

# The Petit Proust Questionnaire

from Owlkids Books

the  
ins!de  
track



## Meet author Natalia Diaz

**NATALIA DIAZ** is the former acting editor of *chickaDEE* magazine. This is her first published book. She is based in Toronto, Ontario. Find her on Twitter as @savvynatalia.



*A Ticket Around the World* will leave readers feeling like they've toured the globe without ever having left home. This informational picture book introduces readers to 13 different countries around the world.

978-1-77147-051-3  
\$17.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

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

As a kid, I loved telling stories and putting on shows for my family. I often conned my cousins into performing. Singing, dancing, and acting out our mini-novellas are among my favorite childhood memories.

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

When I was a child, I didn't like moving around. We moved a few times for my dad's work, and that was hard. Living in different countries can be exciting but lonely. It took some time getting used to new places and people.

### As a child, where did you dream of living?

Growing up in Argentina, I dreamed of living in America. All of my favorite movies and shows were set there, and everything seemed bigger and better somehow. My dream became a reality when I moved here at the age of 10.

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

When I was a kid, my parents encouraged me to try everything—from tap to soccer to art. I always had fun, but I never really excelled at any of them. My heart just wasn't in it. When I was older, I fell in love with canoeing. I went on to compete in war canoe (a type of canoe racing) all the way to provincial championships. It was the rush that got me: the anticipation; the whistle blow; then, suddenly, paddling harder than I ever had before. I was pretty good at that.

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

I was lucky to have many friends in school. The first few years when we moved here were hard, and I was bullied, but soon I learned the language, the culture, and how to interact with my peers. To this day, I look for friends who make me laugh and stand by me.



# The Petit Proust Questionnaire

from Owlkids Books



## What did you want to be when you grew up?

Since I was very young, I have liked the arts. Something about being creative drew me to film, radio, television, and later, writing.

## What was your favorite book as a child?

My favorite book as a child was the Spanish edition of *This Is How We Live in New York* by Hanne Tierney. It was published in 1982 and resonated with me because it was all about a Spanish family learning the ropes of New York life, and my family had recently moved there. I must have read it a thousand times. I probably still have it somewhere.

## What is your favorite pastime now?

I love watching and reading things that make me laugh. I also enjoy reading picture books. The visual richness and innocence associated with picture books is something I enjoy sharing with my family. It is a time for us to explore, discover, and learn together. I love that.

## What do you find an absolute chore?

I find pleasure in most things, but reading manuals and following recipes are pretty tedious. I prefer to figure things out as I go and get creative when I cook.

## If you could live anywhere, where would you go?

I would live somewhere close to water. I would have my own boat and have access to the best coffee shops, French bakeries, and gelato shops. I would also swim every day.

## What is the one talent you wish you had?

I have a musical ear but never learned an instrument and sometimes wish I had. I played the clarinet as a kid but was not very good. I can play the piano by sounding notes out, but I am hopeless with a guitar. My hands and my brain seem at odds when I play.

## What makes a good friend?

Someone who is funny and kind with a good heart. Or someone like my grandmother—selfless with a heart of gold.

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

I would be a teacher. It is a rare profession where you get to inspire and shape the minds of children. I find that fascinating.

## What children's books have caught your attention lately?

*Rosie Revere, Engineer* by Andrea Beaty does a fabulous job of breaking down gender roles and stereotypes about girls and science. We read it frequently in our household.

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

Dream big and reach for the stars. Happiness will follow.

