

Meet the Author...

Louise Petty Scruggs



I am a farmer. I am a sister. I am a teacher. I am a wife. I am a mother. I am a grandmother. I am a reader. I am a thinker. I have always been a writer. My life experiences have given me a “down to earth” approach to writing for an audience. As far as style and technique goes, I lean toward exaggerating or expanding reality. Becoming a published author is just another extension of who I am. I have lived in Chesnee, SC my entire life. My mom and dad were farmers who accomplished their goal of sending four children to college. All four became educators. I have traveled enough to believe “the best part is coming home”. I have been blessed with a happy marriage for 40 years, a beautiful daughter, an awesome son-in-law, and the most amazing granddaughter.

The Idea Behind the Story...

The name *Benjamin* is borrowed from a friend’s son who is almost twenty. The original idea for this particular book is actually that old. However, **Benjamin Bradley Benton** is, in reality, a little piece of every student I have taught. He is the epitome of every boy or girl who learns by asking “Why”? Because a child’s mind does not focus very long on one thing, this book’s only focus or theme is **wonder**.

It would have been easier to pick one idea and carry it throughout the book but there is the chance that a child would get tired of reading or hearing about the same thing for so long. By randomly going from one idea to another, the child must change thought processes with the turning of each page. If he does not connect to one idea, there are other ideas that may interest him and cause him to think and wonder about his own world.

The Book’s Purpose...

The book is meant to be a basic, easy, and fun to read book. The mixed tempos, varying meters, alliterations, and rhymes are present throughout the format. Basic vocabulary is interspersed with more challenging words, making it a book that can span several listening and reading levels. Although the book targets kindergarteners and first graders, children from three to ninety-three can enjoy the antics of Benjamin and perhaps become care-free enough to allow their own curiosity and wonder to blossom. Without doubt, when curiosity tickles the brain-

learning takes place and we learn more about ourselves, about others, and about our world.

Educational Features...

As far as teaching strategies go, the book is a companion to an earlier Silver Ink publication, ***Into the Tub***. Both books emphasize common core standards and each book offers strategies for parents and teachers. Age appropriate material, grade level vocabulary as well as some challenge words are targeted for the teacher, parent, and the reader.