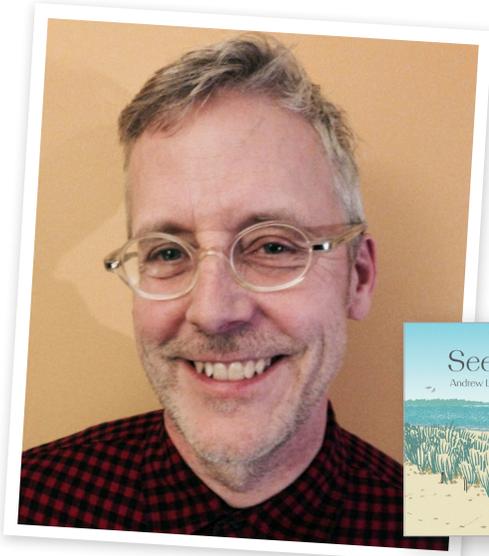


The Petit Proust Questionnaire

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Meet author Andrew Larsen

ANDREW LARSEN is the author of several picture books. He lives with his wife and two children in Toronto, Ontario. Visit his website at www.andrewlarsen.ca and find him on Twitter as @larsenesque.



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See You Next Year is the story of a summer vacation in a place where nothing ever changes and where each long, lazy day unfolds just as it did the year before. Only this year, something does change. And sometimes, change turns out to be a good thing.

When you were a kid, what was your favorite thing to do?

I loved going outside. I grew up in a wide open and friendly neighborhood where there was always something to do - especially when there was nothing to do.

What did you most dislike doing when you were a child?

Eating peas.

As a child, where did you dream of living?

Australia...I remember reading a book (I can't remember its name) set in the Australian Outback. The book absolutely fascinated me and I dreamed I would move to Australia as soon as I was old enough and as soon as I had enough money for a plane ticket. I tried to save money from my paper route but I think I ended up spending most of it on hockey cards.

What did you think you were good at when you were a kid?

Flying under the radar and running fast.

When you were a kid in school, what did you look for in a friend?

I looked for someone who made me laugh and who, in turn, laughed at my jokes.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A hockey player or an Arctic explorer or both.

What was your favourite book as a child?

My Side of the Mountain...I haven't read it for many years but it's a story about a boy who runs away from his New



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York City apartment to live in the wilderness. I was drawn by the bravery of the boy and his adventure. They made a movie of it and I remember going to see it with my grandmother. It was a very big deal.

What is your favorite pastime now?

Holidaying with my family. I have to admit, though, that my holidays are more relaxing than adventurous. They tend to involve the beach. They don't tend to involve the wilderness, the Australian Outback, or the Antarctic.

What do you find an absolute chore?

Dusting. There is no end...

If you could live anywhere, where would you go?

I love where I live. Maybe I'd like to live on a houseboat so I could travel without ever leaving home. My first stop would be...hmmm.....maybe Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

What is the one talent you wish you had?

I wish I could tap dance.

What makes a good friend?

Someone who is kind, forgiving, funny, and good at puzzles.

If you weren't an author or illustrator, what job would you have?

I've always wanted to be a mailman. Years ago I thought about applying for a job as a mailman but then I found out I'd have to learn how to drive. I don't drive. Don't ask...

What children's books have caught your attention lately?

I read lots and lots of books. I often go to the library and take out an armful of children's books to see what's new. Lately, however, I've been rereading some old favourites. I've particularly enjoyed rereading Allan Ahlberg's *The Woman Who Won Things* and Tomie dePaola's *26 Fairmount Avenue*.

If you had to have a motto, what would it be?

Lower your expectations and be delighted when you exceed them.