

The Petit Proust Questionnaire

from Owlkids Books

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Meet author Melissa Owens

MELISSA OWENS is the assistant editor of *chickaDEE* magazine. This is her first published book. She is based in Toronto, Ontario. Find her on Twitter as @melio_25.



A Ticket Around the World will leave readers feeling like they've toured the globe without ever having left home. This informational picture book introduces readers to 13 different countries around the world.

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When you were a kid, what was your favorite thing to do?

Color and read.

What did you most dislike doing when you were a child?

Chores! Mostly I hated cleaning my room. I also wasn't much for eating food—my appetite was lacking. Luckily, that's all changed! I also hated bedtime. I always felt like I was missing something.

As a child, where did you dream of living?

Manhattan. I grew up in small town Ontario and always loved visiting cities—and of course, NYC is the city of all cities!

What did you think you were good at when you were a kid?

I wish I could remember! I know I was good at using my imagination. But did I consider myself creative? I'm not so sure.

When you were a kid in school, what did you look for in a friend?

I kind of had an array of friends with different likes/dislikes. Most of all, I looked for someone genuine, supportive and trustworthy. Many of my friends seemed to have these qualities in common, and still do today.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a writer! Although, I think I was more into being a newspaper reporter back then—à la Lois Lane.

What was your favorite book as a child?

The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch.



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What is your favorite pastime now?

Reading! This includes magazines (digital versions) and books (fiction and biographies). Also, cooking, travelling and eating. I know, that's more than one! I would put reading at the top, though.

What do you find an absolute chore?

Cleaning the bathroom. Ugh.

If you could live anywhere, where would you go?

Manhattan.

What is the one talent you wish you had?

I wish I could figure skate. It looks so fun and deceptively effortless!

What makes a good friend?

A good friend is someone who's there to listen, give advice, and be loyal. Sharing some of the same interests also helps!

If you weren't an author or illustrator, what job would you have?

Probably something in market research or advertising. I have a bit of background in this and remember enjoying it a lot.

What children's books have caught your attention lately?

Anything by Dav Pilkey. I love his humor. I think it's pretty obvious that kids do, too.

If you had to have a motto, what would it be?

Do what you love and surround yourself with positive people. Forget the rest because life is too short.

