



## Professional Author Biography with Publication and Speaking Highlights

Children's author, educational writer, speaker, and former school librarian Toni Buzzeo lives in Arlington, Massachusetts in a two-family home that she shares with her son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren most of the year. But she slips down to her sunny winter nest in Sarasota, Florida when the weather turns blustery in New England.

As a children's writer, Toni has published twenty-eight illustrated picture books thus far, with two more currently under contract. In 2013, Toni's *New York Times* best-selling book *One Cool Friend*, illustrated by David Small, won a Caldecott Honor. It also won the Maine Literary Award for Children's Books from the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance in the same year. Since her first book, *The Sea Chest*, won a Maine Lupine Honor in 2003, Toni has received many other awards for her books, including a 2004-2005 Children's Gallery Award, also for *The Sea Chest*, and the 2012 Time of Wonder award for *Lighthouse Christmas*.

As a speaker and a writer, Toni regularly wears the hat of a seasoned educator. A former college and high school English teacher, Toni then became a practicing school librarian and was named the 1999 Maine Library Media Specialist of the Year. Although she no longer works in a school, she retains her librarian identity locally and in the broader educational community. In addition to her eleven published professional books, Toni has published numerous educational articles as well as teaching and promotional guides for children's books.

One of Toni's main passions is teacher/librarian collaboration, a topic about which she has published five books: *The Collaboration Handbook*, *Collaborating to Meet Standards: Teacher/Librarian Partnerships for K-6* (first and second editions), *Collaborating to Meet Standards: Teacher/Librarian Partnerships for 7-12*, and *Collaborating to Meet Literacy Standards: Teacher/Librarian Partnerships for K-2*. She has also published countless articles on the topic.

Another of Toni's interests is reader's theater as a vehicle for literary engagement as well as reading fluency. She has published two books on this topic, *Read! Perform! Learn! 10 Reader's Theater Programs for Literacy Enhancement* and *Read! Perform! Learn! 2: 10 Reader's Theater Programs for Literacy Enhancement*. Additionally, she created a monthly reader's theater script from published children's books for *Upstart Magazine* beginning in 2005.

Toni holds degrees from the University of Michigan-Dearborn (B.A.), the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (M.A.), and the University of Rhode Island (M.L.I.S.). She was the 2004 University of Michigan-Dearborn Alumnus of the Year.

Toni is also a well-known and sought-after speaker. She speaks extensively in schools as well as at conferences and district and regional professional development trainings, both nationally and internationally. She has keynoted many state conferences as well as international school conferences and has been a featured speaker at national, state, and regional International Reading Association conferences.