Sharon Creech

Autobiography adapted from [www.sharoncreech.com](http://www.sharoncreech.com)

I was born in South Euclid, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, and grew up there with my noisy and rowdy family: my parents (Ann and Arvel), my sister (Sandy), and my three brothers (Dennis, Doug, and Tom).Our house was not only full of us Creeches, but also full of friends and visiting relatives.

In the summer, we usually took a trip, all of us piled in a car and heading out to Wisconsin or Michigan or, once, to Idaho. We must have been a very noisy bunch, and I’m not sure how our parents put up with being cooped up with us in the car for those trips. The five-day trip out to Idaho when I was twelve had a powerful effect on me: what a huge and amazing country! I had no idea then that thirty-some years later, I would recreate that trip in a book called Walk Two Moons.

One other place we often visited was Quincy, Kentucky, where my cousins lived (and still live) on a beautiful farm, with hills and trees and swimming hole and barn and hayloft. We were outside running in those hills all day long, and at night we’d gather on the porch where more stories would be told. I loved Quincy so much that it has found its way into many of my books—transformed into Bybanks, Kentucky.

When I was young, I wanted to be many things when I grew up: a painter, an ice skater, a singer, a teacher, and a reporter. It soon became apparent that I had little drawing talent, very limited tolerance for falling on ice, and absolutely no ability to stay on key while singing. I also soon learned that I would make a terrible reporter because when I didn’t like the facts, I changed them. It was in college, when I took literature and writing courses, that I became intrigued by story-telling. Later, I was a teacher (high school English and writing) in England and in Switzerland. While teaching great literature, I learned so much about writing: about what makes a story interesting and about techniques of plot and characterization and point of view. I started out writing novels for adults. Walk Two Moons was the first of my books to be published in America. When it received the Newbery Medal, no one was more surprised than I was. I’m still a little bit in shock. I hope to be writing stories for a long, long time.

I am married to Lyle Rigg, and we live in Maine. We have two grown children, Rob and Karin, and being with my family is what I enjoy most. The next-best thing is writing stories.

What happened when Sharon tried to sing?

A She sang the wrong words

B She sang the wrong notes

C She changed the facts

D The dogs barked

Bybanks, Kentucky, is –

A in the country

B where Sharon’s cousins lived

C full of hills and trees

D inspired by Quincy

Sharon has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ siblings.

A four

B three

C two

D one

To take a trip is to go on…

A dreaming

B visiting

C vacation

D cars and trucks

Which one is NOT something Sharon learned while teaching literature?

A how to publish a novel

B point of view

C techniques of plot

D what makes a story interesting

What is most likely the reason Sharon’s says the trip to Idaho had a powerful effect on her?

A she was bored in the car

B she saw beautiful landscapes

C the car was noisy

D she met interesting people

Who is the author of this story?

A Sharon Creech

B Lyle Rigg

C South Euclid

D we don’t know who wrote this

Which job is most closely related to Sharon Creech’s current job?

A painter

B singer

C ice skater

D reporter

Do you think Sharon Creech is creative? Where does she find inspiration for her own stories? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

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Sharon Creech listened to stories being told on the porch when she visited her cousins in Quincy, Kentucky. After reading some of Patricia McKissack’s stories in Porch Lies: Tales of Slicksters, Tricksters, and other Wily Characters, what do you know about the stories Sharon heard? What effect do you think this had on her own stories?

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