

The Petit Proust Questionnaire

from Owlkids Books

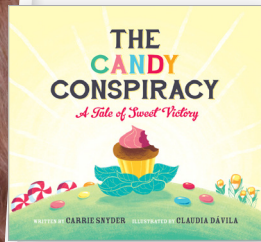
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Meet author Carrie Snyder

CARRIE SNYDER is the acclaimed author of three books for adults, including her 2014 novel, *Girl Runner*, which was nominated for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

The Candy Conspiracy is her first book for children. She lives in Waterloo, ON. Visit her website and blog at www.carriesnyder.com and find her on Twitter as @carrieasnyder.



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In *The Candy Conspiracy*, one child comes up with an idea to outsmart the Juicy Jelly Worm, who rules over a land where lollipop trees grow beside rivers of root bear and powdered sugar falls like snow.

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

Read! I started reading at age four and my mom claims that I'd read every children's book in our local library, in Bluffton, Ohio, before we moved away when I was nine. At my best friend's house there was a big shelf of children's chapter books at the top of the stairs—I couldn't pass by without dipping into a book. I remember my best friend pleading with me to put down the book so we could play. She was extraordinarily patient. I also loved playing imaginary games. We loved playing runaways or orphans.

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

Everything was an adventure when I was a child and I didn't drag my feet for much. Oh yes! Except for bedtime. My parents put us to bed at 7PM on the dot every night, even in summer when we could hear other children in the neighborhood playing outside. I would read under the covers.

As a child, where did you dream of living?

I had a lot of escape fantasies that revolved around living in the woods and building my own hut and surviving on my wiles. Or living in a tree house. Or just a tree.

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

I was a super-fast runner. I ran everywhere. I knew that I was good at writing stories. I also knew that I was good at making things up, and was constantly involving my friends, cousins, and younger brothers in elaborate imaginary games or enterprises.

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

My best friend loved imaginary play too. She stood her own ground when I got too bossy. She was funny and gentle-spirited and up for any adventure. We climbed a lot of trees.



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What did you want to be when you grew up?

This will sound boring, but it's true: I wanted to be a writer. My back-up career plan was doctor.

What was your favourite book as a child?

Emily of New Moon. The picture books of Mitsumasa Anno.

What is your favorite pastime now?

I still love to read! I also love to run. And I spend a lot of time in imaginary worlds, because I am a fiction writer. Not a lot has changed, actually.

What do you find an absolute chore?

Waiting in lines. Sitting in traffic. Bureaucracy. Any situation that is entirely predictable.

If you could live anywhere, where would you go?

I love where I live. But I would love to live by the ocean.

What is the one talent you wish you had?

A perfect ear. I wish I could sing as easily as I can write.

What makes a good friend?

Tolerance. Longevity. An open mind. Kindness.

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

Midwife. Academic. Actor. Or I would have a horse farm.

What children's books have caught your attention lately?

For YA: I love Susin Neilson's. Picture books: Jon Klassen; Oliver Jeffers; anything by Marie-Louise Gay. Also *See You Next Year*, a simple story by Andrew Larsen with gorgeous prints by Todd Stewart.

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

Stay curious.

