



For Children Ages 4 to 8  
Lexile: 820

**By Valarie Giogas**  
**Illustrated by Katherine Zecca**

Hardcover: 978-0-977742-31-8, \$15.95  
Paperback: 978-1-607188-71-1, \$9.95  
Downloadable ebook: 978-1-607180-19-7  
Read-aloud ebook: 978-1-607182-65-8

***En mi jardín trasero***

Paperback: 978-1-628553-71-0, \$11.95  
Downloadable ebook: 978-1-934359-54-9  
Read-aloud ebook: 978-1-628550-96-2

**在我的后院里**

Paperback: 978-1-607183-94-5, \$11.95  
Downloadable ebook: 978-1-607184-00-3  
Read-aloud ebook: 978-1-628552-01-0

Recommended on **Martha Stewart Living Radio's Kidstuff** show as a "Best Spring Book!"  
The segment was broadcast on March 6, 2007 and is part of SIRIUS radio.

"Parents and teachers will appreciate the book's purpose, but the kids will enjoy the rhymes and the pictures. They won't care about the science or math that they're learning through osmosis" - *BookPleasures.com*

"The author of this picture book educates and entertains her readers in several fronts. Her book is a counting book, a portrait of commonly seen backyard animals, and she also shows her readers what the different babies are called." - *Through the Looking Glass Children's Book Review*

## **Baby dogs are puppies,**

and they belong to a litter; what is a baby skunk, and what is the name of its group? *In My Backyard* is a clever, rhythmic story that tells us just that! Counting from one to ten, familiar backyard animals are introduced by baby and family group name. Each stanza also tells a bit more about each animal by providing clues as to what they eat, how they sound or where they live.



Arbordale Publishing would like to thank to Sherry Crawley, Director of Education at Zoo Atlanta, and to Helen Fischel, Associate Director of Education at the Delaware Nature Society, for verifying the accuracy of the information in the book. Children, parents and teachers will enjoy the information in the "**For Creative Minds**" educational section that includes:

- Animal counting and match to "hiding" spot activity
- Animal fun fact cards for sorting or "memory" game
- A "Make a Nature Scrapbook" craft

There are also "**Related Websites**" and "**Teaching Activities**" on our website to help parents and educators extend the learning possibilities!

## About the Author and Illustrator

**Valarie Giogas** and her family live in a suburb of Boston, MA. The idea for *In My Backyard* came when her son was in preschool. They drove by a gaggle of geese and he would giggle when she told him the group name. Then, when the geese had goslings, the book came to life. A member of the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Valarie has also written articles for *Hopscotch Magazine*. Valarie and her family live in a suburb of Boston.



### **If you weren't a children's author, what would you be?**

"When I was younger, I was a competitive figure skater. I always thought that would be my future. Today, I love being a mom and author. The fact that I can combine the two with my love of children's literature is a dream come true. I've always wanted a job that had something to do with kids. I was a teacher briefly, but when I went home, I would still be in teacher mode all the time. It got to be too much. I also dreamed of working for a toy company in product development or testing. How fun would it be to get paid to play with toys or games all day?!"



*In My Backyard* illustrator **Katherine Zecca** was presented a national award for her illustration of a historical poster celebrating the 125th Anniversary of NOAA Fisheries, and she continues to illustrate for the Smithsonian's National Zoo. This is Katherine's second picture book; she wrote and published a book about the Atlantic Puffin for Down East Books. Katherine currently lives outside of Seattle, WA, and teaches nature journaling and sketching across the country.



## Contact Information

For additional information on *In My Backyard* and other Arbordale books, please contact our sales team by calling 843-971-6722 or e-mailing [Orders@ArbordalePublishing.com](mailto:Orders@ArbordalePublishing.com).

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