

PA: INDIANA AUTHORS



Valiska Gregory

Books for Children and Young Adults

Little, Brown and Company

Little, Brown ▲ Joy Street Books



GET TO KNOW

Valiska Gregory

The author of several books for children and also a poet, Valiska Gregory considers story to be an important element in people's lives. "I was lucky enough to grow up in a Czech neighborhood in Chicago where children were treasured and where my father always told us stories. My father shaped his tales as carefully as he painted my name on my lunch box in Gothic letters. I wish to offer children stories told with humor, charm and grace; stories that, like good soup, sustain the human spirit."

Valiska Gregory showcases her own storytelling abilities in her most recent work, *THROUGH THE MICKLE WOODS*, a picture book for all ages which celebrates the healing power of storytelling. Lauded by *Kirkus* as a "stately, elegantly cadenced tale . . . told with a contagious sense of wonder," this tale features a bear whose three almost mythical tales restore the grieving king's ability to see beauty in the world.



A former teacher at the elementary and college level, Valiska Gregory has taught courses ranging from music and drama to American literature and poetry. She received her graduate degree from the University of Chicago on a Ford Foundation Fellowship, and has studied publishing and children's literature at the Vassar Institute of Publishing and Writing and the Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Simmons College, respectively.

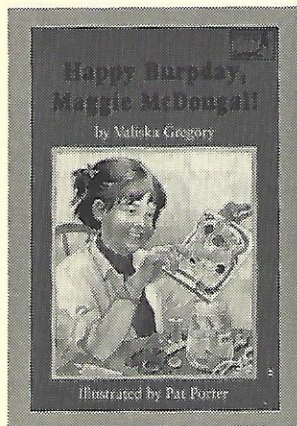
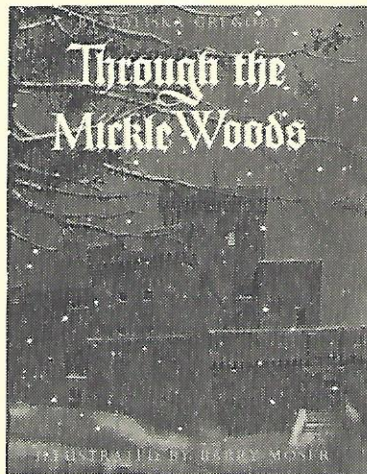
Her broad knowledge of children's books and the publishing process has proven valuable as she writes her own books and, as a published reviewer, critiques those written by others. She frequently speaks on writing and the publishing process at conferences, schools, and libraries across the country. Ms. Gregory is a fellow at the Butler University Writers' Studio where she is also the director of its Midwinter Children's Literature Conference. She lives in Indianapolis, with her husband and two daughters.



THROUGH THE MICKLE WOODS

Illustrated by Barry Moser

After hearing the bear's richly told stories, the grieving king can once again appreciate the beauty of the world around him. "Written in eloquent prose shot through with fresh metaphors." —*Publishers Weekly*. "A stately, elegantly cadenced tale . . . told with a contagious sense of wonder." —*Kirkus* • Parent's Choice Award • American Bookseller Pick of the Lists
(1992) 0-316-32779-4



HAPPY BURPDAY, MAGGIE McDOUGAL!

Illustrated by Pat Porter

A Springboard Book

"This early chapter book effectively combines school scenes and family moments as Maggie scouts around for an idea for a present . . . [Readers] will rejoice in her ingenuity." —*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* "A good read-aloud or read-alone, with a humorous style that's right on target." —*Kirkus* (1992) 0-316-32777-8

Coming in Spring

BABYSITTING FOR BENJAMIN

Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

In this exuberant picture book, well-meaning and unsuspecting Frances and Ralph agree to baby-sit Benjamin, an energetic toddler. After numerous surprises and plenty of trouble, the couple put themselves in Benjamin's shoes and come up with a solution that makes everyone happy. (1993) 0-316-32785-9

Little, Brown and Company ▲ 34 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

LECTURES AND SCHOOL APPEARANCES

An experienced speaker, Ms. Gregory says of her appearances: "Whether I am speaking at a national conference to dedicated librarians, to a small seminar at a writers' conference, or (as I did recently) in a gymnasium filled with literally 500 wiggly kindergartners and their 500 assorted relatives, my goals are similar:

- to introduce my audience to the creative process by showing them how through discipline and luck ideas are shaped by poets and writers — whether students or professionals — into works of art.
- to promote reading and books as windows to the larger world of experience and ideas.

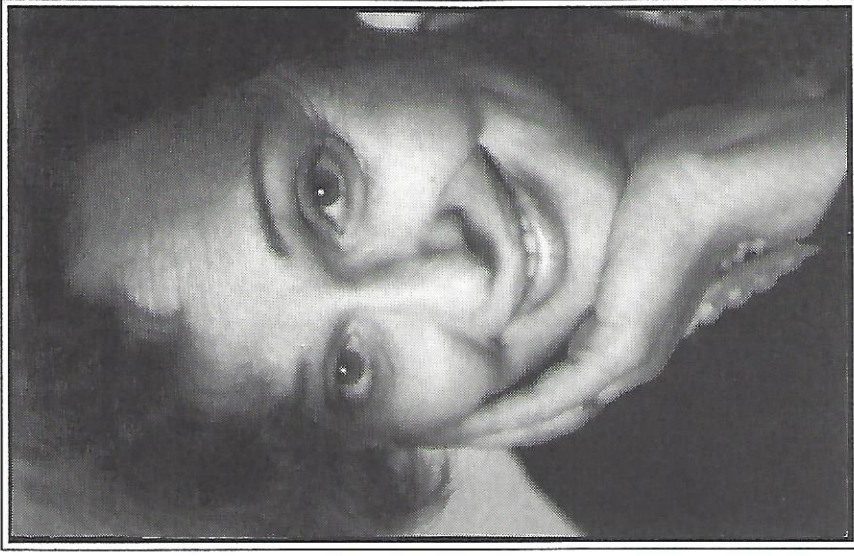
- to discuss how stories can powerfully affect our understanding, growth, and sensibilities as human beings.

I like to bring with me the production materials from my books (galleys, artwork, proofsheets, etc.) so I can explain how a book is made, and I always use original stories and manuscripts appropriate for the audience to which I speak."

Direct inquiries to: **VALISKA GREGORY**
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Chris Minnick



Robert Stalcup

VALISKA GREGORY

VALISKA GREGORY

Valiska Gregory received her M.A. degree from the University of Chicago on a Ford Foundation Fellowship, and has received awards for both poetry and children's fiction, including a Master Fellowship from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts for "artistic excellence and achievement."

Of her work for children, Ms. Gregory writes: "I was lucky enough to grow up in a Czech neighborhood in Chicago where children were treasured and where, always, my father told us stories. My father shaped his tales as carefully as he painted my name on my lunch box in Gothic letters; the black ink seemed to appear like angels on the penciled lines, a dimness made clear. It is this clarity of vision I wish to offer children — stories told with humor, charm, and grace; stories that, like good soup, sustain the human spirit."

Ms. Gregory's work for adults includes articles in *Publishers Weekly*, and poetry published by *Northeast* and *Spoon River*. Her collected volume of poems, *The Words Like Angels Come*, was published by Juniper Press, twice winner of the Best of the Small Presses Awards, whose books are collected by the British Museum and Oxford University's Bodleian Library.

In addition to writing, Ms. Gregory is a Fellow at the Butler University Writers' Studio and director of the Studio's Midwinter Children's Literature Conference, which is held annually on the second Saturday in February. She has appeared on radio and television, regularly reviews children's books, and is a frequent speaker at schools and universities, writers' conferences, and libraries across the country.

Ms. Gregory has completed post-graduate work at the Vassar Institute of Publishing and Writing and the Simmons College Center for the Study of Children's Literature. A former lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she has taught every grade from kindergarten through seniors in college, including courses ranging from music and drama at the elementary level to American literature and poetry at the college level. She is a member of the Author's Guild, the Society of Children's Book Writers, and the New York Book Critics Circle.

A native of Chicago, Ms. Gregory has two daughters and currently lives in Indianapolis with her husband, holder of The Harry T. Ice Chair of English Language and Literature at Butler University.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN:

Through the Mistle Woods

Illustrated by Barry Moser — Picture Storybook, All ages
Little, Brown & Co. \$15.95; ISBN 0-316-32779-4

Parents' Choice Award

American Booksellers' "Pick of the List"

"A stately, elegantly cadenced tale . . . told with a contagious sense of wonder"

— *Kirkus Reviews*

"Written in eloquent prose shot through with fresh metaphors"

— *Publishers Weekly*

Happy Burpday, Maggie McDougall

Illustrated by Pat Porter — Chapter Book, Ages 7-11

Little, Brown & Company; \$11.95; ISBN 0-316-32777-8

"A good read-aloud or read-alone, with a humorous style that's right on target for second and third graders"

— *Kirkus Reviews*

"The classroom scenes . . . are delightfully funny, and

Maggie's relationships with her family and friends are warm and believable."

— *School Library Journal*

Babysitting for Benjamin

Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger — Picture book, Ages 4-8

Little, Brown & Company; ISBN 0-316-32785-9

Mr. Poggie and Scamp Books:

Illustrated by Jeni Bassett — Picture books, Ages 4-8

Macmillan/Four Winds

"Each of these little gems is a Mr. Poggie and Scamp book and lucky is the reader who happens upon them." — *Publishers Weekly*

The Oatmeal Cookie Giant

"Best Books of the Year" List

— *Chicago Sun Times*

Sunny Side Up

"Book of the Month"

— *Chicadee Magazine*

Terribly Wonderful

"Best Children's Books" List

— *Grandparents' Magazine*

Riddle Soup

"Best Books of the Year" List

— *Chicago Sun Times*

FORTHCOMING:

There Might Be Giants

Picture book, Ages 4-8

Candlewick Press