

# Letter to the Reader from Nancy Wilcox Richards



Dear Boys and Girls,

When I was in Grade One I told my classmate, Rosemary, that I was celebrating my birthday that very day, and Rosemary was invited to my party. Unfortunately, Rosemary showed up at my house that evening with a birthday present. You might ask, why was this unfortunate? Doesn't everybody love to get presents? Well, there was just one teeny tiny problem – it wasn't my birthday! This "birthday fib" eventually found its way into the book, *How to Fix a Lie*.

And that's what authors do. I think writing is a bit like creating a recipe. Instead of using sugar, butter and flour, we take bits and pieces of real life (like getting caught telling a lie) – or things that are funny, interesting or heart-warming – and we add in some imagination; mix it up, and the result is a story. Hopefully it is a story that you will enjoy.

A lot of events in my books come from my experiences as an elementary teacher. Sometimes I'd need to address a bullying issue going on in my classroom. Sometimes a student would crack a funny joke or do something that totally amazed me. These little bits of classroom life might find their way into a book I am working on. I always hope that whatever I write rings true for you, the reader.

I think lying requires a certain amount of imagination. And as a kid, I must have had a great imagination! But now that I am a grownup, I don't tell lies any more. Instead I use my imagination and channel it into something creative: a story. And it's so much fun!

So, if you have a great imagination, perhaps you'll use it in some creative way. Maybe you'll build a great invention. Perhaps it will lead you on a discovery adventure. Or perhaps you'll write a fascinating story! The possibilities are endless.

Happy Reading and Writing!

**Nancy Wilcox Richards**

