



## Barbara Reid Q&A

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Barbara Reid is a picture book author and illustrator whose award-winning stories are illustrated with artwork created with plasticine. She has written and illustrated over a dozen picture books. Barbara is a member of the Order of Canada and has been the Honourary Chair of *Family Literacy Day* since 2016.

**Q. Of all the books you have written, which is your favourite?**

As with my kids, it's impossible to have a favorite! I am always the most excited about the next book – the one in my imagination.

**Q. What is your process for creating your plasticine illustrations?**

Sketch & plan picture; make & fix mistakes! Spread clay on board, model and add texture to build up the picture. Photograph the final.

**Q. What do you think makes a good story?**

Stories with characters or setting that pull me in make me want to visit the story again, and again, and again...

**Q. Are any of your stories based on your children or people you know?**

Many! Daughters Zoe & Tara star in *The Party*; *Perfect Snow* is inspired by a real snow fort; *Subway Mouse* is based on a real mouse.

**Q. What is your favourite family learning activity?**

Walking outdoors, spotting wildlife and birds, talking and looking at the sky.

**Q. Do you have advice for writers (young and old) who might want to write their own story?**

Keep a notebook, write often, read your work out loud, join a writing group or class, enter contests, and read, read, read!

**Q. What tips can you share for parents to help encourage their children to read?**

Get a library card, visit the library together, learn together how to find books about things that interest the child. Most important: read aloud, every day!

**Q. How can parents and children learn at play every day?**

Have fun with chores like counting, sorting, list making. Add songs & rhymes to activities, play I Spy on walks. Be curious, observe, share.

**Q. If you could be anywhere right now, doing anything, what would you be doing and where?**

Reading in a tree house.

**Q. What is your all-time favourite story?**

*The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter. It has a mischievous hero, thrilling chase and a happy ending.