Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama* didn't require any special research, Elizabeth had a great time thinking back on her all-time favorite pajamas and special things her grandma would do for her.

On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas, however, took lots of research. She visited her local library and searched the internet to determine authentic representation of the Amazonian jungle and the feathered animals and plantlife in this book.

9. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
With so many positive reactions to her artwork, the most fun for Elizabeth is presenting at schools and reaping a harvest of hugs afterward. Her granddaughter is now old enough to have Elizabeth's books read to her, and that is priceless. Parents tell her that her books are among their children's favorites.



On the Banks or the Amazon written by Nancy Kelly Allen / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
En las orillas del Amazonas escrito por Nancy Kelly Allen / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2003, ISBN 0-9420192-7-8
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail

Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama written by Kevin Brennan / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
Jimmy Jammers / Jaimito pijama escrito por Kevin Brennan / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2003, ISBN 0-9701107-9-0
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

©2005, Raven Tree Press, LLC, All Rights Reserved

About the Book

On the Banks of the Amazon/ En las orillas del Amazonas



On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas is a rainforest adventure. Different times of day and night expose an interesting variety of animals that live along the Amazon River. This full text translation in English and Spanish explores the jungle habitat of the tapir, the sloth, Howler monkeys, parrots, and a variety of animal species. The reader is even introduced to pink dolphins—an Amazon River phenomenon. Diverse plants and animals give clues to the way the mysterious world of the rainforest works.

The story evolves as the day unfolds. Readers view the scene through the eyes of two wildlife "hunters" whom we later learn are photographers, hunting with a camera. The hunters are gathering information in the hopes of preserving the precious flora and fauna of the rainforest. The pace of the story varies—slow and languid when the sloths and gentle pink dolphins are observed—quick when we observe the stealthy jaguar and the more dangerous aspects of life in the Amazon.

Betty Driessen's enticing, vivid watercolors transport readers into a lush, wild world. Betty thoroughly researched each exotic animal and plant of the Amazon that is pictured in this book. True-to-life colors and animal behaviors are portrayed throughout. The brilliant greens and blues of the jungle as well as the multi-hued plumage of parrots, animal markings and the colorful variations of plants are depicted in clear, dense watercolor. Spotted frames that resemble animal markings highlight the text pages and add dimension to the book layout.

This story is presented as a full text translation. In a full text translation the story text is included fully in both English and in Spanish. In general, both texts are supplied on the page with an icon separating the two. Different ink colors for each text further distinguish the English from the Spanish. The book ends with a keyword vocabulary page for learning both languages.

Pick up your copy of *On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas* today.



On the Banks of the Amazon written by Nancy Kelly Allen / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
En las orillas del Amazonas escrito por Nancy Kelly Allen / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-7-8
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

©2005, Raven Tree Press, LLC, All Rights Reserved

Rave Reviews

On the Banks of the Amazon/ En las orillas del Amazonas



"...The text is rhythmic in both English and Spanish, giving a factually accurate description of a particular niche in this disappearing habitat...bordered, with the bright, detailed watercolor illustrations both reinforcing and augmenting the text...a solid introduction to the rain forest and the dwellers therein. ...Used in conjunction with Lynne Cherry's *The Great Kapok Tree* (Gulliver, 1990), this book provides an introduction to the life on the banks of the great river and the need to preserve it." **—School Library Journal**

"Two wildlife hunters travel through the Amazon observing and being observed by the wildlife in this tale. The repetitive text...evokes the feeling of the jungle as it describes scenes of animal life at different times of the day." **—Criticas**

"... Detailed full-page illustrations keep a child's interest well and support the reading material. It is a well-done bilingual book written in English and Spanish for children about seven to ten years old...a recommended children's book." **—Midwest Book Review**

"...The vibrant greens of the forest and blues of the Amazon River radiate off the pages. The wide variety of wildlife continues to shine with more brilliant colors from the rainbow...Children will delight in seeing the different animals and creatures...Recommended." **—Children's Literature**

"...Elizabeth Driessen is an incredible artist. The animals are drawn to perfection. You have to see them to believe it!" **—Book Review Café**

"... Page border and large font set of the two paragraphs of text per page. Beautiful illustrations track the progress of "two wildlife hunters" on the move."
—Fort Worth I.S.D. Book Reviews

*Winner of Appalachian Writers Association's Children's Book of the Year Award



On the Banks of the Amazon written by Nancy Kelly Allen / illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
En las orillas del Amazonas escrito por Nancy Kelly Allen / ilustrado por Elizabeth Driessen
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-7-8
Hardcover / Jacketed / Full Text English/Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

©2005, Raven Tree Press, LLC, All Rights Reserved

Tip Sheet for

On the Banks of the Amazon/ En las orillas del Amazonas

On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas
Written by Nancy Kelly Allen Illustrated by Elizabeth Driessen
32 pg. / Hardcover / Jacketed / 1st Edition / Trade Cloth
Children's Bilingual (English/Spanish full text translations in both languages)
ISBN 0-9720192-7-8 Reading Level—3.8
Publication Date–2004 9 x 11
Retail Price $16.95 USD Ages 4-8 Accelerated Reader® Quiz # 75775

Description: Come safari down the Amazon! This rainforest adventure is full of exotic foliage and wondrous creatures. Day into night scenes expose an abundance of wildlife. Bold, colorful illustrations transport you into a lush, untamed world.

Selling Points:
- Appalachian Writers Association 's Children's Book of the Year Award
- Realistic Amazonian animal and plant life depiction
- Mystery / intrigue story—Just why are the 'hunters' shooting?
- Lush language makes reader feel like they are in the rainforest

Selling Sentence: A rainforest adventure swarming in exotic foliage and wondrous creatures.

Author Bio: Nancy Kelly Allen is a former elementary school teacher and school librarian. She is the author of six children's books and two more are in various stages of production.

Illustrator Bio: Betty Driessen enjoys painting water colors on commission, wall murals, illustrating for children's stories, learning new art techniques and having fun with photography. She is also a certified T'ai chi instructor.

Advertising & Promotion Plans:
- Direct marketing to booksellers, schools and libraries
- Electronic advertising to e-lists
- Introduction at local, national and international trade shows including BEA and ALA
- Catalog and galley mailings to all major book reviewers



Pre-Publication Comments and Special Sales:
- Award winning title with national reviews

Subrights: All subrights currently available

Market Niche: Garden clubs and associations, supplemental geography reading for classrooms and jungle story times, national wildlife preservation societies, Save the Rainforest organizations

Raven Tree Press, LLC
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
phone: 920-438-1605 fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com