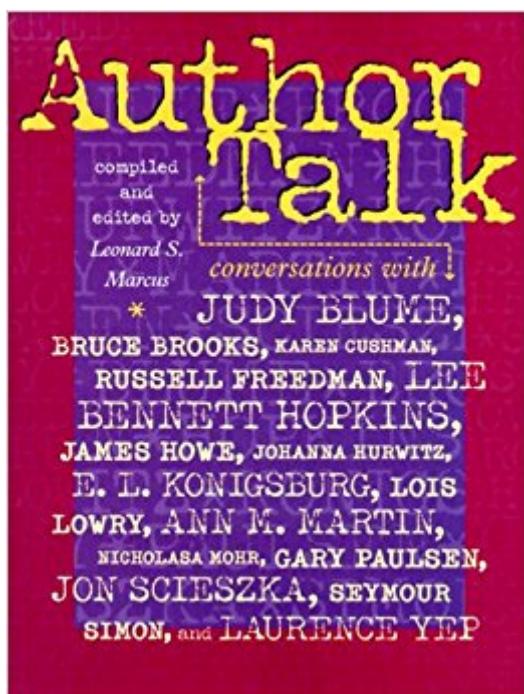


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# Author Talk: Conversations With Judy Blume, Bruce Brooks, Karen Cushman, Russell Freedman, Lee Bennett Hopkins, James Howe, Johanna Hurwitz, E.l. Konigsburg, Lois Lowry, Ann M. Martin, and Others



## **Synopsis**

Have you ever wanted to ask your favorite author: What kind of child were you? Did you like to read? When did you become a writer? What is the best thing about being a writer? In fifteen short conversations with some of the best-known children's book authors, acclaimed author and editor Leonard S. Marcus asks these questions and more, discovering engaging details about their lives and their work. Throughout, you'll find childhood and adult pictures of the authors, as well as bibliographies, manuscript pages, and other fascinating memorabilia. Author Talk is a great introduction to the people behind some of your favorite books.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you could ask your favorite author any question, what would it be? How do you write a book? Do you have brothers and sisters? Where do you get your ideas? What do you like to do when you're not writing? What is the best thing about being a writer? Noted children's literature historian Leonard Marcus asks 15 popular children's book authors these questions and more in this fantastic introduction to the people who made *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*, *Bunnicula: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery*, and *The Babysitters Club* series possible. Complete with birth dates, childhood (and grownup) photos, manuscript pages, and other interesting memorabilia, the interviews provide a brief but in-depth look (six or seven pages per author) at the lives of kids' favorite writers, including Jon Scieszka, E.L. Konigsburg, Judy Blume, Laurence Yep, Gary Paulsen, and Johanna Hurwitz. Virtually every author claims that the way to become a writer is to read and write. A lot. All the time. So get to it! (Ages 8 to 12) --Emilie Coulter

Marcus here compiles brief interviews with 15 well-known children's book authors. Using a similar set of questions for each interview, he offers a sense of the diversity of approaches to the writing life and balances his queries between those pertaining to the writers' childhoods and to their current careers. The authors' responses are insightful and often humorous: Blume explains her inventive approach to sixth grade book reports, "I didn't want to report on the books I was reading, so I made up books for my reports, coming up with a title, an author, a theme, and the major characters

If you are doing a writing project, trying to get ideas to write, or just in the mood to learn something about your favorite authors, then Author Talk is a book that you should read. It is very in-depth, and it provides an up close and personal look at the lives of many different writers. This is a great book that is worth looking at even briefly when you are passing through the biography or children's nonfiction section of your library.

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