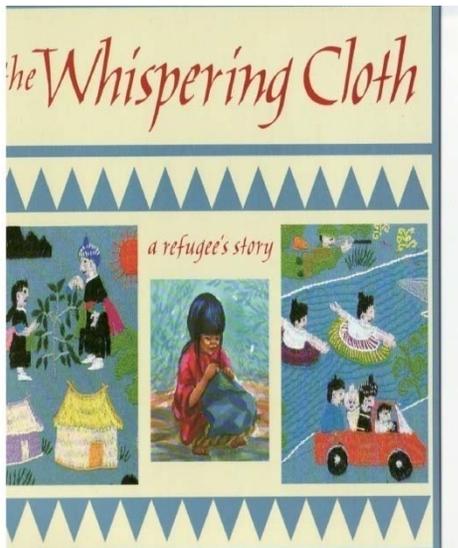


Children's Author and Illustrator Book Talk

Author Talk on: *The Whispering Cloth*

Thursday, March 4, 2010
10:30 a.m. 3rd floor auditorium

San Diego Public Library/Central Library/Youth Services
820 E Street
San Diego, CA 92101
619-236-5838



About the Book

The book tells the story of Mai, a Hmong girl who has lived in a refugee camp with her grandmother since fleeing the family's home in Laos. Despite her impoverished circumstances, Mai is rich in the traditions of her people and she learns from other women in the camp how to create a Hmongese *pa'ndau*, or story cloth. Hoping that the sale of the cloth to tourists will earn her family enough money to leave the camp and join relatives in the United States, Mai decides to detail the events of her short life, from her early childhood, the murder of her parents, and her flight through the Mekong carried by her grandmother, to her current life in the camp and her hopes for a brighter future. Illustrated with an actual pa'ndau cloth stitched by Thai refugee You Yang

[Link to Flyer](#)

About the Author - Pegi Deitz-Shea



Jock since birth.
Poet since 1968
Journalist since 1979
Teacher of various skills since 1980
World Traveler since 1982
Publicist since 1984
Wife since 1986
Mother since 1990
Children's Book Author since 1991
Softball & Soccer Coach since 1995
Lifelong dog lover, thus pooper scooper

Other Books by Author

- *Bungalow Fungalow*
- *The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee's Story*
- *I See Me!*
- *Tangled Threads: A Hmong Girl's Story*
- *The Carpet Boy's Gift.*
- *Liberty Rising: The Story of the Statue of Liberty.*
- *Patience Wright: America's First Sculptor and Revolutionary Spy*

About the Illustrator



Anita Riggio has published nearly two dozen picture books, all of which she has illustrated. She teaches in the low-residency MFA Program in Creative Writing at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, and is a sought-after presenter at schools and conferences. Anita and her husband live on a cove in Connecticut where they raised their two grown children.

Books that She Illustrated and Wrote:

- *The Whispering Cloth*
- *Beware the Brindlebeast*
- *Secret Signs: Along the Underground Railroad*
- *Coal Mine Peaches*
- *Wake up, William!*
- *Dad Gummit & Ma Foot*

Curriculum Link

[Curriculum Activities from *The Whispering Cloth*](#)

Discussion Toolkit

[Teaching Guides](#)