From the **California Readers interview "Meet author Caroline Hatton"**

What did you most like to do when you were a child?

Caroline Hatton
Photo by Rita Crayon Huang

Daydream! It didn't get me in trouble because I got good grades anyway. While growing up in France, I also loved to read, write, and make things. I made doodads from everything, old boxes, fabric remnants, my mother's finest underwear. Not until I moved to America as an adult did I discover The Toilet Paper Tube, the quintessential craft material. (In France, toilet paper came in small stacks of folded sheets.) Because an infinite number of things can be made from toilet paper tubes, this discovery proved to me that America is indeed a land of endless opportunities. My first children's publication was a craft activity. My most prolific achievement as of February 2015 is 14 craft activities published or accepted by *Highlights for Children.*

What teacher influenced you the most as a writer?

I will never forget her voice. I wish I could remember her name, my *Professeur de français* [French teacher] in Paris, the year I turned ten. I was writing a novel in a notebook, about a boy and his missing horse. I taped a card inside the back cover to pretend it was a library book, and loaned it to classmates upon completion of each chapter. My teacher caught me passing the book in class, and she confiscated it. I knew I was dead and spent recess saying farewell to all. When my mother picked me up, my teacher said to her, *"Madame, votre fille a un don pour l'écriture"* ["…your daughter has a gift for writing"], followed by a paragraph I couldn't hear because my ears were ringing, due to my blood rushing around after my heart restarted.

Do you have role models?

I have lots of role models, some of them for one facet of life because of stellar behavior on one particular occasion. Some of my role models are not only younger than me, they're children! I looked up to Bryce (age 10) for being the most reasonable person I've ever met, Tony (age 8) for being as caring as humanly possible, Patrick (age 8) for accuracy in his use of technical jargon, and Marie (age 9) for asking a question that everyone should ask himself or herself throughout life, "What is your dream and what are you doing about it?"