

# Susan Lynn Meyer

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## Education:

Ph.D., English, Yale University, December, 1989.

M.Phil. and M.A., English, Yale University, December, 1985.

M.A., English, UCLA, September 1982.

B.A., English, Johns Hopkins University, General Honors and Departmental Honors, June 1980.

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## Teaching Positions:

Professor of English and Creative Writing, Wellesley College, Sept. 2004-present.

Associate Professor of English, Wellesley College, Sept. 1995-Aug. 2004.

Assistant Professor of English, Wellesley College, Sept. 1989-Aug. 1995.

Instructor, Wellesley College, Sept. 1988-Aug. 1989.

Fields of Specialization: Fiction Writing, Victorian Literature, American Literature, Women's Literature, Children's Literature.

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## Writing for Children:

### Novels:

*A Sky Full of Song*. New York: Union Square Books, April 2023. (Novel about a large family of Russian-Jewish homesteaders in the early 1900s on the North Dakota prairie.)

*Skating with the Statue of Liberty*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2016. (Novel about French Jewish war refugees in 1940s New York.)

*Black Radishes*. New York: Random House, 2010. (Novel about a Jewish boy in Nazi-occupied France.)

Published in Germany as: *Schwarzer Rettich*. Trans. Ulrike Nolte. Hamburg: Cecilie Dressler Verlag, 2011.

Published in China. Shenyang, China: Liaoning Children's Publishing House, 2016.

**Picture Books:**

*Nisha's Tree*. By Susan Lynn Meyer and Jaya Mehta. Illus. TBD. Minneapolis: Beaming Books. September 2024, forthcoming.

*Matzah Belowstairs*. Illus. Mette Engell. NY: Kar-Ben Books. February 2019.

*New Shoes*. Illus. Eric Velasquez. NY: Holiday House. February 2015. (About two African-American girls who find an inventive way to foil Jim Crow laws.)

*Matthew and Tall Rabbit Go Camping*. Illus. Amy Huntington. Camden, ME: Down East Books, 2008.

**Poetry:**

"Artist," *Ladybug* 31 no. 5 (February 2021), p. 8.

"Artist." In *Ladybug, Ladybug and Other Favorite Poems*. Ed. Paula Morrow. Chicago, Cricket Books, 2006, n. pag.

"Hand-Me-Down," *Highlights for Children* 61 no. 9 (September 2006), p. 38.

"Water Fountain," *Ladybug* 16 no. 9 (May 2006), p. 35.

"Spring Haircut," *Ladybug* 16 no. 8 (April 2006), pp. 20-21.

"Summer is Ending," *Cricket* 33 no. 1 (September 2005), p. 4.

"The Trees Are Greening," *Cricket* (March 2004), p. 4.

"In the Middle," *Babybug* 9 no. 10 (December 2003), n. pag.

"Slippers," *Babybug* 9 no. 8 (October 2003), n. pag.

"Artist," *Ladybug* 13 no. 9 (May 2003), p. 7.

**Plays adapted from my fiction:**

*New Shoes*. Performed by Book-It Repertory Theatre in Seattle. Adapted and Directed by Lamar Legend. 2018-19 Season.

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**Literary Awards and Residencies:**

Tent: Children's Literature Retreat. Yiddish Book Center, Amherst MA. May 2019.

Hedgebrook Residency, September-October 2018.

Norton Island Educational Foundation Eastern Frontier Writers' and Artists' Residency, July 2017.

**For *A Sky Full of Song*:**

P.J. Our Way Author Incentive Full Manuscript Award, April 2022.

P.J. Our Way Author Incentive Partial Manuscript Award, September 2021.

**For *Matzah Belowstairs*:**

P. J. Library Author Award, June 2018.

**For *Skating with the Statue of Liberty*:**

Massachusetts Book Award Must-Read Book, 2018.

Julia Ward Howe Award Finalist, Boston Authors' Club, 2017.

Bank Street College of Education Best Book of the Year, 2016.

Junior Library Guild Selection, 2016.

Sydney Taylor Notable Book, 2016.

**For *New Shoes*:**

New York State Reading Association Charlotte Award Winner, 2018.

South Dakota Prairie Bloom Award Nominee, 2017-18.

Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee, 2017-18.

A "Read On Wisconsin" Readers' Choice Master List Book, 2016-17.

Jane Addams Peace Association Book Award Winner, 2016.

A Massachusetts Book Award “Must Read” Book, 2016.

National Council of Teachers of English Charlotte Huck Honor Book for Outstanding Fiction for Children, 2016.

A 47<sup>th</sup> NAACP Image Award Nominee, 2016.

American Library Association Notable Book Nominee, 2016.

A Bank Street College of Education Best Children’s Book of the Year, 2016.

A National Council for the Social Studies-Children’s Book Council Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People, 2016.

An Illinois Monarch Award Readers’ Choice Master List Book, 2016.

A CCBC (Cooperative Children’s Book Center, University of Wisconsin School of Education) Choice Book, 2016.

“Highly Recommended,” *Kirkus Reviews*, 2015.

A Center for the Study of Multicultural Literature Best Multicultural Book of 2015.

A Chicago Public Library Best Picture Book of 2015.

A Teaching for Change Favorite Book, 2015.

A Mighty Girl Top Book for Younger Readers, 2015.

A Utah School Librarians Kiss the Book Top 50 Books for Elementary Age, 2015. Rated “Essential.”

A Teaching for Change Selection in Black History.

An Open Circle Curriculum Recommended Book for Social Awareness.

**For *Black Radishes*:**

Shortlisted for the 2013 South Korea Morning Calm Award.

Shortlisted for the 2013 Illinois Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award.

Sydney Taylor Honor Award (for distinguished work of Jewish children’s literature), January 2011.

A Bank Street College of Education Best Children’s Book of 2011.

Finalist for Massachusetts Book Award, 2011. A Massachusetts Book Award “Must-Read” Book, 2011.

A Boston Authors’ Club “Highly Recommended” Book, 2011.

A Pennsylvania School Librarians Association Young Adult Top 40 book, 2011.

**For poetry:**

Society for Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Magazine Merit Award for Poetry, 2005 (for the best children’s poem published in 2005), awarded to “Summer is Ending,” *Cricket*.

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**Scholarly Writing:**

**Books:**

*Imperialism at Home: Race and Victorian Women’s Fiction*. (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1996).

Ed., with Barbara Leah Harman, *The New Nineteenth Century: Feminist Readings of Underread Victorian Fiction*. (New York: Garland, 1996). Republished as an e-book in 2012.

**Articles:**

“Contamination, Modernity, Health, and Art in Edith Wharton and Willa Cather,” *Cather Studies* 10 (2015), pp. 164-183.

“Writing after *Anne*: L. M. Montgomery’s Influence on Canadian Children’s Literature,” in Jane Ledwell and Jean Mitchell, ed., *Anne around the World: L. M. Montgomery and Her Classic*. (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s UP, 2013), pp. 262-280.

“Sanitary Piggeries and Chaste Hens: Willa Cather and the Pure Food Movement,” *Willa Cather Newsletter and Review* 54 no. 2 (2010), pp. 38a-47b.

“The Fresh Air Controversy, Health, and Art in L. M. Montgomery’s Emily Novels,” in Jean Mitchell, ed., *Storm and Dissonance: L. M. Montgomery and Conflict* (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008).

“Coughing Girls in *The Song of the Lark*: Willa Cather, Breathing, and the Health of the Artist,” *Willa Cather Newsletter and Review* 50 no. 2 (2006), pp. 27a-30b.

“On the Front and at Home: Wharton, Cather, the Jews, and the First World War,” *Cather Studies* 6 (2006), pp. 205-227.

“Antisemitism and Social Critique in Dickens’s *Oliver Twist*,” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 33: 1 (2005), pp. 239-52.

“Imagining the Jews Together: Shared Figures in Edith Wharton and Henry James,” *Prospects* 29 (2004), pp. 231-49.

“Craniometry, Race, and the Artist in Willa Cather,” *Prospects* 27 (2002), pp. 341-358.

“Words on ‘Great Vulgar Sheets’: Writing and Social Resistance in Anne Brontë’s *Agnes Grey*,” in *The New Nineteenth Century*, ed. Barbara Leah Harman and Susan Meyer (New York: Garland, 1996).

“Writing More Than ‘Papa Lent Me This Book’: Charlotte Brontë, Gilbert and Gubar, and the Heterosexual Romance of Literary History,” in *Making Feminist History*, ed. William E. Cain (New York: Garland, 1994), pp. 135-151.

“Lynne Sharon Schwartz,” in *Jewish American Women Writers*, ed. Ann R. Shapiro, Sara R. Horowitz, Ellen Schiff, and Miriyam Glazer. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994. Pp. 376-386.

“‘Safely to Their Own Borders’: Proto-Zionism, Feminism, and Nationalism in *Daniel Deronda*,” *ELH* 60 (1993), pp. 733-758.

“In Anxious Celebration: Lewis Hine’s *Men at Work*,” *Prospects* 17 (1992), pp. 319-352.

“Charlotte Brontë’s African Tales,” *South Central Review* 8:4 (Winter 1991), pp. 28-40.

“Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*,” *Victorian Studies* 33:2 (Winter 1990), pp. 247-268. (Widely reprinted.)

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## Reprintings:

From “‘Indian Ink’: Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*,” in *Jane Eyre: Fourth Norton Critical Edition*, ed. Deborah Lutz (NY: Norton, 2016), pp. 488-505.

Excerpt from “Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*,” in *Women’s Search for Independence in Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* (Social Issues in Literature)*, ed. Claudia Durst Johnson (NY: Gale Cengage, Greenhaven Press, 2011), pp. 54-62.

“Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*,” in *Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, Updated Edition*, ed. Harold Bloom (NY: Infobase Publishing, 2009).

“Your Father Was the Emperor of China and Your Mother an Indian Queen’: Reverse Imperialism in *Wuthering Heights*,” in *Wuthering Heights: Modern Critical Views*, ed. Harold Bloom (NY: Chelsea House, 2007), pp. 159-184. [Chapter Three of *Imperialism at Home*.]

“Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*,” in *Jane Eyre: Modern Critical Views*, ed. Harold Bloom (NY: Chelsea House, 2006), pp. 43-74.

“Words on ‘Great Vulgar Sheets’: Writing and Social Resistance in Anne Brontë’s *Agnes Grey*,” in *The Brontës*, ed. Patricia Ingham (London: Longman, 2003), pp. 132-44. [reprinting of *New Nineteenth Century* article above.]

Combining Critical Perspectives: Susan Meyer, “Your Father Was the Emperor of China and Your Mother an Indian Queen’: Reverse Imperialism in *Wuthering Heights*,” in *Wuthering Heights: A Case Study in Contemporary Criticism*, ed. Linda H. Peterson (Boston and New York: Bedford St. Martin’s, 2003), pp. 480-502. [From Chapter Three of *Imperialism at Home*.]

Extract from Susan Meyer, *Imperialism at Home*, in *The Victorian Novel*, ed. Francis O’Gorman (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2002), pp. 325-330. [From *Jane Eyre* chapter.]

"Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*," in *The Nineteenth Century Novel: A Critical Reader*, ed. Stephan Regan (New York: Routledge, 2001), pp. 225-244.

From Susan L. Meyer, “Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*,” in *Post-Colonial Theory and English Literature: A Reader*, ed. Peter Childs (Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 1999), pp. 149-163.

“Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*,” in *Jane Eyre*, ed. Heather Glen (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1997), pp. 92-129.

“Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*,” in *The Brontë Sisters: Critical Assessments*, ed. Eleanor McNees (Mountfield: Helm Information, 1996), III, pp. 388-409.

“Colonialism and the Figurative Strategy of *Jane Eyre*,” in *Macropolitics of Nineteenth-Century Literature: Nationalism, Exoticism, Imperialism*, ed. Jonathan Arac and Harriet Ritvo (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1991), pp. 159-183.

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## Lectures / Appearances (selected):

Featured book at New York Historical Society, “Reading into History: *A Sky Full of Song*” in connection with the exhibit on “Acts of Faith: Religion and the American West,” September 22, 2023- February 25, 2024. <https://www.nyhistory.org/programs/reading-into-history-a-sky-full-of-song>

“Telling Our Stories / Writing Our Stories.” Hebrew College Educator Workshop. November 14, 2023.

Reading and discussion of *A Sky Full of Song* with Ladette Randolph and Chris Miller as part of the plenary panel “Creative Responses to the Work of Willa Cather.” 18<sup>th</sup> International Willa Cather Seminar. Greenwich Village, New York. June 21-23, 2023.

“Writing Memory” panel (on writing memoir and autobiographical fiction) with Marjorie Agosin, Wellesley Books, Wellesley MA. April 12, 2023.

“Trauma, Oral History, and *Black Radishes*.” Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA. April 2020. (Virtual talk by Zoom.)

“Reading Willa Cather in the Context of Prairie Survival Narratives.” American Literature Association Convention. Boston MA. May 2019.

“*New Shoes* and Civil Rights.” Jonathan Daniels Memorial Lecture. Keene, New Hampshire. May 2018.

“Small Moments, Large Resonances: Engaging Young Readers with History.” Massachusetts Reading Association, Quincy, MA. April 2018.

“Writing Our Cultural Mosaic.” Joint intensive (two hour) session with Terry Farish. New England Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Spring Conference. Springfield, MA. April 2017.

“How to Hear Voices in Your Head: Creating Vivid Characters Through Channeling.” New England Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Spring Conference. Springfield, MA. April 2017.

“The Legacy of Jane Addams,” Acceptance speech for the Jane Addams Peace Association Book Award, United Nations Plaza, New York, NY. October 2016

“History and Fiction.” Bar Harbor Book Festival, Maine. October 2015.

“Establishing Character through Setting.” Sherborn Writers’ Loft. October 2015.

“Willa Cather, Edith Wharton, and *Pure Water*.” Invited Plenary Lecture. 13<sup>th</sup> International Willa Cather Seminar. Smith College, Northampton MA, June 2011.

“Sanitary Piggeries and Chaste Hens: Willa Cather, *Pure Food*, and the Body of the Artist.” Invited keynote lecture for Willa Cather spring conference 2010, Food, Drink, and Willa Cather’s Writing, June 2010.

“Willa Cather, *Pure Food*, Ethnicity, and Sexuality,” Western Literature Association Conference, Boulder, Colorado, October 2008.



“Reading a Classic, Writing Like a Canadian: Jean Little, L. M. Montgomery, and Literary Influence,” Eighth International L. M. Montgomery Conference, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, June 2008.

“Thea and the Coughing Girl in *The Song of the Lark*: Willa Cather, Breathing, Health, and the Artist,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers, Philadelphia, November 2006.

“The Fresh Air Controversy, Health, and Art in L. M. Montgomery’s *Emily* Novels,” Seventh International L. M. Montgomery Conference, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, June 2006.

“A Son at the Front and the Jew at Home: Wharton, Cather, the Jews, and the First World War,” Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, April 2006.

“Race and Medicine in Willa Cather’s *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*,” International Cather Seminar, Red Cloud and Lincoln, Nebraska, June 2005.

“Willa Cather and the ‘Fresh-Air Cranks,’” International Cather Seminar, Bread Loaf, Vermont, May 2003.

“Cranio-metry, Race, and Art in Willa Cather’s *The Song of the Lark*,” International Cather Seminar, Nebraska City, Nebraska, June 2000.

“Sleeping with the Enemy: Jews, Sex, and Edith Wharton,” MLA Convention, Washington, D.C. 2000.

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### **Academic Honors and Fellowships:**

Academic Visitor, Somerville College, Oxford University. Hilary and Trinity terms, 2012.

Newhouse Fellow, Wellesley College Newhouse Center for the Humanities, 2007-8.

Bunting Fellow, Radcliffe College, 1992-93.

Kirby Award (best article in *South Central Review*), 1992.

Woodrow Wilson Foundation Women’s Studies Fellow, 1988-9.

Mary Cady Tew Prize, English Department, Yale University 1983.

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### **Community Outreach:**

Read to a Child Read Aloud Mentoring Program, Harmony Grove Elementary School, Framingham, MA.

Many author visits to local and non-local elementary and middle schools and libraries.