

THE AUTHORS SHOW – Children Educational

Author: Dr. Nicole Audet

Why I Write-My Writing Journey (Felix and Booboo Series)

My journey as a writer began in correlation with my career as a family medicine doctor. I was always fascinated by picture books, and the dream of becoming an author has always been tucked away in a safe place since childhood. After reading Dr. Jacques Ferron's, tales and novels, I knew I wanted to be an author as well as a doctor. My education and aspirations were dedicated to these two fields. My medical career has allowed me to complete my master's degree in medical pedagogy and later to teach pediatrics at the University of McGill. While avidly pursuing my medical career, I also wrote numerous medical articles and books and became Editor and Chief of the French medical magazine. I have also been featured in Chicken Soup for the Soul of Quebecers and the Canadian Medical magazine with my stories and articles regarding health including; Tears Test, The Power of Listening and Accomplice to the Last Breath. This last one is a very special article that I hold dear to my heart because it is about the last night of my daughter-in-law dying of lung cancer.

During these medical writing endeavors, the bridge to children's books was built with a strong foundation. I have published several children's books so far and have received many national and international awards for literacy. My mother, who I give thanks to in my book, Parents for Sale, has always loved my stories. Being a mother myself; my family has enjoyed, learned and grown through children's literacy. We have had many adventures together through reading. Reading and writing opens the door to inspire children, parents and adults and promotes the use of imagination, having fun and learning valuable lessons to help make better decisions. Children are in the development stage, and literature is key to positive development. It is my mission, through literacy, to guide them with positive messages that promote responsible behavior. I believe one of the life's most valuable lessons for parents is to offer children to learn the importance and appreciation of reading. It is also critical for parents to encourage their children to read as much as possible. Many studies reported that if a child loves to read in primary school, he has more chances to finish high levels of education.

As a family doctor, I have to answer children's questions on their diseases and the human body. On the market, health books target middle-grade readers and older. There was a need for educational books for young children and their caregivers. To fill this gap, I create Felix and Booboo series. There are 8 picture books in this collection telling the story of a young boy Felix who owns a magical medical briefcase. Booboo, the stethoscope, is the commander of the eight instruments characterized in these picture books. It is a sure way for the children to have fun learning about health and medicine. At the end of each book, there is quiz to challenge young children' reading skills. There are books on lice, chickenpox, otitis, broken arms, allergies, gastroenteritis, vaccination and the human body. So far, two titles on allergies and the human body won book awards. All books received 5 stars review from Readers' Favorite. In the future, I plan to publish more titles on sunburn, cancer or basic security rules.

In 2016, Boomerang, a traditional publisher, decided to stop producing Felix and Booboo series and gave me back my rights. My agent, Danielle Hampson, and I decided to translate, edit and self-published them. All books are available in paperback, Kindle and PDF in French and English.

In my children's literature writing career, I have the honor to be noted as an award-winning bestseller in Quebec. My book Parents for Sale (AuthorHouse) has been recognized with Story Monster Approved program as well as Reader's Favorite Bronze Medal in animals' children book category. It also received two honorable mentions from the Dragonfly Book Festival and the New York Book Festival. My bilingual picture book Are You Eating My Lunch?/Manges-tu mon lunch ? is Story Monster Approved, Mom's Choice Silver Award and gold medal at the 2016 Classic Literary Award and the first best picture book. In 2015, 2016 and 2017 my essays were published in the 50 Great Writers You Should Be Reading after being selected by readers. My previous books include a bestseller Health Guide and the Felix and Boubou series. The Health Guide explains how to react to fifty symptoms and minor traumatism. In my career, I sold more than 150,000 books.

In 2016, Céline Dion's mother selected me as one of the 10 most inspirational Quebec province women. I am truly grateful and honored for these recognitions. My goals for my children's books are to have them available online with the possibility to turn them into a movie or

animation. I am proud to support Céline Dion's Foundation to help poor students to receive school supplies before going to school. In the last 4 years, I gave more than 3000 books to this organization.

My true intentions regarding being an author are to inspire children to read, to set their imaginations free and to encourage good decision-making regarding health, safety and moral responsibility. Writing children's books is a way for me to give back and be a positive source to the community. It is a way that I can positively express myself while having some fun and at the same time being a positive role model for both children and parents. These are few small steps to make the world a better place. I hope that my books inspire children to set their minds free and work to make the world a better place. I am honored to have this dream come reality and will continue to work and create stories for children that motivate and inspire. My messages to a young author or all indie authors are to dream big, keep focus and hire experts to edit and market their name and books.