

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where were you born?

In Pennsylvania! But, as Lee Smith says, I moved to North Carolina quick as I heard about it. (I was one year old then.)

2. What was your family like?

Noisy! There were ten of us. 4 boys, 4 girls, 2 parents. We usually had a cat or a dog but they lived outside because we didn't have extra room inside. Also because my mom believed that's where animals belonged.

3. Where did you go to school?

Mtn. View Elementary (1st –8th grades. There was no kindergarten back in the day.) I also graduated from Fred T. Foard High School and Lenoir Rhyne University. I studied Art at Catawba Valley Community College and James Madison University.

4. What jobs have you held?

I've taught special education in North Carolina public schools, drama classes in a summer camp, literature to homeschool support groups, and I've even had a few cleaning jobs.

5. Where have you traveled?

I love this question. I've been to Hawaii, Germany, Belgium, Lithuania, The Czech Republic, Ukraine, Canada, Nigeria and a bunch of the United States. Also, Texas which apparently thinks it's a whole other country.

6. What unusual jobs have you held?

While in high school I drove a school bus. Back in the day, North Carolina hired student drivers. (The buses were set so they wouldn't go very fast!) I also did cleaning on a farm for show horses.

7. Why did you write BLUE?

Before going to a writing workshop, I received an assignment to research a local story. I discovered a 1944 polio epidemic in Hickory, North Carolina. I fell in love with the story and decided to incorporate that into the life of a fictional character.

8. How many books have you published? Seven.

- *Best Friends Forever* (now out of print)
- *Aim*
- *Blue*
- *Comfort*
- *Drive*
- *Equal*
- *Healing Water* (in E-book only)

9. How many books have you sold?

Um, I don't know. I could look that up, I suppose. But anyway - not as many as Jeff Kinney or Cynthia Lord.

10. Are you rich?

Yes and No. The no part is that I haven't spent my life trying to make a lot of money and being an author rarely makes a person rich. The yes part is that I feel rich in all the things that matter. I have a strong happy family, good health, and many friends. Also I have strong coffee and dark chocolate. And my Christian faith!