

Children's Author Janet Lawler Milford, CT Background

Janet Lawler's family and her love of nature has been the inspiration for much of her writing. She was born and raised in Milford, Connecticut, where she and her older sister cared for chickens, dogs, rabbits, ducks and a large vegetable garden. During bountiful summers they staffed a small roadside produce stand. An avid reader, Janet often biked two miles to the town library to check out several books at a time. Back home, she would climb an old apple tree in her backyard to read in the shade. Janet's parents, Hilda and Frank Lawler, still reside on West River Street in Milford.

Janet attended West Main Street, Orange Avenue and Mathewson grammar schools. She graduated from Milford High School. After college, she returned to work as Voluntary Action Coordinator for the City of Milford, under a one-year federal grant program. Thereafter, she taught City of Milford Recreation Department tennis lessons for a summer before attending law school. For one law school summer job, she worked in the Milford City Attorney's Office. She practiced law in private practice and corporate settings in the Hartford area for fifteen years.

She often draws on her experiences in Milford when writing. Her first published piece, a short story entitled *Eating Fish Makes You Smart*, is based on childhood fishing trips to Gulf Beach with her father.