APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Biography of Jennifer Armstrong

Born in 1961 in Waltham, MA, Jennifer Armstrong moved to New York when she was two. Except for a year in Switzerland, she spent most of her time growing up in South Salem, NY (about 50 miles north of New York City).

The winner of numerous awards for both fiction and nonfiction, Jennifer Armstrong has written more than 100 books for all ages, from pre-school through young adult. Growing up in South Salem, New York, Armstrong knew by the time she was six that she was going to be an author. As a child she spent countless hours outside, making up adventure stories and acting them out. After graduating from Smith College in Massachusetts, Armstrong worked as a ghostwriter for a bestselling teen series and began to write her own books. She has since written picture books, easy readers, chapter books, young adult novels, and nonfiction. History has been a recurring theme in both her fiction and nonfiction.

Among her recent works are *Photo by Brady: A Picture of the Civil War* (Atheneum), a James Madison Book Award Honor Book and an IRA Teachers' Choice for 2006 and *Magnus at the Fire* (Simon & Schuster), a picture book illustrated by Owen Smith that won a 2005 Henry Bergh Children's Book Award from the ASPCA.

She is also the author of *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance*, winner of the NCTE Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction; *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer*, co-authored by Irene Gut Updyke and winner of a Cuffies Award (Children's Booksellers) for best autobiography; *Steal Away*, an ALA Notable
Children's Book and an SCBWI Golden Kite Honor book; and *Becoming Mary Mehan* (Knopf), a pair of novels set during the Civil War. She is the recipient of the New York State Library Association Knickerbocker Award for Juvenile Literature.

A frequent speaker at schools, conferences, and children's literature events, Jennifer Armstrong has also been a guest lecturer at the MFA in Writing for Children program at Vermont College and a writer in residence at the Writers Voice of Silver Bay. She serves as Vice President of the board of directors at Ausable Press, one of the leading not-for-profit small poetry presses in the country, and also sits on the board of the Universal Preservation Hall in Saratoga Springs, New York, a project to turn a historic church into a performing arts center.

**Works**


*The Dreams of Mairhe Mehan* (young-adult novel; also see below), Knopf (New York, NY), 1996.


*Mary Mehan Awake* (young adult novel; also see below), Knopf (New York, NY), 1996.


*Theodore Roosevelt: Letters from a Young Coal Miner* ("Dear Mr. President" series), Winslow Press (Delray Beach, FL), 2000.

*Thomas Jefferson: Letters from a Philadelphia Bookworm* ("Dear Mr. President" series), Winslow Press (Delray Beach, FL), 2000.

*Becoming Mary Mehan: Two Novels* (includes *The Dreams of Mairhe Mehan* and *Mary Mehan Awake*), Random House (New York, NY), 2002.

Once upon a Banana, illustrated by David Small, Simon & Schuster (New York, NY), 2006.


Appendix 2: Summary of Steal Away

The author chose to tell the story alternating between flashbacks in 1855 and the current year, 1896, when Bethlehem and Susannah are old women, reunited in Canada to tell the story of their escape. In the fall of 1896 elderly Susannah McKnight coaxes her granddaughter Mary to travel with her to Canada to visit someone Mary regards as an "old slave woman." Mary's vision of Bethlehem Reid is shattered, however, when she hears an amazing story of undying friendship and courage.

Susannah, a white girl rose in the North, Vermont, watches her parents die when they fall through the ice of a frozen lake, and is sent to live with her father's brother, who is a slave owner in the South, Virginia. Susannah believes that slavery is wrong, and matters are made worse when she is given a slave, Bethlehem. Susannah befriends her and teaches her to read. Having been taught the evils of slavery all her life, Susannah hates everything about life on her uncle's farm. She makes a plan to escape and then asks Bethlehem help getting back to Vermont. Bethlehem deals with her hatred of slavery and ends up joining her on their dangerous journey to freedom in the North. But Bethlehem needs to go on to Canada rather than to stay with Susannah; Bethlehem believes that Canada is the Promise Land where there is no slavery there.

They running away with a horse and disguise like a boy. They were gone two
weeks without a bit of worry. They crossed the Potomac on a boatload of horses bound for Baltimore and took turns spitting into the current, as boys will. Sometimes they rode for miles on a farmer’s wagon, and they were making steady progress. The weather was fair, the way was mountainous but clear, and people were generous. Mostly their pay was supper and a place to sleep; one kindly woman on the road to Emmetsburg gave Susannah a few pennies for the job and Bethlehem cleaning out a smokehouse. No doubt it was that pretty hair again. But when they reach Maryland, they conscious they are not safe any longer because Uncle Reid distributed the poster which shows that Susannah and Bethlehem are in recapture. So they must be hiding and ignore the eye contact with another people, they run into the woods.

Their escape adventure is not easy to done. Susannah gets a big trouble when she cut her hand intuitively in the dark woods. She trembled because of rain and bleeding. She gets worse, her skin was hot and it fainting her. But Bethlehem saves her to Tukes’ home in Pennsylvania. Tukes were very kind to them; they stay there for several days. Actually, Susannah can live with Tukes but not for Bethlehem. Because there was no guarantee of a fugitive slave there, even there was no love of slavery in Pennsylvania, so Bethlehem cannot stay there longer. But Susannah refuse the offer to stay with Tukes because her friendship with Bethlehem. So, they must continue their adventure to North. Tukes family help them, provide their needs and provide the transportation. They do the matters secretly, to ignoring the risk of helping the Runaway Niger. Finally, Susannah gets her home Vermont and Bethlehem gets the Promised Land, Canada. Bethlehem become a teacher now and has good people around her, and Susannah get married with the man she love in Vermont, and she has a happy family.