

IRENE LATHAM

poet & novelist

-inspiring readers to write their stories and to live lives worth writing about-

5 Fun Facts About Irene Latham:

1. She's a leftie.
2. She writes from the Purple Horse Writing Studio & Music Room, which is located inside her Birmingham, Alabama, home. **The name of her studio should tell you a few more things about Irene. Any guesses? Read on to find out if you are right!*
3. She's the middle child of 5 kids, and she and her husband have 3 sons.
4. She has traveled all over the world and even lived in Saudi Arabia for 2 ½ years.
5. She writes about all sorts of places and things, but all her books have one thing in common: animals!

Books for Children:



FRESH DELICIOUS (Poems from the Farmers' Market): Experience tomatoes, peaches, pole beans and other farmers' market fruits and vegetables in fresh, delicious ways in this imaginative collection. Illustrations by Mique Moriuchi. NCTE Notable Poetry Book, *Eureka!* Award winner and featured title at 2016 National Book Festival. (picture book, ages 4 and up)

WHEN THE SUN SHINES ON ANTARCTICA (And Other Poems About the Frozen Continent): Find out what penguins, seals and other Antarctic wildlife do during the summer months. Illustrations by Anna Wadham. NCTE Notable Poetry book and winner of Silver Moonbeam Award for Poetry. (picture book, ages 8 and up)

LEAVING GEE'S BEND: Inspired by The Quilts of Gee's Bend art exhibit and set in 1932 Gee's Bend, Alabama, it is a heart-touching tale in which a young girl sets out to save her sick mother and records her adventures in quilt pieces. Bank Street College Best Book and the 2011 ALLA Children's Book of the Year. (novel, ages 8 and up)

DON'T FEED THE BOY: A contemporary story about friendship that centers around Whit, who lives at the zoo, and the Bird Girl, who visits every day to escape her home life. Featured title at 2013 National Book Festival, Bank Street College Best Book and a finalist for Kansas' William Allen White Award. (novel, ages 8 and up)

DEAR WANDERING WILDEBEEST (And Other Poems from the Water Hole): Spend a day at an African water hole. Illustrations by Anna Wadham. "Latham's finely crafted verse, at once humorous and serious, dazzlingly opens the imagination to the wilds of the world." NCTE Notable Poetry Book, Bank Street College Best Book, Silver Moonbeam Award for Poetry (picture book, ages 8 and up)

**Purple is Irene's favorite color. She loves horses. She's learning to play the cello.*

Read more about the author, her books and presentations at www.irenelatham.com

IRENE LATHAM WILL BE THE GUEST PRESENTER FOR THE 2017 YOUNG AUTHORS' CONFERENCE AND WILL ALSO LEAD THE PARENT/TEACHER SESSION AT THE PROGRAM ON MARCH 11, 2017.

CHANDRA SPARKS SPLOND WILL GIVE THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE 2017 TEEN WRITING FAIR AND WILL JOIN THE DISCUSSION AT THE PARENT/TEACHER SESSION AT THE YOUNG AUTHORS' CONFERENCE.

A LIST OF ALL AUTHORS/WRITERS/AND OTHERS WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING THROUGH THE WRITTEN WORD PARTICIPATING IN THE 2017 TEEN WRITING FAIR WILL BE SENT OUT SHORTLY!

