

Apples to Organ Deborah Hopkinson 2004 Atheneum Books for Young Readers

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Deborah Hopkinson

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Deborah Hopkinson has been an award winning author since her first picture book, *SWEET CLARA AND THE FREEDOM QUILT* , won the 1994 International Reading Association Award.

Deborah was born in Lowell, Massachusetts. She had a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Massachusetts and a master's in Asian Studies from the University of Hawaii. In addition to writing, Deborah works full-time as the Director of Foundation Relations at Oregon State University Foundation.

She received the 2003 Washington State Book Award for *Under the Quilt for the Night*. She lives in Oregon.

An award-winning writer for children, Deborah Hopkinson introduces young readers to interesting personalities from the past, as well as shedding light on the many ways living and workplace standards have improved and allowing younger readers to more fully appreciate the advances in technology that have made everyday life relatively easy and comfortable. From creating a uniform system of measurements that would allow recipes to be universally shared in *Fannie in the Kitchen: The Whole Story from Soup to Nuts of How Fannie Farmer Invented Recipes with Precise Measurements* to illustrating the hardships faced by immigrants in *Shutting out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York, 1880-1924* to the efforts of a young woman to play semi-professional baseball on a men's team in *Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings*. In *School Library Journal* contributor Blair Christolon praised Hopkinson for her "outstanding job of highlighting the ... drive and ambition" of seventeen-year-old Alta Weiss, the real-life subject of this fictional biography, as she becomes the first woman to play on a man's team when she joins Ohio's Vermillion Independents in 1907.

Hopkinson has also written for magazines, including short stories for *Cricket* and nonfiction for *Scholastic*. While her main interest "is stories that also tell about history," she added: "I also like to write about girls, because when I was a girl, there weren't many stories about the exciting things that girls can do!"

Other books include:

[Into the Firestorm](#), [Up Before Daybreak](#), [Sky Boys](#), [Hear My Sorrow](#), [Girl Wonder](#), [Saving Strawberry Farm](#), [Shutting Out the Sky](#), and [A Packet of Seeds](#)

Illustrator:

Nancy carpenter



The first job Nancy Carpenter got after finishing college was an internship as a graphic reporter for a major news service. Graphic reporters created charts and maps to accompany news stories. Her first illustrations appeared in the **New York Times**. She also illustrated greeting cards.

As she continued to illustrate for newspapers, Carpenter got to know art directors in children's publishing. Her big break came when she was hired to create a book cover after another illustrator had trouble with it. Carpenter says, "I handed in a drawing the publisher was happy with, but they later ruined it by spilling something all over it. So I

redid the job for free." A few days later, the publisher asked her to illustrate an entire book. Since then she has illustrated more than ten picture books.

I love to illustrate plucky characters and the nameless narrator of [17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore](#) is no exception. She has a little [Eloise](#) and [Junie B. Jones](#) in her. When I first read the manuscript I said I would take it before I read past the first sentence... "I had an idea to staple my brother's hair to his pillow." It's virtually impossible to do such a thing but I loved the idea that this girl wanted to see if she could. When I was a kid I attached the tips of my blanket and sheets to a pulley system so I could make the bed with one strong tug. This character is so like that. The book combines my pen and ink drawing with photographic images. Most of the work was done on the computer. This was a new challenge for me. I wanted the finished illustrations to look as painterly and sketchy as if I had done it all with paint on paper.

Other Books Illustrated:

Masai and I

By Virginia L. Kroll

Lester's Dog

By Karen Hesse

Sitti's Secrets

By Naomi Shihab

Washing the Willow Tree Loon

By Jacqueline Briggs

A Sister's Wish

By Kate Jacobs

Awards for this book:

Winner of the Golden Kite Award for Picture Book Text

Winner of the Spur Storytelling Award

Oregon Book Award Finalist

Featured in the New York Times Book Review

*SLJ Best Books of 2004*

*Booklinks Lasting Connections*

*Publishers Weekly Best Books of 2004*

*An ALA Notable Book*

*Junior Library Guild Selection*

*Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Award 2005*

Annotation:

Delicious is a happy little girl who does everything to make sure that her father's dream of moving his family and fruit trees across the country comes true. The family has to think fast to make sure that everyone and everything makes the journey. Delicious is a very smart young lady. She comes up with several ways to save herself and the others. This is a nice story to give the reader a possible way that fruit trees make their way to the west. The pictures give a bright look at what it might have looked like. The pictures also add to the tall tail with images of things that happened along the way.

Book talk:

All aboard for an exciting adventure across the old west, Delicious and her family head out in two wagons. They bring apple and other fruit trees along for the ride. Come along while Delicious has to come up with several quick ways to help her family make the journey safely.

Characters:

Main- Delicious- a brave little girl who goes out of her way to make sure everything makes it across the country. She is about 10 years old

Daddy- determined to take his family and fruit across the country

Momma- does what is needed to support the move

Children- there to help when things need that extra push

Conflict:

Hardships faced in traveling across the country in a wagon. This is an external conflict. The family has to struggle against the elements while traveling west.

Conflict Resolution: The family never gave up and all ways tried their best

Genre:

Family fiction

Setting:

The journey starts off in Salem, Iowa and ends in Milwaukie, Oregon. This story takes place around 1847.

Point of View:

First Person

Theme:

That apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, and cherries made the family richer than any gold would make them. As long as they had each other and food they had everything they needed to survive. The title lets you know that this is a long hard journey that most people would not think about making.

Art Medium

The illustrator uses Expressionism art. The reader gets the idea of how things looked. This helps the reader understand how hard of a task the family took when they decided to move across the country. This will help build the background knowledge for the reader. The illustrator also does a nice job of using shading to show how intense. For example in the mountain page you almost feel like the sun is really beating down on you. The pages have a good balance that pulls the reader into the story to see how this scene fits into the story.

If you like [Apples to Oregon](#), you'll love: [Saving Strawberry Farm](#) by Deborah Hopkinson, [A Packet of Seeds](#) by Deborah Hopkinson, [A Fourth of July on the plains](#) by

Jean Van Leeuwen, Wagons west by Roy Gerrard, and Nine for California by Sonia Levitin.

Reading Level:

4.1

Interest Level:

1-4

## Bibliography

Deborah Hopkinson Children's Author

<http://www.deborahhopkinson.com/>

Glossary of Terms

Copyright Leslie Preddy

Houghton Mifflin Reading

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/carpenter.html>

Monster Mid-Career

<http://midcareer.monster.com/qanda/bookillustrator/>

Random House, INC.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/author/results.pperl?authorid=13493>

Scholastic (Deborah Hopkinson)

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=3291>

SimonSays.com

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?sid=183&pid=354809>