



Katherine Paterson

Katherine Paterson has long been an advocate for international books. Born in Jiangsu, China, to parents who were missionaries, Paterson often dreamed of becoming a missionary to China. However, its borders were closed to her, and she traveled instead to Japan where she worked as a missionary. While she was living in Japan, Paterson studied Chinese and Japanese culture. Her studies of these cultures are reflected in some of her books, including *Of Nightingales that Weep*, *The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks*, and *The Master Puppeteer*.

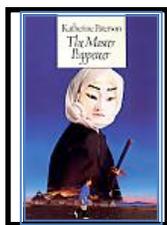
Paterson won the Newbery Medal for *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved* and the National Book Award for *The Great Gilly Hopkins* and *The Master Puppeteer*. She received the Hans Christian Andersen Medal in 1998 and the Astrid Lindgren Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2006. Paterson is a lifetime member of both USBBY (<http://www.usbby.org>) and IBBY (<http://www.ibby.org>).

Recently, Paterson was named the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress (<http://www.read.gov/cfb/ambassador/>). The theme for her ambassadorship is "Read for your Life."

Selected Bibliography



The Day of the Pelican (2009). Thirteen-year-old Meli's life changes drastically when her family flees their native Albania and immigrates to the United States.



The Master Puppeteer (1989). Jiro, the 13-year-old apprentice to a puppet master, stumbles onto a dangerous secret.



Of Nightingales that Weep (1989). Takiko, the vain daughter of a warrior, attracts the attention of an enemy spy whom she loves. She cannot escape from her samurai honor.



The Tale of Mandarin Ducks (1995). A pair of mandarin ducks is separated by a cruel master who wishes to admire their rare plumage.

Links of Interest

- <http://www.terabithia.com>
Katherine Paterson's official website.
- <http://www.bookrags.com/paterson>
Information about Paterson's life and work.
- <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/paterson>
Information about Paterson's life and work.
- <http://www.enotes.com/authors/katherine-paterson>
Links and other information about *Paters8on*.

Katherine Paterson is a member of USBBY. [Why not join her?](#)

