

## Jane Resh Thomas

### Biography

Certification as registered nurse 1957

B.A. majors in English, minors in history and classics 1967

Baby boy 7 pounds 4 ounces, 21 inches 1970

M.A. in English 1971

Minneapolis Tribune children's books reviewer and columnist twenty-five years

Writing teacher forty years

Author of fifteen books for children

### I Am Happy to Work with Students in the Following Genres/Areas:

My books include a biography, novellas ("chapter books"), middle-grade novels, historical novels, realistic novels, picture books, and an illustrated storybook. Although I have studied poetry, I have not written it.

### Other Things to Know About Me as an Advisor

My heart is with students who have committed themselves to the MFA discipline; doing so must be difficult under the best of circumstances, and the work, for both student and coach, is grueling. I hope my students will not only learn more about writing but their work with me will fortify their confidence.

I hang onto a stanza from "Last Night as I Was Sleeping," a poem by Antonio Machado, translated by Robert Bly: "Last night as I was sleeping/I dreamt—marvelous error—/ that I had a beehive/ here inside my heart./ And the golden bees/ were making white combs/ and sweet honey/ from my old failures." Kate Di C had these words worked into a rug for me.

One of my worst faults is that I lose things. One of my strengths is flexibility: when students and I have butted heads (twice in the ten-plus years I've taught in MFA programs) the reason has been that the students were adamant about writing incredible action so extreme as to make me fall over laughing. If I'm late in returning work because of illness or emergency, the student's due date is extended.

### Some Books of Mine:

*The Comeback Dog* (Clarion).

*Celebration* (Hyperion).

*Lights on the River* (Hyperion).

*The Counterfeit Princess* (Clarion).

*Blind Mountain* (Clarion).

*Behind the Mask: The Life of Queen Elizabeth I* (Clarion).

Novella

Picture book

Illustrated story

Historical novel

Novella, realism

Biography