

ERICA S. PERL
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ericaperl.com

Experienced writing instructor and public speaker.
Award-winning author of more than forty books.
Writer, editor, and content creator.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Writing Instructor, Washington, DC, 2016-present

- **Faculty Member, Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program** (current)
- **Writing Workshop Leader, Aspen Summer Words** (Colorado, 2022)
- **Writing Workshop Leader, Faye Moskowitz Memorial Workshop** (Maryland, 2022)
- **Faculty Member, SCBWI 50th Annual Conference** (virtual, 2021)
- **Writing Instructor, The Writer's Center** (Maryland, multiple years)
- **Writer in Residence, American International School** of Lusaka, Zambia (2018).
- **Visiting Lecturer**, institutions including: *American University, Washington & Lee University, Univ. of Maryland, Frostburg State University, Shenandoah University*
- **Speaker/Presenter/Panelist** at national conferences, including: International Literacy Association (ILA), American Library Association (ALA), National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- **Visiting Author** at schools nationwide, in-person and virtual
- **Freelance Editor and Writing Coach** for private clients

Vice President, Publisher and Author Relations

First Book, Washington, DC, 2009 - 2016

First Book is a nonprofit social enterprise that has provided 225 million books and resources to children in need. As a VP, I served on the senior leadership team member and was responsible for developing, expanding, and leading the content team for the award-winning First Book Marketplace. In this role I:

- **Brokered and managed relationships** with major trade publishers (e.g. Penguin Random House, Harper Collins), and led my team in collaborative projects with major corporate funders (Target, KPMG), teachers' unions (AFT, UFT), and talent (Pharrell Williams, Julianne Moore).
- **Provided leadership** for the content expansion, curation, and content-based marketing of the **First Book Marketplace**, an ecommerce social enterprise serving educators.
- **Designed, launched and led The First Book Stories for All Project**, which provided a market solution to the need for diverse and multicultural children's literature.
- **Designed, launched and led First Book Authors and Illustrators in Action**, which motivated authors and illustrators to connect kids in need with resources.

Writer, Editor, and Content Developer

ESP Editorial, Boston, MA & Washington, DC, 2000 – 2009

My work focused on the following areas: **writing, editing, and developing content**, as well as **book doctoring** and **ghostwriting**.

- Client list included: **Harvard University, Abrams Books, Powderhouse Productions, Media Education Consultants, WGBH, Hooked on Phonics, Discovery Kids.**

Staff Attorney

The Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division, New York, NY, 1996 - 2000

Trial lawyer in a busy, urban public defender office. Represented clients from arraignment through disposition, incl. plea negotiations and trials; represented teenagers charged as adults.

PUBLICATIONS AND ASSOCIATED HONORS

Novels

White Bird: A Novel (with R.J. Palacio), middle grade novel, Knopf, 2023

All Three Stooges, middle grade novel, Knopf, 2018

The Capybara Conspiracy, middle grade novel, Knopf, 2016

Aces Wild, middle grade novel, Knopf, 2013

When Life Gives You O.J., middle grade novel, Knopf, 2011

Vintage Veronica, young adult novel, Knopf, 2010

Picture Books

Billy the Kid Makes It Big (with Dolly Parton), Penguin, 2023

The Three Little Guinea Pigs, FSG, 2023

When Carrot Met Cookie, Penguin, 2021

The Ninth Night of Hanukkah, Sterling, 2020

Ferocious Fluffity, Abrams, 2016

Totally Tardy Marty, Abrams, 2015

Goatlocks and the Three Bears, Beach Lane, 2014

King of the Zoo, Scholastic, 2013

Chicken Butt's Back! Abrams, 2011

Dotty, Abrams, 2010

Chicken Butt! Abrams, 2009

Ninety-Three In My Family, Abrams, 2006

Chicken Bedtime Is Really Early, Abrams, 2005

Chapter Books and Early Readers

Truth or Lie series (6 titles to date, Random House, ongoing)

Whale, Quail, Snail series (2 titles to date, Simon & Schuster, ongoing)

The Lucky Dogs (2 books, Penguin, 2020)

Arnold and Louise series (4 books, Penguin, 2019-20)

Craftily Ever After series (8 books written as "Martha Maker"; Simon & Schuster, 2018-21)

Lego Meet-A-(Profession) series (3 titles to date; Ameeet, ongoing)

Selected Writing Awards and Honors

- National Jewish Book Award for Children's Literature (***All Three Stooges***)
- Sydney Taylor Award silver medal (***All Three Stooges***) and two bronze medals (***The Ninth Night of Hanukkah***; ***When Life Gives You O.J.***)
- DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Fellowship (received annually, 2016 - 2022)
- DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Teaching Artist Grant (2021)
- TENT: Children's Literature fellow, Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA
- Fellow, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (multiple residencies)
- American Library Association Notable Book (***When Life Gives You O.J. audiobook***)
- State Book Award lists: FL, KS, MN, MS, VA, MA, VT, and RI (***All Three Stooges***, ***When Life Gives You O.J.***, ***Ferocious Fluffity***, ***Goatlocks and the Three Bears***, ***Arnold and Louise***)

- Annual Best Books Lists including NPR, Amazon, Slate, and Tablet magazine (***All Three Stooges, Aces Wild, When Life Gives You O.J., Ninety-three In My Family***)
- Reuben Award for Best Illustrated Book (***Ninety-three in My Family***)
- Profiled by the ***NPR's All Things Considered, Washington Post, Washingtonian*** magazine, ***DC*** magazine, ***International Literacy Association's ReadWriteThink*** podcast, ***WETA's Reading Rockets*** (incl. "***Raising Writers***" program), ***WAMU's Bookends***.

Additional publications

- Recent publication credits include ***Everything is different this year, so why not add a ninth night to Hanukkah?*** (Op-Ed; Los Angeles Times, 12/10/20), ***Writing in the Time of Coronavirus*** (Essay; SCBWI Bulletin, Fall, 2020), ***Love Stories in Thirteen Words*** (Modern Love podcast, New York Times / WBUR, 6/1/18)
- Also published in: ***The New York Times, Huffington Post, Slate, PBS.org***
- Author of two law review articles published in the ***Tulane Law Review***

EDUCATION

Tulane Law School, Juris Doctor (Order of the Coif; *Tulane Law Review* Board of Editors)

Hampshire College, Bachelor of Arts

Harvard University, continuing education

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Children's Book Guild of Washington, DC (**President**, 2021-2022)

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (**Fellowship Review Panelist**, 2019-present)

Temple Micah, Washington DC (**Board of Directors**, 2022-2025)

References available upon request.