

Jacqueline Houtman

Science Writer

Children's Author

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Jacqueline has speaking experience at elementary schools and international scientific conferences, in lecture halls and in highly interactive programs. She is available for school and library visits and other speaking engagements, either in person, or “virtually” from her Madison, Wisconsin home.

Our kids were engaged and excited by Dr. Houtman's presentation. She did an awesome job getting them interested in reading and science in one swoop!

--Beth Carreno, Education Coordinator
Bookworm Gardens, Sheboygan, WI

Ms. Houtman made writing a real life, understandable and doable process. I highly recommend Ms. Houtman as a presenter. Her presentation was the most engaging of any book talk I have heard.

--Paula Bauch, Teacher
Randall Elementary School
Madison, WI

Free Virtual Skype Visits

20-30 minute Q&A for groups
that have read the book

The Reinvention of Edison Thomas

(Front Street/Boyd's Mills Press)

Tofte/Wright Award for Children's Literature

Cited for Outstanding Achievement by the WLA
Read On Wisconsin!

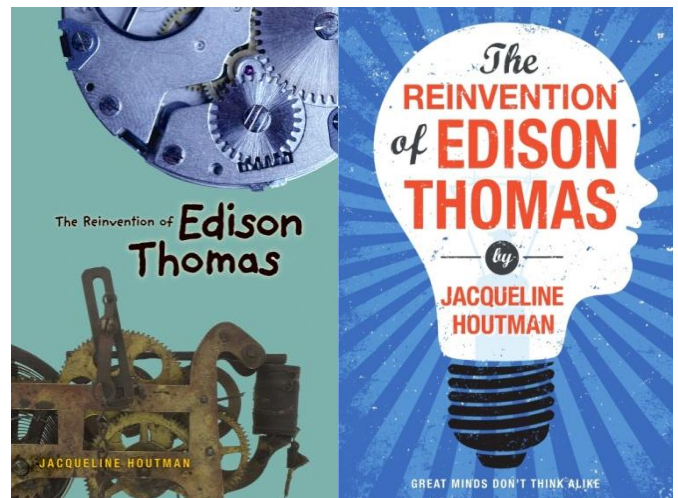
Kansas State Reading Circle

NYSRA's Charlotte Award Suggested Reading List

Charlie May Simon Award Reading List

Garden State Children's Book Award Reading List

CCBC Choices



* **starred review** "...this book deserves a place on every elementary and middle school shelf." *Library Media Connection*

"The author. . . lets her love of science shine through Eddy." *GeekDad (wired.com)*

". . .this novel's real strength is Eddy's gradual understanding of true friendship." *Booklist*

"...The author has a particularly engaging way of tracking Eddie's thought processes" *Kirkus Reviews*

"...the quirky humor and authentic characters should have wide appeal." *Publishers Weekly*

"Sprinkled with science facts . . . the narrative will have readers cheering for the misfit kid." *The Horn Book Guide*

Recent Presentations and Workshops

How to Write, Revise, Revise, Revise, and Publish a Book

The emphasis is on...you guessed it...revision. I show some of my techniques for brainstorming and organizing ideas, editing, copyediting, page proofs, and so on. I show how cover art is developed with five versions of the cover of *The Reinvention of Edison Thomas*. I also read a passage from an early draft and the final version of that same passage to show how it had changed.

Target audience: Upper Elementary to Middle School.

Not in So Many Words: Make Your Manuscript Lean and Mean

Concise writing, where every word counts, is important for any kind of writing, and especially in writing for children. In this session, we'll look at ways to tighten up a bloated manuscript, whether it's fiction or nonfiction, picture book or YA novel. We'll start with the big picture (is this chapter really necessary?) and work down to the word level (using one strong word instead of two or three weaker words). We'll look at issues like narrative structure and flow, showing vs. telling, voice, setting, exposition, and trust in the reader. We will work together on exercises to practice trimming the literary fat.

Target audience: Writers from upper elementary to adult

Sciency Fiction: Not Just the Facts.

Sciency Fiction is fiction in which accurate, non-speculative current science is integral to the story. It can be a bridge to fictional narrative for those students who read primarily non-fiction and a bridge to science for those who prefer novels. I share some examples of sciency fiction and talk about how authors include science in their fiction. I can also share ways to use sciency fiction in the classroom.

Target audience: Upper elementary to middle school students, teachers, librarians, science lovers.