

DEBBY WALDMAN

► Age: 46

► Job: writer

► Books published: *WOW: World's Outstanding Women Athletes*, 1998, *Sports Illustrated for Kids Books*

Your Child's Hearing Loss: What Parents Need to Know, co-written with Jackson Roush, Ph.d., 2005, Perigee

A Sack Full of Feathers, illustrated by Cindy Revell, 2006, Orca,

Why is reading so important? I hate to use clichés, but the truth is, reading opens up whole new worlds. It exposes you to people and ideas you might otherwise know nothing about. And it's fully engaging. When you're reading, you really can't be doing anything else. (Although sometimes I read while I walk or brush my teeth.)

When you were a child, what role did books have in your life? I read all the time, even when I wasn't supposed to, in school, in the tub, at night under the covers.

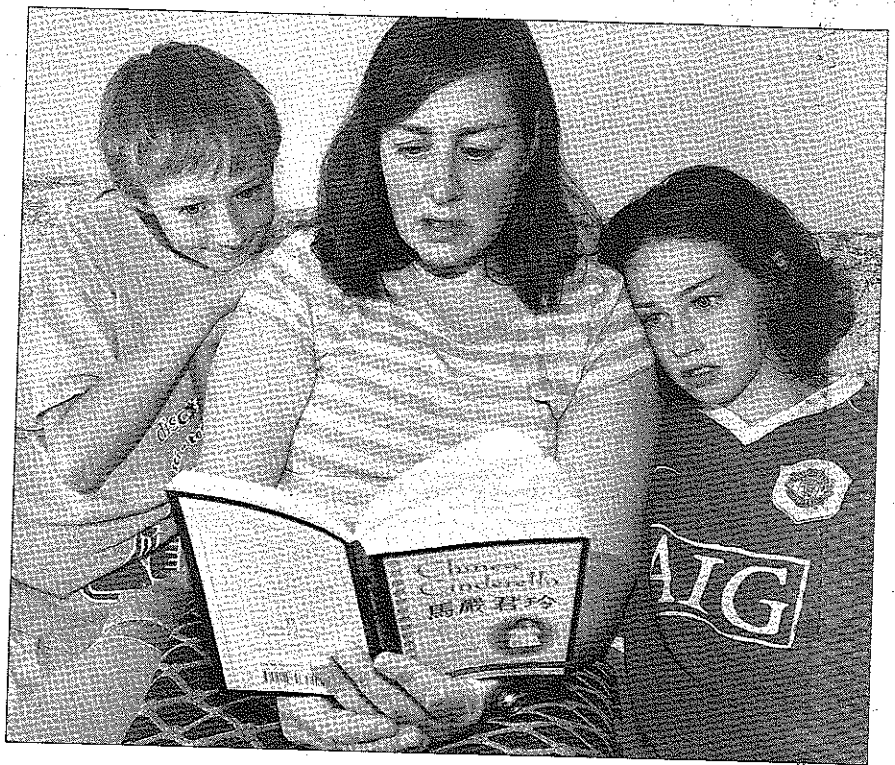
What did books do for you? They entertained me. They made me think. They gave me something to daydream about when I wasn't reading.

What were some of your favourite books as a child? In elementary school [I loved biographies and the Little House on the Prairie series. From junior high school on, my favourite books were *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton, and *Night*, by Elie Wiesel.

How did reading influence your life? It made me want to write.

What role do books have in your life today? Every room in our house has something to read, whether it's a book or a magazine or a newspaper.

What genres do you enjoy the most?



Author Debby Waldman reading to her kids Noah, 9 and Elizabeth Wishart, 11

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Non-fiction — biographies and memoirs. I like novels, but they have to really grab me — they have to be so compelling that I can't put them down.

How do you encourage your children to read? I just kept bringing books home for them, and finally they caught on.

A recent favourite book? *Choosing My Religion* by Stephen J. Dubner

How should we help beginning readers? Shower them with books until something captures their fancy and they realize how wonderful reading can be. Never give up. There are so many books,

you're bound to find something a child likes.

How did you get started reading? We always had books around the house. My parents were both avid readers. My mom was a reading teacher and my dad had two offices full of books, one at home and one at work.

Tell us about the joy of bedtime stories? I can't fall asleep unless I read to myself. My husband and I also read to our children at night. The books we're reading to them are so good that sometimes we argue about whose turn it is to read.