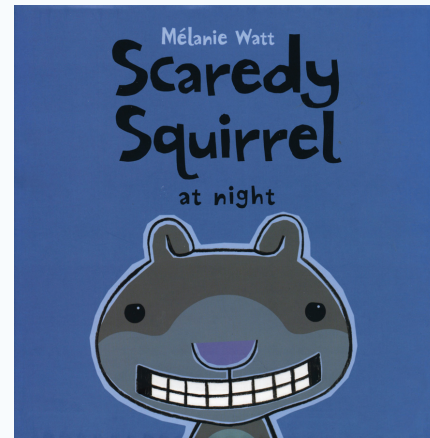


Book Fair Author Spotlight On...



Mélanie Watt

Scaredy Squirrel at Night



Q What inspires you to write?

A My childhood memories, family and kids around me and watching animals.

Q What advice do you have for young writers?

A Don't be afraid to make your own book. Use paper, glue and draw and write your own stories, there is a lot of imagination in you and you might surprise yourself!

Q What was your favourite book when you were growing up?

A *Cinderella*. I loved the dresses and happy ending. I redrew the pages over and over again! I was also a huge fan of *Garfield* the cat!

Q What do you like to do when you're not writing?

A Decorate, travel, and canoe on the lake.

Q What has been the biggest achievement of your career so far?

A Seeing how my work inspires kids to be creative and discovering how readers of different ages interpret my characters and stories.

Q There's a little bit of Scaredy Squirrel in all of us... Did you have any fears when you were a child? If so, what did you do to overcome them?

A Like many kids, and adults, I had fears. Like Scaredy, some were more realistic and others were pretty far fetched.

A few examples of realistic ones: fear of public speaking at school, fear of getting bad grades, fear of math homework.

How I got over them: Baby steps, by taking it one day at a time and realizing I can only do the best that I can do.

A few examples of unrealistic fears: fear of sharks, jellyfish, monsters under the bed.

How I got over them: Information is power and the more info you have about something by reading or asking questions, the less you fear it.

