

## Beth Anderson, Children's Author Press Materials



*Photo credit: Tina Wood Photography*

### **BIOS:**

#### **SHORT VERSION:**

Beth Anderson, a former English as a Second Language teacher, has always marveled at the power of books. With linguistics and reading degrees, her fascination with language, and a penchant for untold tales, she strives for accidental learning in the midst of a great story. Beth is drawn to stories that open minds, touch hearts, and inspire questions. Born and raised in Illinois, she now lives in Loveland, Colorado.

#### **LONG VERSION:**

Beth Anderson has always been fascinated with words and language - from sound and meaning, to figurative language and point of view, to cultural and scientific aspects of language. After earning a B.A. in linguistics and a M. Ed. in reading, she taught English as a Second Language for more than 20 years. Surrounded by young people from all over the world, with literature as her favorite tool, Beth experienced the power of books to teach, connect, and inspire.

Encouraged by her elementary school teachers in Grayslake, Illinois, she carried with her the itch to write. From poems, plays, and puppet shows, to stories and memoir pieces... through Wisconsin, Ohio, Connecticut, Georgia, Texas, and into Colorado, it followed her. In 2013, she began her journey writing for children. Combining her love of writing with the joys of discovery and learning, she found her niche with narrative nonfiction and historical fiction picture books.

To Beth, writing is mining. It's digging deep inside for special memories, emotions, and meaning. It's burrowing into history for inspiring characters and moments that change the course of events. It's delving into the how and why and what if and seeing the past through the lens of

the present. Then the search for just the right words begins – words that will create voice, bring characters to life, and reveal the heart of the story.

When she's not writing, she might be weaving, gardening, exploring nature, or playing with her grandkids. Born and raised in Illinois, she now lives near the mountains in Colorado. Beth believes in laughter, learning, and investing in young minds. And...that truth really is stranger than fiction.

#### JACKET FLAP: AN INCONVENIENT ALPHABET

Beth Anderson, a former English as a Second Language Teacher, thinks her students would have appreciated Ben and Noah's big idea. *An Inconvenient Alphabet* is her first book. Born and raised in Illinois, she now lives in Colorado. You can visit her at <https://bethandersonwriter.com>.

#### JACKET FLAP: LIZZIE DEMANDS A SEAT

Beth Anderson combines her love of writing with the joys of discovery and learning in her narrative nonfiction and historical fiction picture books. She is the author of *An Inconvenient Alphabet: Ben Franklin & Noah Webster's Spelling Revolution*. This is her second picture book. Visit her at [bethandersonwriter.com](https://bethandersonwriter.com).

#### CONTACT:

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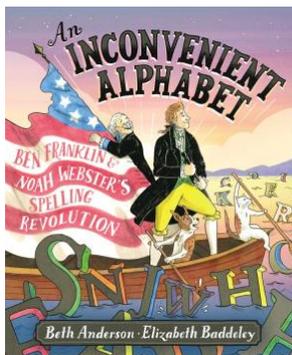
#### REPRESENTED BY:

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### **An Inconvenient Alphabet, Ben Franklin & Noah Webster's Spelling Revolution**



Written by Beth Anderson

Illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley

Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books | 48 pages

ISBN 9781534405554

Release Date: Sept. 25, 2018

[Educator's Guide](#)

**Do you ever wish English was *eezeeyerto* spell? Ben Franklin and Noah Webster did! Beth Anderson and the *New York Times* bestselling illustrator of *I Dissent*, Elizabeth Baddeley, tell the story of two patriots and their attempt to revolutionize the English alphabet.**

Once upon a revolutionary time, two great American patriots tried to make life easier. They knew how hard it was to spell words in English. They knew that sounds didn't match letters. They knew that the problem was an inconvenient English alphabet.

In 1786, Ben Franklin, at age eighty, and Noah Webster, twenty-eight, teamed up. Their goal? Make English easier to read and write. But even for great thinkers, what seems easy can turn out to be hard.

Children today will be delighted to learn that when they "sound out" words, they are doing *eg-zakt-lee* what Ben and Noah wanted.

### **HONORS:**

Finalist for [Colorado Book Awards](#)- Children's Literature

Junior Library Guild Selection

School Library Journal's [Alternative Anticipated Children's Books of Fall 2018 List](#)

School Library Journal: Fuse 8 - [2018 American History List](#)

### **REVIEWS:**

*"Both Anderson's text and Baddeley's illustrations are energetic and compelling... Deelytful and iloominaating for noo and seesuned reeders alyk."* ~Kirkus

*The combination of bold illustrations, humorous anecdotes, and fabulous storytelling makes this true tale anything but boring...a delightful, relatable, and eye-catchingly illustrated tale...* ~School Library Journal

*"Thought-provoking and entertaining."*—School Library Connection

*"Engaging...A comprehensible, lively read."*—Publishers Weekly

*"Beautifully done...A great book to share with students learning about language."* ~PSLA Teaching and Learning - Literature Review: [Elementary List](#)

**PUBLICIST:** Nicole Russo [nicole.russo@simonandschuster.com](mailto:nicole.russo@simonandschuster.com)

### **BLOG POSTS and INTERVIEWS**

The journey of AN INCONVENIENT ALPHABET - [Mining for Heart: "Revising for Heart"](#)

[Critic Lit](#) interview by Lindsay Ward

[This Writing Life: Stories, Creativity, Connection](#) interview by Melissa Stoller

[Back to School with An Inconvenient Alphabet](#) interview by Tina Cho

KidLit 411 [Author Spotlight](#)

[Tuesday Debut](#) interview by Susanna Leonard Hill

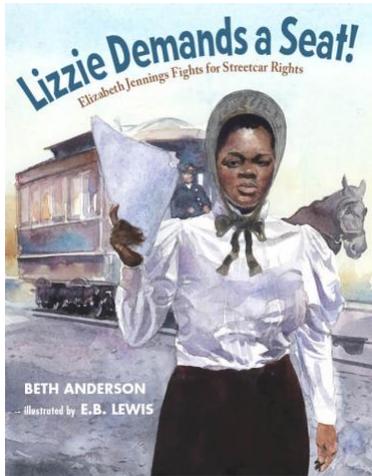
[Will Write for Cookies](#) interview by Vivian Kirkfield

[Picture Book Builders](#) review and interview

[Interview with Colorado Parent magazine](#) (Audio: 29.17-43.36)

**COMING JANUARY 7, 2020**

## **Lizzie Demands a Seat: Elizabeth Jennings Fights for Streetcar Rights**



Written by Beth Anderson  
Illustrated by E.B. Lewis  
Calkins Creek/Boyd's Mills & Kane  
ISBN 978-1629799391  
Jan. 7, 2020

When Elizabeth “Lizzie” Jennings boards a New York City streetcar in a hurry to get to church, she spies plenty of empty seats. But the conductor blocks her way. Despite being born a “free black” in a “free state,” Lizzie will have to wait for a different car. A car for her people. Suddenly, late-for-church isn’t as important as late-for-equality. Lizzie Jennings fights back and takes her story to churches, to newspapers, and finally to the one place where justice for one can mean justice for all.

Author Beth Anderson and artist E. B. Lewis brilliantly capture Elizabeth Jennings’s courage and perseverance in winning the first recorded legal victory for equal rights on public transportation—a victory that paved the way for Rosa Parks and many others to take a stand and demand a seat.

### **HONORS:**

Junior Library Guild Selection

### **PUBLICIST:**

Kerry McManus [kmcm Manus@bmkbooks.com](mailto:kmcm Manus@bmkbooks.com)

### **UPCOMING TITLES:**

“SMELLY” KELLY AND HIS SUPER SENSES: HOW JAMES KELLY’S NOSE SAVED THE NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY, illustrated by Jenn Harney, Calkins Creek, fall 2020.

TAD LINCOLN’S RESTLESS WRIGGLE; PANDEMONIUM, PATIENCE, AND PROTEST IN THE PRESIDENT’S HOUSE, illustrated by S.D. Schindler, Calkins Creek, fall 2021.