

LAURA NUMEROFF

Well-Known
Children's
Author

INTRODUCTION

- *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* is one of Numeroff's most popular books (it was rejected 9 times before being accepted)
- Had a childhood dream to be a writer
- Loved *Stuart Little* by E.B. White and *Eloise* by Kay Thompson
- After briefly pursuing a career in fashion, she followed her childhood ambition to write

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Laura's
Early Life
and Career

EARLY LIFE

- Grew up in Brooklyn, NY
- Youngest of three girls
- Father was on the art staff of World Telegram & Sun (a major Newspaper in NY)
- Mother was a Jr. High home economics teacher
- Surrounded by an enriching family, love for reading developed early
- One of her favorite possessions was her library card



EARLY LIFE

- She studied Fashion in college, but took a class about children's writing during her final semester
- In this class she was required to write a children's book which was published after four rejections
- It was about the tallest girl in third grade
- This began her career as a writer



EARLY CAREER

- Numeroff was always an avid reader
- She always checked out the maximum number of books she could at the library
- Loves all genres of books
- She wrote and illustrated books when she was young
- Takes great pride in the fact that all the publishers that published her favorite books as a kid have all published her books as well (HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, and Random House)

CURRENT LIFE



- Lives in Los Angeles, CA with her cats
- Rides horses often
- Still reads and **WRITES!**

APPROACH AND PURPOSE OF WRITING

- She never TRIES to convey a certain message, but writes for herself and her imagination
- She wants kids to love reading, hopes her books can be enjoyed by many and encourage kids to love books
- “It’s one of the scary things about technology: for parents there’s still nothing like settling down, cuddling and reading to their kids”
- Tries to put books into the hands of children who are underprivileged (First Book organization)

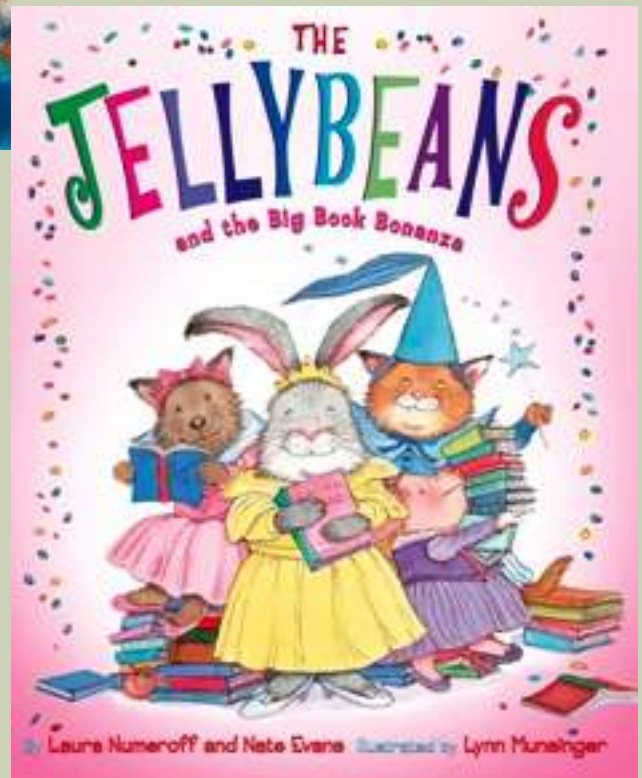
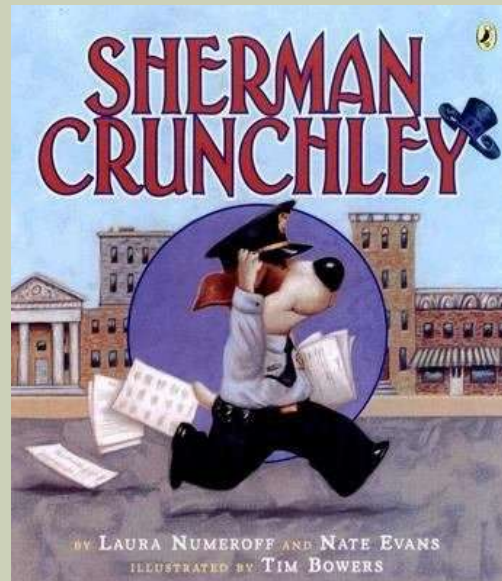
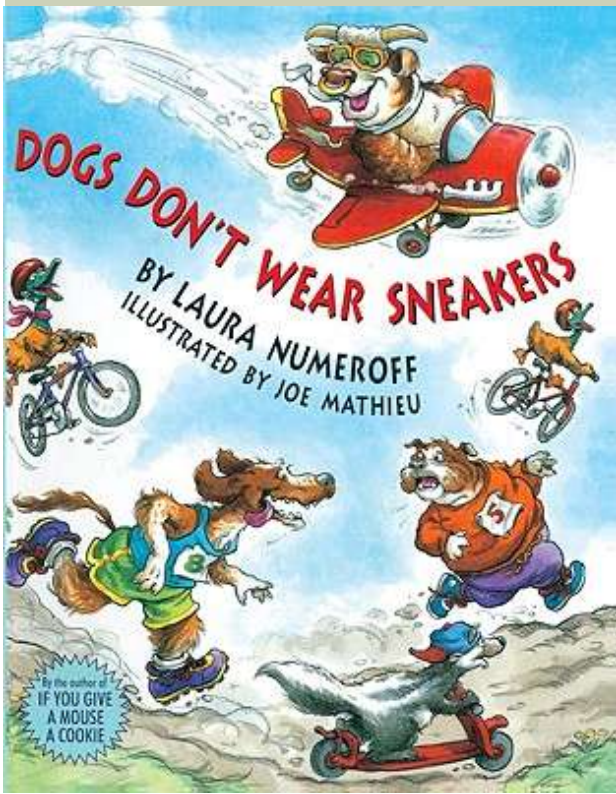
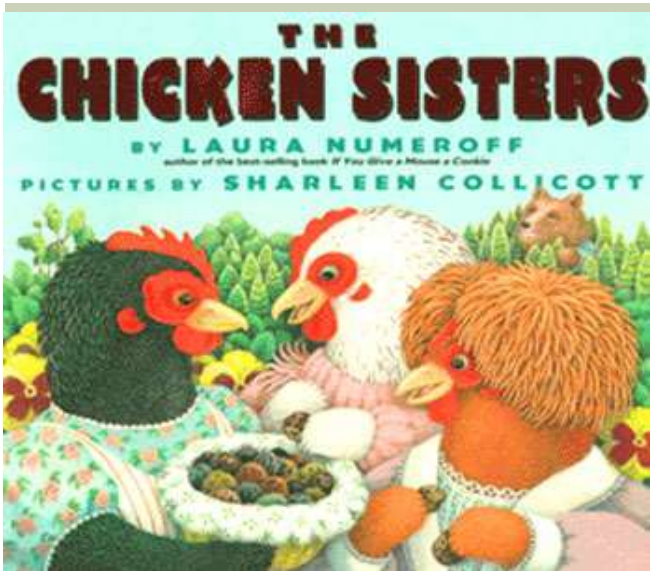
NUMEROFF'S BOOKS

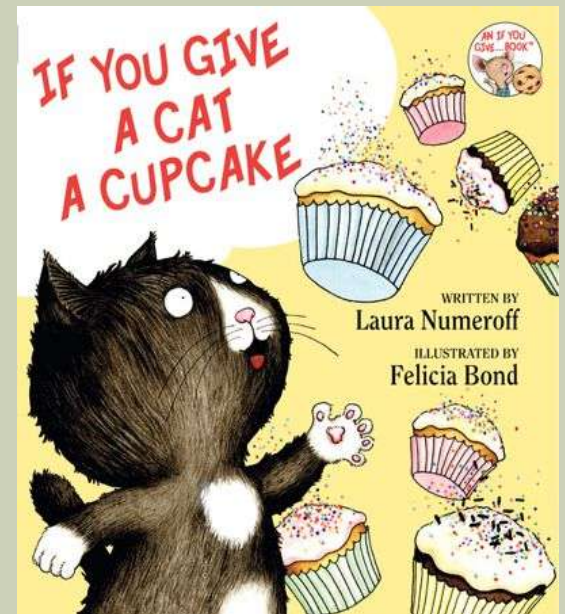
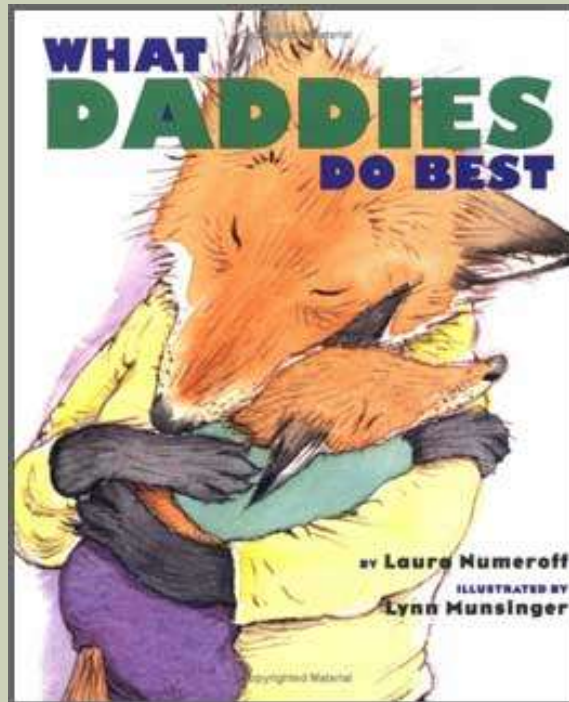
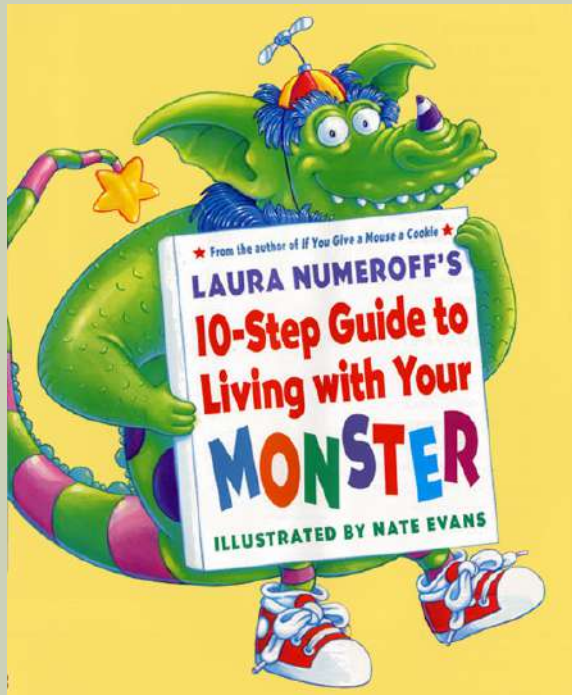
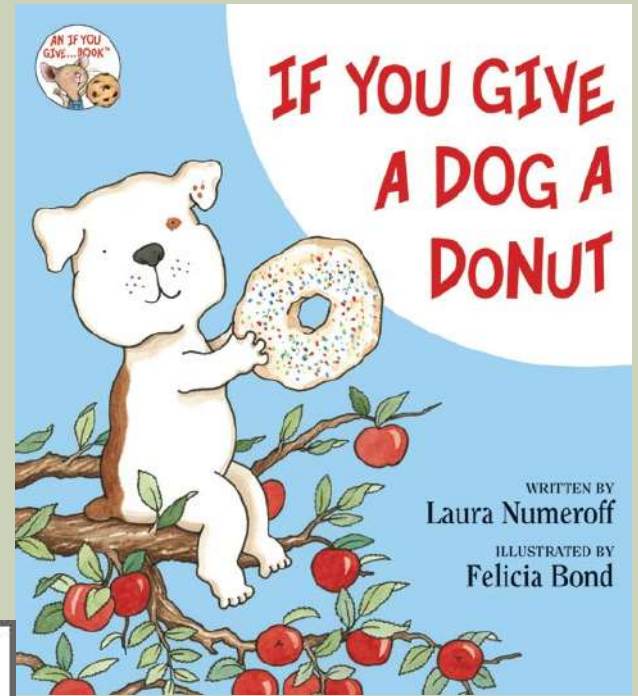
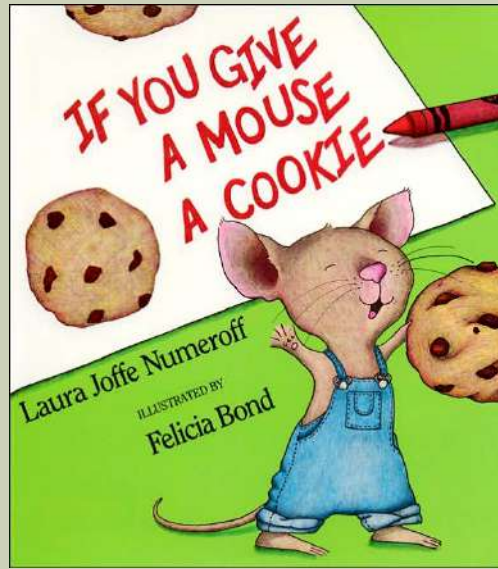
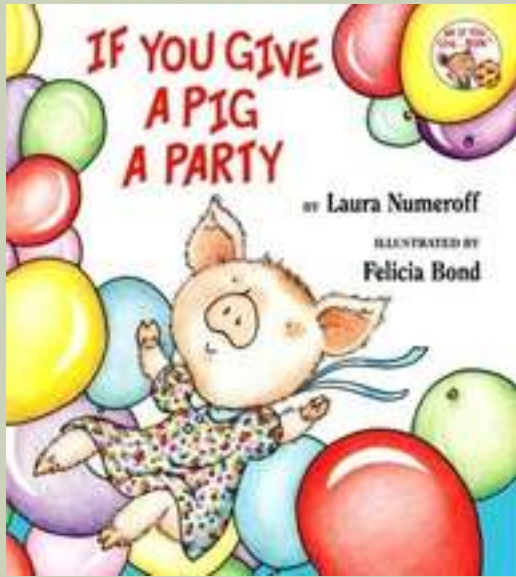
LAURA'S ILLUSTRATIONS

- As an assignment in college, Laura wrote and illustrated a children's book that went on to get published. She started out as both an illustrator and a writer.
- Laura illustrated her first nine books herself. After book number nine, she stopped illustrating her books because she wasn't as passionate and interested in illustration as she was in storytelling and writing (January Magazine). When she wrote *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* her editor advised her to allow Felicia Bond to illustrate the book. Laura agreed, and when the best-selling book became a series, Bond continued to do the illustration.
- Felicia Bond is known for her vibrant water colors and cute characters, both of which can be found in the "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie..." series.
- Author and illustrator Lynn Munsinger illustrated the "What _____ Do Best" series and *Beatrice Doesn't Want to go to School*. She is known for her colorful, water color illustrations.
- Laura's boyfriend at the time illustrated her books *10 Step Guide to Living With Your Monster* and *Monster Munchies*.
- Although Laura's books have featured numerous illustrators, almost all her books are bright, colorful, have cute, whimsical characters and are done using water colors.

LAURA'S ILLUSTRATIONS

- *The Chicken Sisters* illustrated by Sharleen Collicott
- *Two For Stew* illustrated by Barney Saltzberg and Sal Murdocca
- *The Hope Tree* and *Why a Disguise* illustrated by David McPhail
- *Sometimes I Wonder Do Poodles Like Noodles?* Illustrated by Tim Bowers
- *Dogs Don't Wear Sneakers* and *Chimps Don't Wear Glasses* illustrated by Joe Mathieu
- *Sherman Crunchley* illustrated by Nate Evans and Tim Bowers





LITERARY CRITICISMS

- “There’s nothing complicated or particularly philosophical about author Laura Numeroff’s approach to writing her best-selling children’s books. She doesn’t set out to convey a specific message, preferring instead to amuse herself as she roams her “silly imagination.”

-Andy Jones North Kitsap Herald Special

- “Any kid who's dealt with an exasperated adult is sure to appreciate Laura Joffe Numeroff's If You Give a... series, where children take on semi-parental roles with unexpected, demanding animal guests. Numeroff is an expert at silly situations, catchy verses and stories that absorb and engage.”

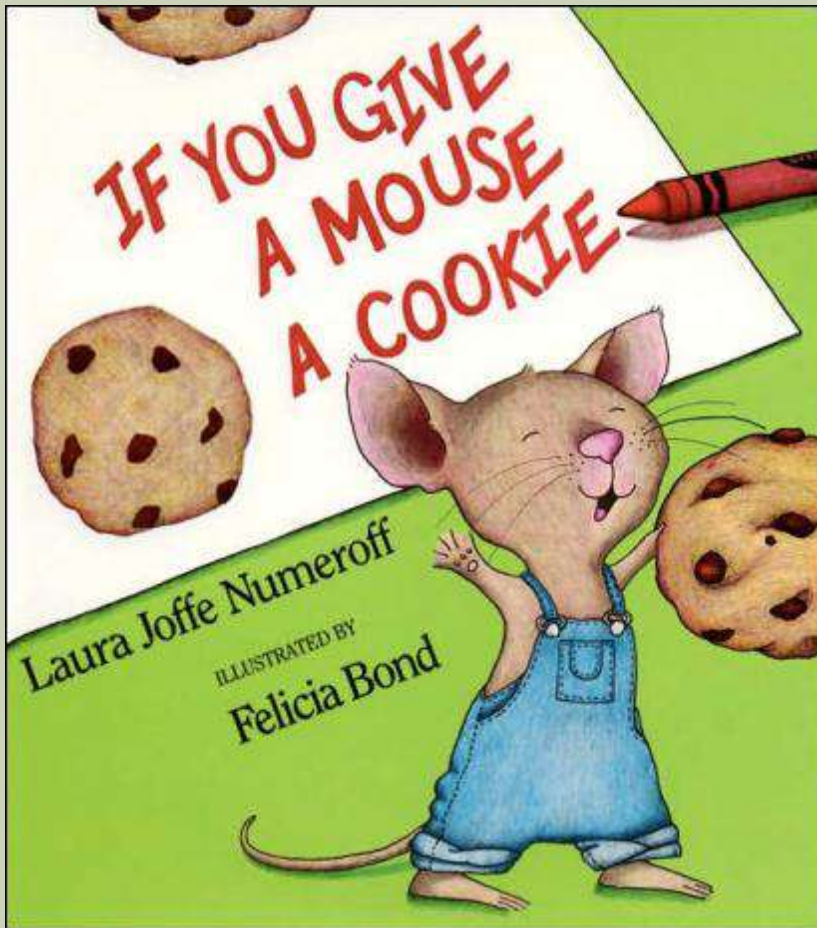
-Barnes & Noble

- "Beatrice’s expressions are priceless. . . . This charming tale emphasizes the importance of finding the right book for the right reader." — SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (Beatrice Doesn’t Want To)

AWARDS RECEIVED

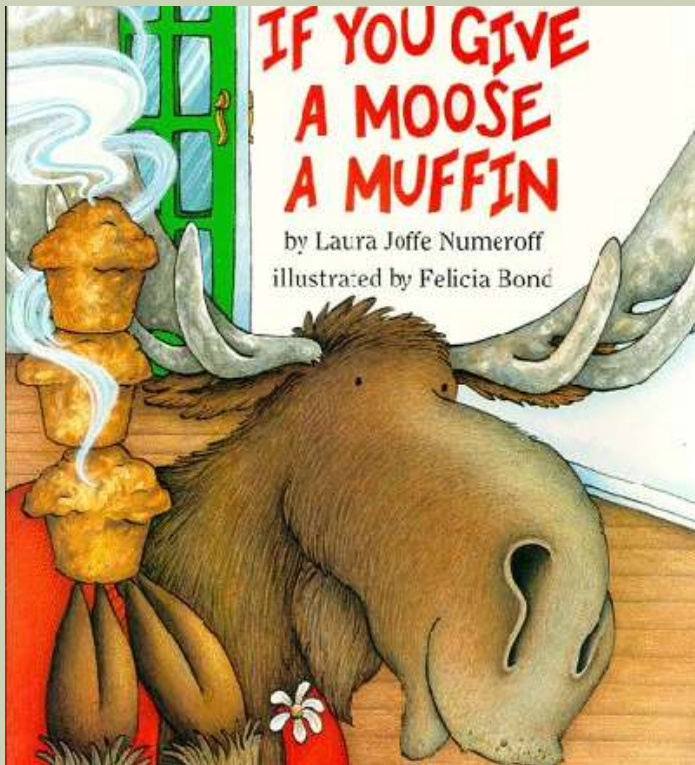
- 2007 THE MILNER AWARD (Atlanta, GA)
- 2006 QUILL AWARD - IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PARTY
- 1986 ALABAMA YOUNG READER MEDAL
- 1987 CALIFORNIA YOUNG READER MEDAL
- 1988 COLORADO BOOK AWARD
- 1988 GEORGIA CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK AWARD
- 1988 NEVADA YOUNG READER AWARD
- 1989 OHIO BUCKEYE CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD
- READING RAINBOW FEATURE SELECTION

IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE



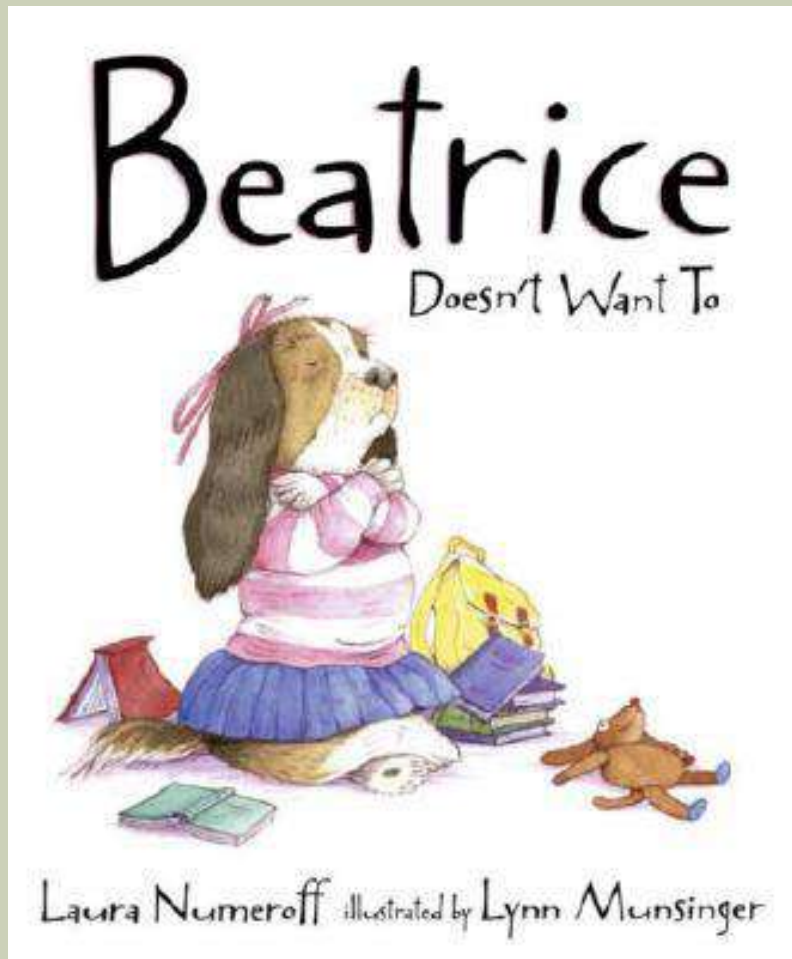
- Point of View: 2nd/3rd person
- Setting: Boy's house
- Characters: Mouse, Boy
- Theme: Every action has some sort of consequence.
- Plot: A boy decides to give a mouse a cookie and in result, ends up giving the mouse many other things after the cookie.

IF YOU GIVE A MOOSE A MUFFIN



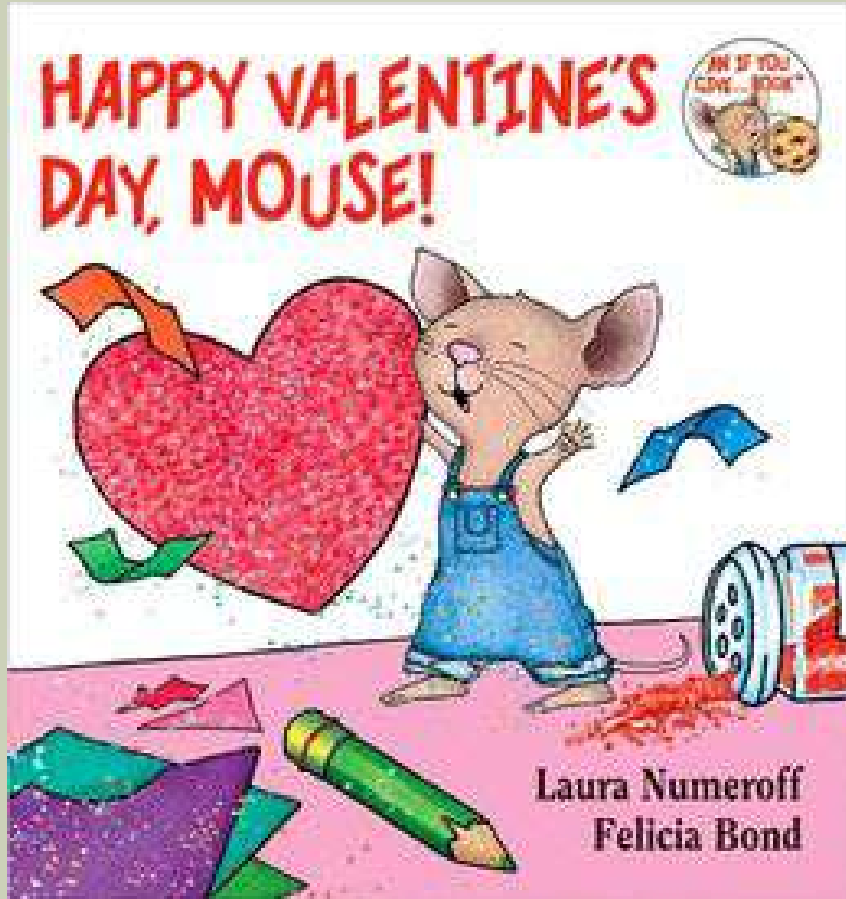
- Point of view: 2nd/3rd person
- Setting: The moose's home
- Characters: the moose, the young boy
- Writing Style: narrative
- Illustrations: The illustrations are done using water color. They are very colorful and show a lot of action, face expression and details.
- Plot: When the young boy in the story gives Moose a muffin, he soon wants more muffins. This requires the boy to go to the store, which reminds Moose he needs to wear a sweater because it's cold. The sweater reminds Moose he needs to sew a button on, which reminds him to make sock puppets, and so on. Somehow each event in the story reminds Moose of something else he has to do that day. The story goes through each event Moose does that day, until finally in the end Moose is back to wanting muffins again.

BEATRICE DOESN'T WANT TO



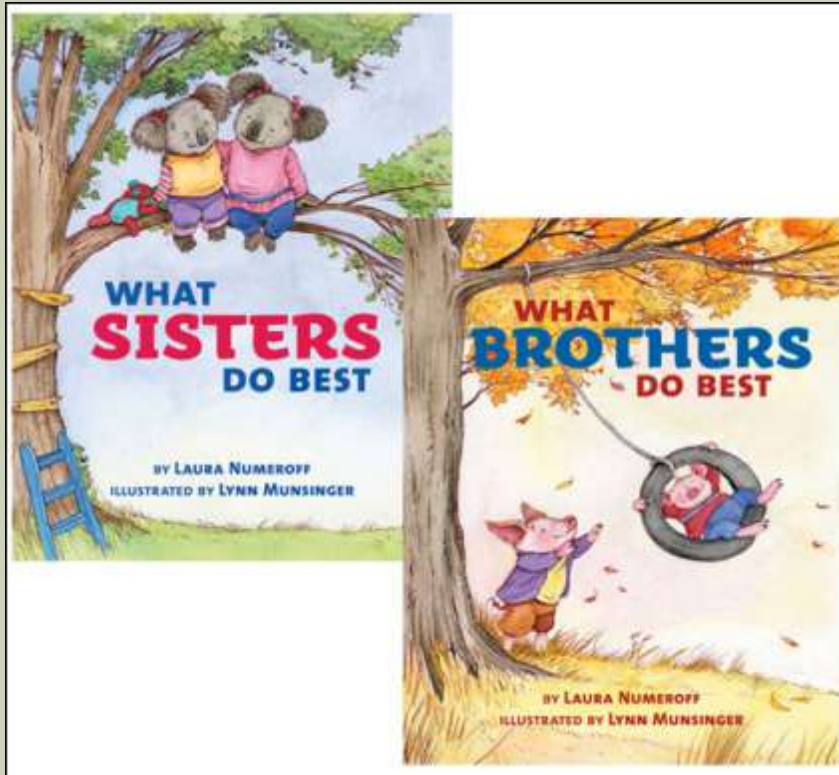
- Point of View: First person
- Setting: Local Library
- Characters: Beatrice (main character), Henry (brother)
- Theme: Reading can spark the imagination through the connection of finding the right book for the right reader.
- Plot: Beatrice doesn't like books or libraries until on one forced visit with her brother she discovers the children's room.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY MOUSE!



- Point of View: 3rd person
- Setting: Mouse's house
- Characters: Mouse, Pig, Moose, Cat, Dog, Bunny, Fox
- Theme: Valentines Day is special because you can share it with all your close friends.
- Plot: Mouse is excited to make a valentines day card for each of his friends who have special talents.

WHAT BROTHERS/SISTERS DO BEST



- Point of View: Second Person
- Setting: Many different locations (outside, home, the park...)
- Characters: A brother and a sister (a variety of different animals used)
- Theme: Siblings can help you do lots of things.
- Plot: No real plot since no conflict really exists. Many situations are given where the sibling helps (clean room, do puzzles)

CONCLUSION

- Laura Numeroff has proved to be very successful with over 30 different books published during her career so far.
- Her titles grab your attention and most involve animals which children enjoy
- She has created a variety of themes that many of her books seem to fall under.
 - If You Give...
 - What _____ & _____ Does Best
 - _____ & _____ Don't Wear

Her books are just FUN to read!

SOURCES

- <http://januarmagazine.com/profiles/primages/numeroff.htm>
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- <http://www.shelfari.com/authors/a16828/Lynn-Munsinger/>
- http://lauranumeroff.com/books/work_in_progress.htm
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laura_Numeroff
- <http://www.northkitsapherald.com/entertainment/103737874.html>

For more information, Check out her website at:

<http://lauranumeroff.com/>