



Detailed Biography

Barbara O'Connor was born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina. “I have fond and vivid memories of lazy childhood summers, eating the boiled peanuts my grandmother made from the peanuts in her garden, picnicking in the Smoky Mountains, and catching crawfish and minnows in the creeks near my house.”

After graduating from the University of South Carolina, Barbara headed west to Southern California. After taking a class in writing for children at UCLA, she was hooked. A few years and more than a few rejections later, she sold her first children’s book and has been writing ever since.

Barbara left sunny California for snowy New England, where she spent 26 years before returning to the South. She currently lives with her two dogs in Asheville, North Carolina, surrounded by the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. She spends her days drawing on her childhood memories to create her stories, settings and characters.

Barbara’s award winning novels for children include *Wonderland*, *How to Steal a Dog*, and the *New York Times* bestseller, *Wish*. In addition to seven Parents Choice Awards, Barbara’s distinctions include School Library Journal Best Books, Kirkus Best Books, Bank Street College Best Books, and ALA Notables. She has had books nominated for children’s choice awards in 38 states. Barbara is a popular visiting author at schools and a frequent speaker at conferences around the country.