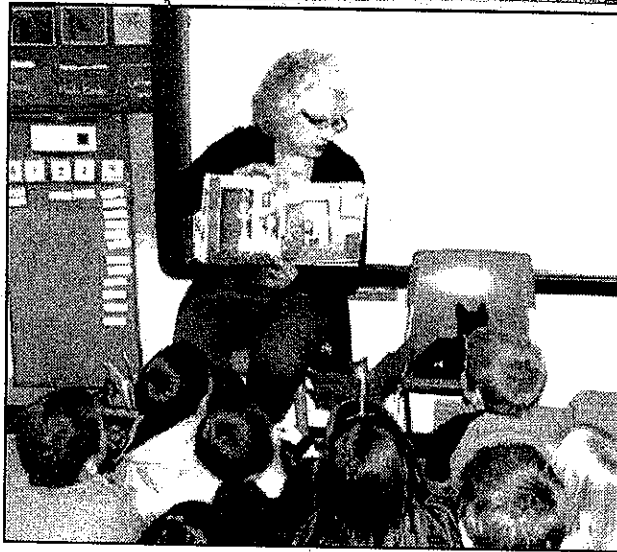




Author Martha Clowdis Hamlett reads to Eureka Elementary students.

Author Visits Eureka Elementary

On Friday, January 14th Martha Clowdis Hamlett the author of the children's picture book, "Bats in the Air, Bats in My Hair" visited Eureka Elementary to read her book to Kindergarten through second graders. It is a fun, energetic, full-color picture book which integrates easy-to-read rhymes and engaging imagery. The book is about Sally's overnight adventure at her Grandmother's house when she encounters some very comical bats. She arrives and promptly goes to bed only to be awoken at midnight by squeaks and flutters coming from the ceiling. All of a sudden there were "bats in the air and bats in her hair...some wiggled on the floor as she ran for the door." Those silly bats have fun trying on jewelry and hair bows and hiding in the pictures. She and her Grandmother go on a mission to "sweep" the bats out of the room. Once they finally succeed in getting the bats out,

Grandmother makes Sally go back to bed. Unfortunately, those creepy little creatures keep dancing in her head all night long - not exactly sugarplums. She goes home the next morning not sure when she would like to come back. She has a little passenger who hitches a ride on the back of the car.

The students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed her visit. Many students were able to purchase signed copies of her book to add to their personal libraries. She even brought along her friend bats to show to the students. Her visit was fun and she encouraged them all to use their imagination and become writers as well.

Martha currently lives in Lynchburg, Virginia; however, she is originally from the small community, Red House. She uses many of her childhood experiences as inspiration for her stories. In fact, "Bats in the Air, Bats in My Hair" was taken from an event that happened at her own Grandmother's house when she was little. She has been reading in schools throughout Virginia sharing her story and teaching the kids about how much fun it is to use their imaginations through her "Imagination Journey" activities. The kids get to try their hand at being illustrators and learn about descriptive words along the way. She and Illustrator, Davey Morgan, are currently working on their second picture book due out later this year.

Feel free to check out Mrs. Hamlett's web site at <http://batsintheair.com/> If you are interested in having her visit your school please contact her at martha@webovations.net