



MEET THE AUTHOR

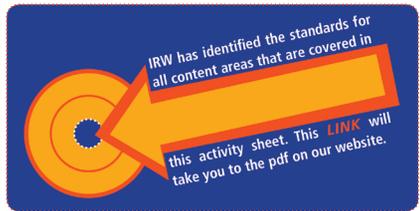
ANICA (u-NEE-KUH) **MROSE RISSI** (REE-SEE)

ANICA MROSE RISSI did not know she would become an author of children's books when she was a child growing up on Deer Isle, Maine. As a kid who loved to argue, she wanted to go to law school and become a U.S. senator or Supreme Court justice—or both! The world had different plans for her, however, and put her smack dab in the middle of the world of children's book publishing when she got a job editing for Scholastic.

Anica is a classically-trained violinist who has played the National Anthem at a Celtics game, but now prefers to play fiddle in her electro-country band, Owen Lake and the Tragic Loves. She loves ice cream and taking walks with her dog, Arugula, the model for Banana in her "Anna, Banana" books. She thinks growing up on an island gave her the opportunity to expand her imagination and listening to the tales of good storytellers helped her become the writer she is today. Anica thinks everyone should have a dog like Arugula.

Books by Anica: The "Anna, Banana" series, "The Teacher's Pet," "Watch Out for Wolf!" and YA book, "Always, Forever, Maybe."

Watch the booktrailer with Anica: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnThJ8hf3NU>





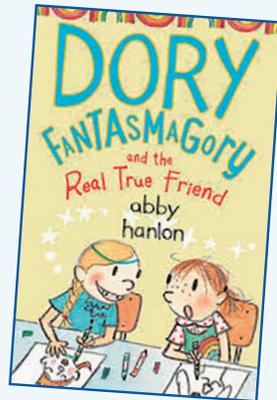
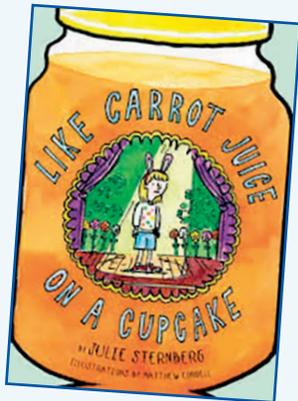
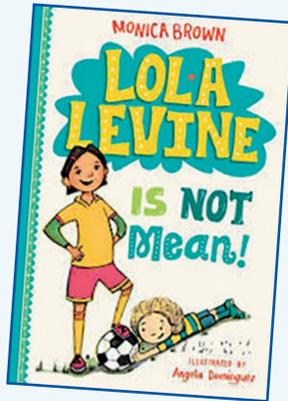
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- In the first paragraph Anna says that she knows you have to be careful what you wish for. Do you think this statement is true? What happened with her birthday wish?
- Have you ever let someone talk you into something you did not want to do? How did that make you feel?
- What do you think about Sadie's behavior at the birthday party and at school the next day? Why would someone act that way? Rewrite the scene from Sadie's point of view.
- Do you think Anna should have told her parents about the fight right away? What would you have done?

LET'S CREATE

FRIENDSHIP ACTIVITIES

- **FACE TIME:** Cut pictures out of magazines of faces and have children identify what the person is feeling.
- **FRIENDSHIP CHAIN:** Cut chain loops out of construction paper. Have students write one important quality of a good friend. Make chain and hang.
- Anna decides to wear a special outfit to help make her feel more powerful. Draw a picture of what your power outfit would be.
- Anna and Isabel play jump rope games and make up their own rhymes. Research jump rope games. How did jump rope games originate? When were they most popular? Pick a favorite and play it with your classmates.
- Make up your own rhymes like they did.
- Anna and Sadie remember a poem they once made up about a food Anna didn't like (applesauce). Write your own poem about your least favorite foods!



LEARN MORE:

- Research Dachshunds- What are their coat colors? What were they bred for? Where did they originate? Name two famous dachshund owners.

<https://www.ducksters.com/animals/dachshund.php>

- Link to Healthy Kids, making decisions

<https://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&np=287&id=2975#1>

READ MORE:

- "Ling and Ting Share a Birthday" by Grace Lin
- "Lola Levine is Not Mean" by Monica Brown
- "Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake" by Julie Sternberg
- "Dory and the Real True Friend" by Abby Hanlon

ANICA'S ACTIVITY KIT:

- <http://www.anicarissi.com/activity-kit/>