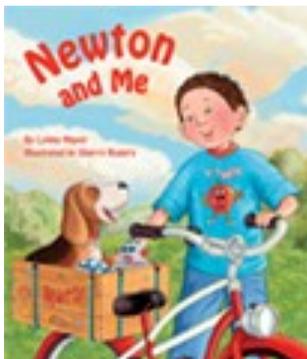


A Conversation with Lynne Mayer author of *Newton and Me*



How did you get the idea to write *Newton and Me*?



I wanted children to understand that science is really a part of our everyday lives, not just a subject we learn about in school.

When did you become interested in writing?

I used to write stories for my children when they were young. They would also dictate their stories to me, and I would type the stories into the computer for them. After I printed the stories, my children would illustrate them.

When are you most creative?

I often get ideas for stories or artwork I want to do while out taking a walk. It gives me time to think without the distractions found at home or in the office.

What is some good advice you would give to parents about educating their children?

I think that it is important for children to recognize that the subjects they learn in school relate to their everyday lives. Parents can point out to children how subjects like math and science are a part of life.

What is most rewarding and/or challenging about writing children's books?

Although it is easy to find examples of Newton's laws all around us, it is more difficult to explain some of the more abstract concepts. For example, a child can understand that the gravitational

force of the Earth pulls us towards its center, but it is harder to understand that all objects with mass have gravitational pull, because that force is so small we don't feel it. And since we don't live in a frictionless world, the idea that an object that is moving will continue to move forever if no outside force is applied, is hard to understand as well. It seems to go against our experience.

What is it that you like most about Physics?

I like physics because it is clean and logical. How the world works can be described with physics using the language of mathematics. It makes sense

Want to continue this conversation? Schedule an interview!

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