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Janeen Brian, author of *I'm a Dirty Dinosaur* (Kane Miller, 2014, illustrated by Ann James) has been a teacher, has acted in a children's theater company and has even recorded television commercials before becoming a full-time writer. Her writing career evolved out of writing little poems for her two daughters. Now she has over 80 books published, along with hundreds of poems, stories, articles and plays in anthologies and magazines!



I'm a Dirty Dinosaur began as a poem created for a touring poetry project Janeen was devising. Janeen thought it might work as a picture book, so she consulted Ann James who not only agreed, but after offering a few text suggestions, created some visual ideas to accompany the work and off it went to publishers for consideration.

Janeen worked hard to make sure she had the right rhythm and rhyme so the text would flow smoothly. Her primary objective was that the book be fun. "Being active with it was important so the children connected the sounds of words and their meaning, with enjoyment." Her hope is that "children's eyes light up when they see the book. I hope it helps children have fun with language." She also points out that the logical order of the book is relatable to a child's own life as the story builds. She hopes the final page encourages the realization that no one is perfect – "the now-clean dinosaur looks somewhat longingly back towards the mud ...!" US fans are eagerly awaiting another adventure with the endearing Dinosaur!

With all her success, Janeen still recalls all the early rejections of her first attempts. "It's a hard lesson to learn that not everything you write is good or wanted by publishers." But like most successful writers, she studied, took courses, read others' works, participated in writers groups and just kept on reading, writing and sending out to publishers.

When not writing Janeen makes mosaics, walks, swims, does yoga, enjoys theater, movies, singing and gardening. She's an Ambassador for the Premier's Reading Challenge and a Role Model for the Books in Homes program in Australia. She often visits schools and libraries to give author sessions or workshops. While she's traveled to many places in the world like Great Britain, New Zealand, Bali, Singapore, Spain, Hong Kong, South America, Canada and the US (She even lived for a month in a remote village in the Indian Himalayan Mountains!), she enjoys spending time with family and friends near the sea in South Australia.