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Journey through Miss Trimble's Trapdoor

New children's book series provides positive, back-to-basics approach to U.S. history

FORT WORTH, Texas - Many American children are growing up historically illiterate—meaning our kids may not know which country the United States fought to declare its freedom, what explorer discovered America or even who won the battle of the Alamo. In a society where countless forms of digital media, popular television shows and movies are competing for their attention, it's more vital than ever to capture the imaginations of kids in order to teach them about the strength, courage and perseverance of our American forefathers.

Author and former educator Lori Jordan-Rice set out to create a children's book series that was entertaining and educational, with a back-to-basics approach to U.S. history. Her two new children's books, *Miss Trimble's Trapdoor* (Synergy Books, October 2009, 978-0-9821601-4-5, \$12.95) and *Miss Trimble's Trapdoor: The Perseverance of Christopher Columbus* (Synergy Books, October 2009, 978-0-9821601-5-2, \$12.95) usher in an imaginative new series featuring a fictional classroom full of memorable modern day characters alongside historical figures such as the pilgrims, the founding fathers of the United States and, of course, Christopher Columbus.

"Most books that teach history to children are primarily either nonfiction, recounting the stories of the past, or fantasy stories set in the past that only touch on a few facts," says Jordan-Rice, previously an elementary school teacher with a decade of experience in the classroom. "The 'Miss Trimble's Trapdoor' series revolves around a fictional classroom full of characters and their daily lives, with an extensive history lesson embedded in each story."

Miss Trimble's Trapdoor follows Tyler, a boy who hates school—that is, until he unlocks a secret trapdoor beneath his desk in Miss Trimble's classroom. Tyler unexpectedly falls into a mysterious basement filled with old books and guarded by a magical talking dog named Barnabas Bailey. His new companion takes him back in time, guiding him through American history firsthand and teaching him life lessons along the way.

In the second book of the series, *Miss Trimble's Trapdoor: The Perseverance of Christopher Columbus*, Tyler continues his travels through time with his trusted canine companion, Barney. As they witness Columbus as a boy, a young man, and finally sail aboard the Santa Maria with Columbus himself, Tyler realizes that even a great explorer can face setbacks before reaching his dream. He learns he has to believe in himself to achieve his goals of playing on the school basketball team and delivering an oral report on Columbus in front of the whole class.

Kids can visit www.MissTrimblesTrapdoor.com to write to main characters Tyler and Barney, as well as for helpful educational links, crosswords and word searches.

Jordan-Rice currently resides near Fort Worth in Saginaw, Texas, with her husband, Eric, three sons and four rescued dogs. She is an active member of the PTA and PTO in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD and attends First Baptist Church of Saginaw. Upcoming titles in the "Miss Trimble's Trapdoor" series include *The Courage of the Pilgrims* and *The Independence of the Founding Fathers*.

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To schedule an interview with Jordan-Rice, or to receive a review copy of *Miss Trimble's Trapdoor*, please contact Amy Currie at (512) 478-2028 ext. 211 or acurrie@phenixpublicity.com.