



These are a few of my favorite things...

When it comes to the writing life, there are seasons of joy, moments of heartshatter, and pits of slog. All of it is important. All of it matters. All of it creates a beautiful life! But today, I want to focus on JOY, as I've discovered joy is an essential mindset for getting through the heartshatter and pits of slog!!

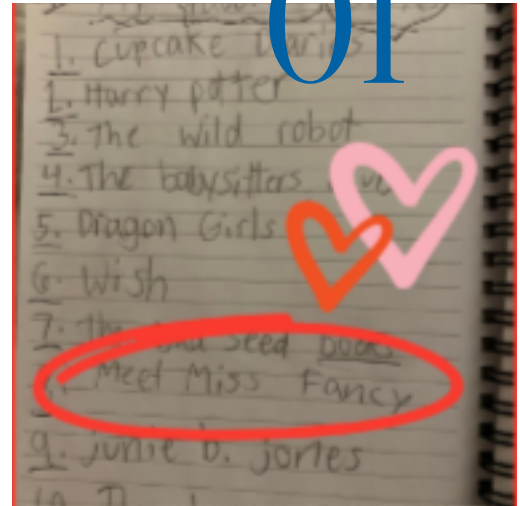
Below, I've included a roundup of my most joyful moments lately. And the best part? Every one of them is ultimately a moment of connection. . . and THAT truly is the best part about being a writer!

Spring Top 5!

Augusta's “Favorite Books” List

My violin partner Mike Bentley sent me his granddaughter's list of favorite books. Tucked among some of MY favorites (*Harry Potter!* *Wild Robot!* *Wish!* *Junie B. Jones!*) is *Meet Miss Fancy*. Hooray! I love knowing readers are still connecting with this very special REAL elephant and this very special story.

SHOP THE LIST >





Library Poetry Book Display (featuring books by moi!)

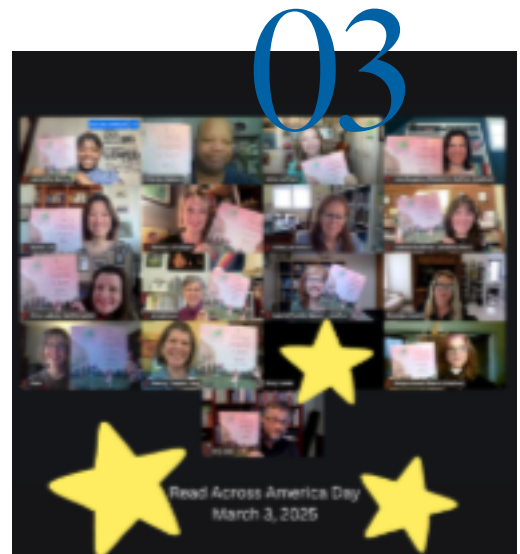
My cello teacher Laura Usiskin sent me this pic from her local library - Chamblee Library in DeKalb County (Atlanta, GA). It features quite a few of my oldie-but-goodie poetry titles! *Dear Wandering Wildebeest*; *When the Sun Shines on Antarctica*; and *This Poem is a Nest* (my most favorite!) Thanks, librarians! Thanks, Laura!

GRAB YOURS NOW >

Poetry Zoom-zooming!

Wow, what fun Charles Waters and I have had launching our second anthology: *If I Could Choose a Best Day!* We zoomed with the Writing Barn (and 18 poet-contributors)...and then we zoomed with 400+ friends at the #HFGather, hosted by the lovely, kind, and talented Alison Green Myers! Talk about “best days”. . . it has been an honor to join other fabulous poets to share the poetry-love!

[WATCH THE RECORDING>](#)





Winning Alabama Master Gardener Best Newsletter Award

Last year I took over as editor for Blount County Master Gardener Association's monthly newsletter "Growing Pains." This year it won the award at the annual AMGA conference! YAY! (What's better for the poison-ivy-prone & sweat-averse folks than actual gardening? WRITING about gardening!)

TAKE A LOOK >

My Poetry Machine in the News

Y'all. This Poetry Machine is a joy-maker! It even made it into our local weekly paper, *The Blount Countian*. (That's Lee Alexander with the Poetry Machine at his restaurant Charlie B's!) Yay for poetry and poetry people and soon-to-be poetry people!

[READ MORE POEMS >](#)



COMING UP!

May 3: The Little Shop of Stories' Children's Book Festival (Decatur, GA).

Charles Waters and I will be presenting at 12:15 pm!

May 6: "Harness the Power of Punctuation to Create More Impactful Poetry" webinar at Inked Voices. Register here.

May 19: research trip with Charles Waters to CenLA (central Louisiana). *Our next picture book is set in Colfax, LA, which gives me the excuse to visit the state I called home for five years!*

June 24: Poetry! Poetry! Poetry! sessions at Clay Public Library (Pinson, AL)

June 26: All Things Gee's Bend at Oneonta Public Library (Oneonta, AL)

[EXPLORE ALL MY BOOKS](#)

Thanks for being an incredible part of my
writing journey. Your support means the
world to me,

Irene

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