

Renée Watson is a #1 New York Times Bestselling author. Her books have sold over a million copies. She has received several awards including the Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Award, and an NAACP Image Award nomination. Many of Renée's books are inspired by her childhood growing up in Portland, Oregon. Her writing explores themes of home, identity, body image, and the intersections of race, class, and gender. She has given readings and lectures at many renown places including the United Nations, the Library of Congress, and the U.S. Embassy in Japan and New Zealand.

Her books include the Ryan Hart series (Ways to Make Sunshine, Ways to Grow Love, Ways to Share Joy, Ways to Build Dreams), *She Persisted: Oprah Winfrey, Piecing Me Together*, and three acclaimed picture books: *Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills*, *Maya's Song*, a biography on the poet Maya Angelou, and *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*, co-authored with Nikole Hannah-Jones. Renée splits her time between Portland, Oregon and New York City. To learn more about Renée's work visit her at www.reneewatson.net.