

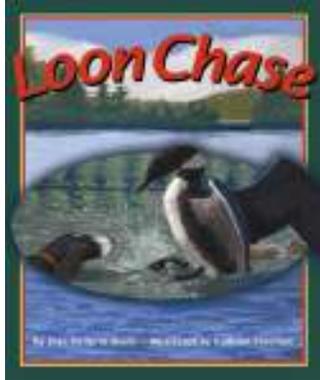
# *A Conversation with Jean Heilprin Diehl, author of *Loon's Chase*!*



## **What inspired you to write *Loon Chase*?**

I am fascinated by loons. I was also inspired by a lifetime of experiences on lakes in Maine and New Hampshire and the exploits of a memorable English Springer Spaniel—a champion swimmer about whom many tales could be told, from three continents.

## **What do you hope children will learn from your story?**



I hope the book conveys how amazing it is to experience a moment close to a wild creature. I tried to convey the majesty of the loon, whose existence depends on human stewardship of wild habitats. I hope the book makes kids think about the importance of preserving wildlife habitats in the face of increased development, warming, and other human threats. I also hope the book lets kids think about the similarities and differences between wildlife and domesticated pets they may be familiar with from home or school; about the simple pleasures of spending a summer afternoon on a lake; and about how people and animals

sometimes do things that you cannot stop or prevent.

## **What are the most frequently asked questions you encounter as an author?**

I am frequently asked what I am working on at the moment. The answer is that I am usually working on more than one book at a time.

## **What sparks your creativity?**

I am often drawn to unexpected juxtapositions: they are everywhere!

## **What has writing taught you about yourself?**

I never expected to live in Buenos Aires, London, Warsaw, or Jerusalem, yet those are all places that life has taken me to for long periods. Likewise, I never expected to write

about loons, fireflies, or a host of other subjects I've found myself researching. So writing has shown me something that Wendell Berry writes about in his essay, 'Poetry and Marriage: The Use of Old Forms '(1982). He says: "in life, in the world, we are never given two known results to choose between, but only one result that we choose without knowing what it is." That's what happens when a writer selects certain subjects and not others, certain words and not others, and embarks on a story. I have also learned that I often figure out what I am trying to say only after I have said it; that I hate first drafts and love revision.



**Want to continue this conversation?** Schedule an interview!

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