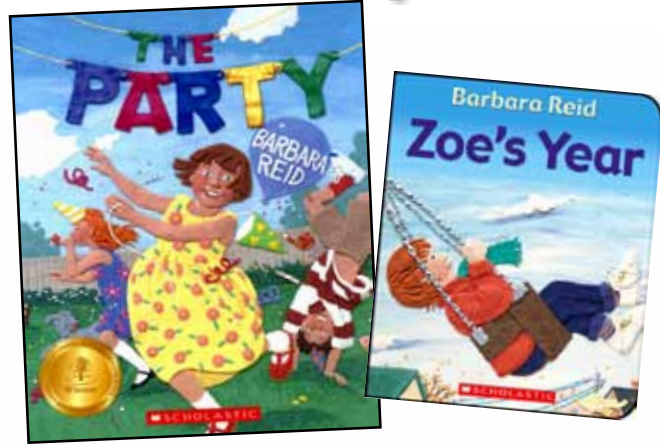


# Book Fair Author/Illustrator Spotlight On...



## Barbara Reid

**Q** What inspires you to draw?

**A** I draw things that interest me: people, animals, nature, funny things, beautiful things, real things, and imaginary things. Ever since I was a kid I wanted people to look at my artwork and find those things interesting too. Now I am inspired by the many enthusiastic young artists I meet in schools.

**Q** What advice do you have for young illustrators?

**A** Draw! Draw what you are interested in, you will be practicing and having fun at the same time. The more you draw, the better you get. Look at the things you like to draw, and lots of different kinds of art and illustration. I mean *really* look. If you find some inspiring artwork, try copying it. This is how many artists learn; then they go on to create their own style and artwork. Draw!

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

**A** I loved the whole of C.S. Lewis' *Narnia* series and read them many times. If I had to pick a favourite it would be *The Magician's Nephew*. I loved the drawings by Pauline Baynes as much as the stories. I learned a lot about drawing by copying Pauline Baynes. Other faves were *The Secret Garden*, *Stig of the Dump*, the *Born Free* series, and animal stories of any sort.

**Q** What do you like to do when you're not drawing?

**A** When I'm not drawing I like go for walks in the Don Valley ravines, or at our family cottage. I look at trees, animals, birds and the sky. I also like to read.

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

**A** When I spot one of my books in a library, I like to look at the neighboring books. Often they are by the authors and illustrators I grew up reading, or new ones who inspire me now. It is a real thrill to share a shelf with my heroes!

**Q** What do you enjoy most about working with plasticine?

**A** It's endlessly fun!

