



Meet Gail Gibbons

Some authors like to weave beautiful language together with facts. Instead of creating nonfiction books, they write literary nonfiction. This is a type of writing that is based on fact but tells a story. One famous author who writes in this manner is Gail Gibbons.

Gail was born in Oak Park, Illinois and was a very curious child. She became interested in books at a young age and would put together her own books in a creative way. At four she wrote her first book which she put together with yarn. When her kindergarten teacher recognized a talent in art, her parents signed her up for art lessons.

She attended the University of Illinois where she studied graphic design. When she graduated, she began doing artwork for television shows. She then moved to New York to work on the artwork for a children's show.

At one point, some children asked her if she ever thought of doing a book. She thought this was a great idea because of how much she loved making books as a child. As a result, Gail wrote her first book, Willy and his Wheel Wagon.

Her writing now requires her to find out facts about many different topics. She has found that it is best to get her information right from the source. Gail will often travel across the country to find the facts she is searching for. She loves getting to travel and meet people while she is researching for her books.

A very successful author, Gail has published over 170 books. She has illustrated over 100 books. Because of her writing ability, she has earned the Washington Post Children's Book Guild Award. This award was given to her for her contribution to nonfiction for children.

Gail is married to Kent Ancliffe. Together they have two adult children, Rebecca and Eric. Her daughter has two kids named Greta and Lorenzo. Gail also has two pets, a dog named Wilbur and a cat named Tigger.

Today she spends most of her time in Corinth, Vermont where she owns a farmhouse surrounded by sugar maple trees. (And even uses these trees to make maple syrup for the company she owns with her husband and friend: Goose Green Maple Syrup Company.) Other times she can be found at her cottage on Matinicus Island off the coast of Maine. This home was the inspiration for a book she wrote about Christmas on an island.

Her curiosity about the world when she was younger and her love of art have combined to make her a very successful literary nonfiction author and illustrator!