



# About Alexis O'Neill



**ALEXIS O'NEILL** is the author books for young readers. Her fiction includes *The Recess Queen* (Scholastic), a bully book; *The Worst Best Friend* (Scholastic) a story about friendship and forgiveness; *Estela's Swap* (Lee & Low) about generosity; *Loud Emily* (Simon & Schuster) a tale about being yourself. Her nonfiction includes *The Kite That Bridged Two Nations: Homan Walsh and the First Niagara Suspension Bridge* (Calkins Creek/BMP); *Jacob Riis Camera: Bringing Light to Tenement Children* (Calkins Creek/BMK); and *The Efficient, Inventive (Often Annoying) Melvil Dewey* (Calkins Creek/BMK).

Alexis has also written fiction and nonfiction for *Cricket*, *Spider*, *Cobblestone*, *Calliope*, *Faces*, *Odyssey*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Children's Book Review Magazine* and *Writer's Digest*.

A former elementary school teacher with a PhD in Teacher Education from Syracuse University, Alexis teaches writing for the UCLA Extension Writers' Program and was a Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators in California. Alexis has also worked as a museum education consultant for the Erie Canal Museum, Onondaga Historical Association, the Everson Museum of Art, the Ventura County Museum of History & Art and the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Alexis established and chaired the annual Children's Book Week Celebration in Simi Valley for the Simi Valley Friends of the Library, providing programs for over 12,000 students each year. A board member of the Ventura County Reading Association, she has been honored by the California Reading Association with the Dr. Marcus Foster Memorial Award for making significant and outstanding contributions to reading throughout California.

A popular presenter, Alexis visits students all over the country, sharing the joy of language. Through the years, she has provided advice on school visits through her column for the SCBWI Bulletin called, *The Truth About School Visits* to encourage quality, successful practices among authors & illustrators. You're invited to visit her at [www.alexisoneill.com](http://www.alexisoneill.com).

**California Young Reader Medal Nominee  
Eureka! Honor Award for Nonfiction from the  
California Reading Association & California School Library Association**

***The Kite That Bridged Two Nations:  
Homan Walsh and the First Niagara Suspension Bridge***  
*A suspenseful picture book for older readers of how an ordinary boy  
earned an extraordinary place in history just by flying his kite.*

