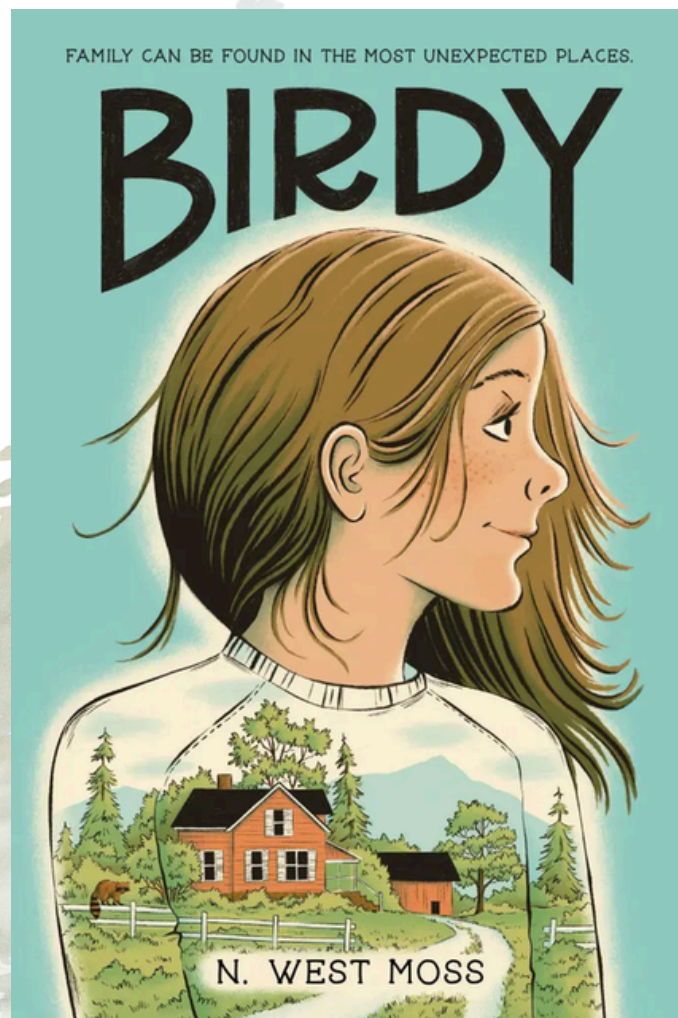


“*Birdy is spectacular. I was hooked from page one and fell in love with the entire cast of quirky and unforgettable characters, including the animals. Readers will applaud Birdy as she feels her way through the aftermath of her mother’s death.*”

Ann M. Martin, author of the Newbery Honor Book *A Corner of the Universe* and *The Baby-Sitters Club* series

N. WEST MOSS SCHOOL VISIT RESOURCE PACKET



GET READY FOR AN AMAZING AUTHOR VISIT !

Author visits are a great way to increase reading engagement and inspire students to improve their own writing skills. Not only will children be able to learn about new books, but meeting an author they have been viewing on the back of a book has enough star power to help kids get excited to read. Having a signed copy makes kids treasure their books and view them as special!

How to prepare for a visit:

- In the month leading up to the visit, hype up the day of the author visit and post a countdown!
- Closer to the date, a week before, carve out a small piece of time to show the kids the author's photo and introduce their book covers. Read the synopsis together, maybe even a small snippet of the book. Check out the resources on the author's site and share a video greeting.
- The days before the visit are the perfect time to have the students write cards or a letter to the author! This is great practice for their own writing skills, and also will get them even more excited by writing or drawing creatively (and authors love this!)
- The day of the visit, have students be involved in the author visit. Create and color a welcome banner, select a student to introduce the author, maybe assign a helper for book signing set up!
- Encourage engagement, build school community, and allow students to feel the opportunity and responsibility of welcoming a guest into their space for a really meaningful enrichment and learning experience.

Fostering excitement builds anticipation and makes reading fun!
Kids immersed in a positive reading culture will treasure core memories of meeting an author in real life! **I cannot wait to meet your incredible students!**

Thank you for making this possible.

Get in Touch



scoutandhuck@gmail.com



<https://nwestmoss.com/>

WEST MOSS SCHOOL VISIT GUIDELINES

Tech requirements:

Connection and projection capabilities for
a PC laptop/thumb drive
OR advance upload of the presentation link by the school.
Either works!

Sales minimums: 30 copies for unpaid visits

In-Person Scheduling: Max 2 visits/talks back-to-back on the same day.
Itineraries and driving distances must be submitted and approved
1 full week in advance for final approval and calendar integration.

Promotional/unpaid visits are capped at 45 minutes,
including presentation and Q&A.

(Note: Paid visits are longer in duration
and include writing workshops; contact for details and pricing)

In person formats:

20 min PowerPoint presentation, 10 min of Q and A,
& 10 min of interactive writing exercise.

Virtual visits:

I am ALWAYS happy to coordinate virtual/live streamed visits with
bookstores and schools not in my area!



WEST'S SCHOOL VISIT RESOURCES

Author [Video Greeting](#) for Host Schools

Author Website:

www.nwestmoss.com

Presentation Powerpoint File for Download

[Google Drive Link](#)

Birdy Book Talk Video from West [Vimeo Link](#)



[Kid Lit TV "Storymakers"](#) Interview Feature

Educator & Author Colby Sharp ["Birdy Book Talk" Reel](#)

Illustrator Carrie Shryock's ["Making of a Book Cover"](#)



About West Moss

N. West Moss is the author of the memoir *Flesh and Blood: Reflections on Infertility, Family, and Creating a Bountiful Life* (Algonquin, October 2021). Her essays and short stories have appeared in *The New York Times*, *McSweeney's*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*, among many other publications.

She lives in New Jersey and currently teaches writing at Montclair State University. While she comes from a well-known kid lit family, *Birdy* is her first book for children.

 FOLLOW

@nwestmoss

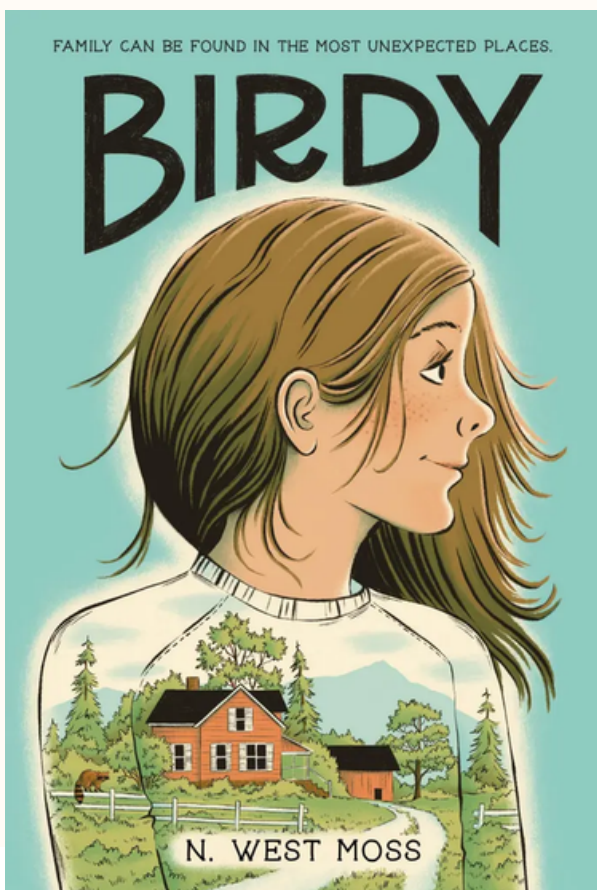


FUN FACTS FOR KIDS ABOUT WEST!

- ✓ When West was a little girl, her family had 2 dogs, 6 cats, 2 rabbits, 10 chickens, and a pet deer named Flag!
- ✓ For her day job, West now teaches creative writing and literature to college students.
- ✓ Today, West lives next door to a farm that has 100 chickens and 2 Alpacas.
- ✓ When West was about Birdy's age, she met the real life Patches and Fingers. The real-life Patches had 2 babies named Rags and Tatters.
- ✓ Just like Birdy, West has lived in New York City and in Upstate New York. She loves them both.
- ✓ West's father, Lloyd Moss, wrote children's picture books, including *Zin!* *Zin! A Violin!*
- ✓ West's favorite snack is popcorn.
- ✓ When she was in high school, West was on the swim team.
- ✓ Birdy wears a sweatshirt that says George School on it. West put that in the book because, when she was in high school, she went to George School, and loved it.



Childhood West, Age 6



Introducing *Birdy*

After the death of their mother, Birdy and Mouse are forced to start over in this debut novel about discovering where you belong—for fans of *Forever This Summer* and *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*.

Eleven-year-old Birdy and her younger brother, Mouse, have always looked out for each other. They make the perfect team: Birdy is realistic and practical, while Mouse is affable and trusting. After their mother dies of cancer, Birdy and Mouse are forced to move out of the city to the country with relatives they've never met. Aunt Mitzie and Uncle Shadow's house is full of organized chaos, and it takes Birdy time to adjust to having adults around. But the kitchen is always stocked, and both kids are allowed to play outside as often as they want. There's only one problem: it's all temporary. Their social worker has promised to find them a permanent home by the next school year, whether they want to leave or not. As the summer unfolds, Mouse starts to feel attached to their new life. But Birdy knows better—adults have never been reliable. When Birdy's fears get the best of her, she makes a big mistake that could jeopardize their future.

Ages 10 - 14 years * 288 pages

Christy Ottaviano Books

HC: 9780316446419 * \$17.99



REVIEWS & PRAISE FOR *BIRDY*

* "First-time novelist Moss' nuanced portrayal of mourning, paired with richly drawn characters, creates a deeply affecting read....This resonant story celebrates the healing power of connection and the hope found in chosen family."—*Booklist*, starred review

* "Moss's debut for young readers stands out from the crowded shelf of novels about orphaned children by remaining refreshingly soothing and calm. . . A required purchase for elementary school and middle grade libraries and a story to hand any child with a soft heart."
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"Moss does an excellent job of bringing the readers into the protagonist's thoughts ... an emotionally complex portrait of a tween at a turning point in her life, offering readers a cathartic and engrossing narrative experience."—*The Horn Book*

"A grieving tween plans for the worst in this emotionally raw upper middle grade debut...Sensitive language addresses the myriad challenges the protagonist faces, making her efforts to traverse processes of bereavement and change both understandable and heartbreaking."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Moss presents a gorgeously imperfect narrator who, after years of being a caretaker, must learn to be a kid and a member of a family with loving adults. The messiness of grief is handled with delicacy and compassion, especially in Birdy's feelings of relief when she no longer has to deal with her mother's illness, despite loving and missing her terribly."
—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*



BIRDY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Clay teaches Birdy and Mouse how to appreciate the natural world. Is there someone in your life who has taught you to enjoy new things?
- Birdy learns how to use her diary to work out how she feels about things. Do you use writing in that way?
- Mouse says that giving a thumbs up is his “thing”. Do you have a ‘thing’ – a kind of signature move or passion that defines you in some way?
- How does Birdy change over the course of the book? Is she different at the end than she is at the beginning?
- How does Birdy see herself differently than how others see her?
- Which is your favorite character, and why?
- Clay is a person that people trust. In fact, even a skunk goes to him to get help. What is it about Clay that makes people, and animals, trust him? Do you know anyone in your life who is trustworthy in the way that Clay is?
- Birdy and Mouse are nicknames for May and Michael. If you could give yourself a nickname, what would it be?
- In some ways, Birdy is about ‘found family’ – a group of people who support one another outside of a biological family. Do you have people you’re not related to but who feel like part of your family anyway?
- If this book were made into a movie, who would you cast in the leading roles?

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BEST VISIT EVER . . .

Dear Teachers and Librarians:

I am writing to thank you.

"For what?" you ask.

Well, for one thing, I am a middle grade author, and it is through you that my books find their way to readers.

Of course, the real reason for my gratitude goes way beyond that. You and I both know what reading can provide for children. Besides increased language skill, vocabulary, and confidence, reading is a path to empathy, to community, to meaning, and even to independence.

Librarians and teachers have changed my life. They have always been a safe harbor for me, a place where I have felt seen and listened to. My third-grade teacher, Mrs. Gloger, died when I was in high school. I wasn't old enough yet to have thanked her properly for being my safe harbor. She used to let me sit in the back of our classroom during recess so that I could work on a play I was writing.

In my next book, there is a character named Mrs. Gloger, and guess what? She's a librarian. My thanks to Mrs. Gloger are late, but is no less heartfelt. So thank you for all that you do.



*Yours,
West*

THANK YOU FOR SHARING MY BOOKS WITH YOUR READERS!