



# A Conversation with Robin Currie

Author of  
*Tuktuk: Tundra Tale*

*When did you become interested in writing?*

From about age 8, but the inability to spell (from dyslexia) made it onerous so I set it all aside until my mid 30s when corrector tape was invented. Now with spell check I am positively productive! And, I have lots more stories to tell!

*What was your incentive to write this particular book?*

I love stories where the little guy beats out the big ones by using his brain and wit!

*what was most rewarding and/or challenging about writing Tuktuk?*

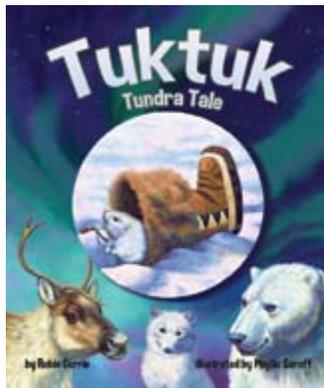
Tuktuk almost did not exist! His original story was trite, no character names and merely lucky chance that the lemming gets what he needs for the winter. Thanks to the repeated assistance of my critique group, The Write 6, he has developed wit and humor, and he is ready to be made into a plush toy!

*When are you most creative?*

February is Chicago's worst weather so it is also

Picture Book Month. Many authors strive with each other's support to frame 26 stories in 28 days. I save interesting articles or fun facts all year and haul them out in February. Then I have 11 more months to edit them. So, 20% inspiration, 80% perspiration!

*What do you hope children gain from reading this story?*



The issue of self-esteem is at the heart of the trickster story where the little guy wins by virtue of his wit and brains rather than brute strength. As a dyslexic, I know the challenge it is to see the world at a disadvantage and always look for ways around. We have no problems - only opportunities as Tuktuk proves. I have spent my life working with and for children in a variety of settings and seek to bring out the unique gift in each one.

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Email: [PR@ArbordalePublishing.com](mailto:PR@ArbordalePublishing.com)

Phone: (843) 971-6722