



## Author Spotlight — Wendy Haynes



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### Wendy Haynes: Author

***Wendy, the situation you describe in your book, of children delaying bedtime, is one that will be familiar to many parents and children. You have said that the story was inspired by your grandson, Hayden. Why was it important to you to write this story?***

I wrote this story for my grandson first but as most parents and carers know, bedtime isn't an easy time of the day. So, it's for everyone who has little people in their home. My aim with this book is to make bedtime a fun experience and bring laughter into it.

***What does your grandson think of the story, how does he respond to it and what is his favourite part?***

Hayden was so excited to have a book that features him and his dad. For years Hayden went through a stage of loving multiple books read to him at bedtime. He does enjoy my book, and others, and he knows how special it is.

***Do you like the way Brett Curzon has illustrated your story?***

I love illustrations in my book. Brett Curzon has done an excellent job in adding to the telling of the story.

***Does Hayden in the story look like your Hayden?***

One of the things I did when collaborating with Brett was to send him several photos of my son Clint, and Hayden. He then sent back a few roughs, which I loved, and we went from there.

***What is your favourite illustration?***

My favourite illustration is where dad and Hayden are in a tree – I love the colours and the fun that image evokes.

***Hayden’s Bedtime is your first picture book. Are you planning to write any other picture books, especially books about Hayden?***

I have got plans to write a few more picture books about Hayden but would probably try to have them traditionally published.

***What do you use to write – pencil and paper or computer?***

The majority of my writing is done on the computer in my office at home. When I first start a picture book of poem, I first start with pen and paper, and when I’m satisfied with most of it, I continue writing the story on the computer.

***When do you write?***

I’m an early bird and the most of my writing is done by about 7:30 in the morning. But if I have a self-imposed deadline, I’ll have several writing sessions throughout the day.

***How would you like parents and teachers to present Hayden’s Bedtime to children?***

Hayden’s Bedtime has many aspects to it that address the school curriculum, and has teacher notes available on my website. But in essence it’s about nurturing children and making them feel happy and safe at bedtime.

***Do you have any advice for children as writers?***

Last year I offered a free writing workshops over a school term for children aged 9 – 12 years, and I told them worry about the spelling and grammar later, it can always be fixed; just focus on storytelling.

