



# WONDER NEWS

ANN (ANA) MORRIS, BILINGUAL CHILDREN'S AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR

WWW.AUTHORANNMORRIS.COM

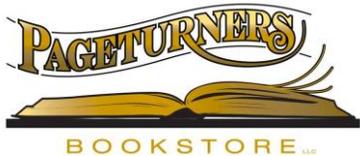
AUGUST 2016

## WELCOME!

Welcome to Wonder News! I'm glad to share what I think and do with you! People are welcome to contact me to give me feedback and ideas, and to request to be added to my email list. I will add no one without a request. Feel free to message me through my website.

## Consignment Activity

This has been a busy month for consignment activities. I have contacted several locations and have yet to hear from some, but I have succeeded in placing my books at Pageturners Bookstore in Indianola



and on the last day of August was able to meet with the Des Moines Social Club. This club is located in the old Fire Station in downtown Des Moines. It supports all types of art, including culinary, comic, several mediums of visual art, theatrical, musical, and now literary. I hope to have an opportunity to participate in activities at all of my consignment locations!



## SOMETHING NEW!

**I was so pleased to be contacted by José María (M<sup>o</sup>) Fernández, the creator of Adhoc Language Online Services, contacted me from Madrid, Spain, with the offer to use my children's books as language teaching tools online.**  
<http://www.adhoclanguage.com/en/>

**This is an excerpt from his blog, "I Am a Language School. Should I Start with Online Teaching?"**

Online learning is not so different compared to "traditional" way of study; we just replace printed books by the screen of a computer.

When learning a language like any other matter, the common practice is that it is expected that students dedicate hours to self-study, however when we teach languages, students stay in their "comfort zone" where teachers repeat hundreds of times: words; grammar rules, expressions, vocabulary etc. and students enjoy the company of the teacher and their classmates and subsequently they dedicate a minimum of hours to study on their own.

Technology and the access to resources have meant that the number of students has grown and, as a result, there are not enough hours and teachers available and the speed required to learn a language has increased.

Once we have discovered that computers are efficient and tireless why not use them? Now the ball is going back to the student. If we do it properly it should not affect our students, especially because we can make self-study time very enjoyable and productive.

Then, the next element of the analysis comes to the stage, which is to understand how we make study time enjoyable and productive. Both these things are critical.

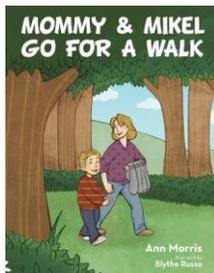


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**So far, we are still working on “Mommy and Mikel Go for a Walk”. I have submitted a recorded, illustrated narration of the story, different kinds of discussion and quiz questions, and we still have more options. I will be trying my own hand at using the program used by Adhoc to produce my own comprehension checks, which will be fun. It is a program totally new to me. Since I always love learning, it will be another skill to add to my toolbox. We will later work with the other books, in both languages, as Adhoc is a multinational endeavor that works with the teaching of several languages. We Skype often, and it is so refreshing to me to speak with someone who speaks the way I learned. Not too many people that I have met in the USA speak with a Spanish accent. The important thing, however, is that I write my books to be used as recreational reading and also to be used as language learning tools. What a wonderful opportunity to collaborate in making this goal a reality!**



This festival is held yearly in Des Moines. This year it was the 6<sup>th</sup> of August. This year's venue was the lovely Jasper Winery on the south side of Des Moines. The weather was perfect, too!



## Picture Book Review of Month



**Preschool Blues by Marybell Martinez**



MARYBELL  
MARTINEZ

Preschool Blues is a charming reminder of a child's first day(s) at preschool or an institution away from home. Some children have no fear and adapt easily, but there are others, more timid, who are apprehensive about the new routine, the order of activities, the surroundings, and even the people. The rhyming aspect is perfect for this age, and the illustrations were very appropriate. Thank you, Marybell Martinez!



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## Teaching a Class on Writing a Children's Book in September

The Des Moines Public Schools contacted me about teaching a four-week class on writing a children's book.

I have been in teacher mode much of this month! I will have students participate by writing their own children's book. They will learn the art of telling a story that has a logical story line and ending. They may have their book illustrated or not. We will discuss story prompts and appropriate language.

We will discuss publication options, and the floor will always be open to questions. I look forward to this adventure, too! It is open to students ages 13+.

My class description is in the lower right-hand corner.

**WRITING**

**JOURNALISM & WRITING**

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**GETTING PUBLISHED** 1 DAY \$25  
Give your manuscript a better chance of being published. Learn how to format your manuscript for submission to editors and publishers; how to compose a cover letter and synopsis and how to find places to submit your work. Includes handouts to get you started.

Inna Rivers, Maggie Goodell Middle - Library  
J058101B Th Sep 22 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**HOW TO WRITE A NOVEL** 4 WKS \$45  
If you've ever wanted to write a novel, this class is for you! This course will teach the basics of story dynamics including where to get story ideas, creating character archetypes, determining the central story question, and how to use a conflict diagram. We'll discuss 12 tricks for unravelling your plot knots and modern plot diagramming using turning points and scene beats. You'll also learn manuscript preparation and how to submit to agents and editors. Includes lots of handouts and resources. We'll also have writing exercises to get those creative juices flowing.

Inna Rivers, Maggie Goodell Middle - Library  
J058101B Th Sep 29 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**SCIENCE FICTION WRITING** 4 WKS \$40  
Science Fiction Writing is a writing-workshop based course where students develop the critical skills of a science fiction writer. You will build worlds and create complex and engaging characters and plotlines. All writing will be peer-reviewed. The course will also address some avenues for publication that student authors might explore. Ages 15 to Adults.

Inna Schwabauer, Jeremiah South High - Room 1422  
J068101B Th Sep 22 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**WRITE THAT CHILDREN'S BOOK FOR FUTURE CHILDREN** 4 WKS \$40  
Learn the ins and outs of writing children's books. Take a stab at writing your own book. Learn ideas from an award-winning, published bilingual author. Tips on the importance of grammar, fun messages, proofing, publication options, and more. Freedom to ask questions! Have some fun while you learn!

Inna Morris, Ana Roosevelt High - Room 2876  
J059101B Mo Sep 19 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**ILLUSTRATING CHILDREN'S BOOKS** 4 WKS \$55  
Learn to illustrate a children's book from a published book illustrator. Students will create a short story and illustrate it. Work will be edited and approved with suggestions on where illustrations would be best, including cover illustration.

**NEW SITE!**

VISIT US ONLINE AT [COMMED.DMSCHOOLS.ORG](http://COMMED.DMSCHOOLS.ORG)

## Where Are My Books?

My books are available in several locations locally as well as online.

My website will get you a signed book:

[www.authorannmorris.com](http://www.authorannmorris.com)

Facebook Author page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AnnMorrisChildrensAuthorLanguageConsulting/>

The books are on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B00C8G2V8S>

Barnes & Noble: [www.barnesandnoble.com/](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/)

Books-a-Million (BAM):

[www.booksamillion.com/](http://www.booksamillion.com/)

Mascot Books: [www.mascotbooks.com](http://www.mascotbooks.com)

They are also on consignment at several Central Iowa stores.

PLEASE! Ask, if you are looking for my books, some stores locate them with in different areas or even split them up. Ask for them!



Beaverdale Books  
Storybook



Inspired Grounds



Chocolate



Grounds for Celebration



Learning Post



DSM Social Club



DSM Botanical Center



Bk World Ft Dodge



Plot Twist



Pageturners