Nicole M. Hewitt

Middle Grade Author

About the Author

Nicole M. Hewitt is a middle grade author living in the Chicago suburbs with her husband, three grown kids, and two overly-enthusiastic pups. She first flexed her creative muscles as a theatre major at the University of Illinois and later taught theatre, writing, and ELA at a large homeschool co-op. More recently, she worked as the Kids' Specialist at her local Barnes & Noble. Nicole loves singing and can often be heard spontaneously composing incredibly profound songs about the fluffiest members of her family (the dogs, in case you weren't sure). Nicole's debut middle grade fantasy novel-in-verse, THE SONG OF ORPHAN'S GARDEN, was chosen as a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection.

- Assemblies
- Classroom Visits
- Virtual Visits
- Author Q&As
- Book Club Visits
- Readings and Book Signings
- Custom Events & Presentations
- One Book, One School
- Workshops for Students
- Workshops for Writers

Nicole loves connecting with readers! As a former teacher at a large homeschool co-op, she has experience leading kids from kindergarten through high school, and her theater background ensures that her workshops are creative and engaging. She tailors her presentations based on the age of the participants, the size of the group, and more. Special request? Just ask!

Learn more at NicoleMHewitt.com

@NicoleFictionAddiction

The Song of Orphan's Garden

Combining the gentleness of Miyazaki, the wintry wonderland of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, and the whimsicality of Newbery winner The Girl Who Drank the Moon, Nicole M. Hewitt's debut middle-grade novel, The Song of Orphan's Garden, is an enchanting fantasy tale with all the makings of a new classic.

In an arctic world that's getting colder every day, Lyriana's only hope of survival is to get her little brother Zave and herself to the fabled Orphan's Garden. It's rumored to be the one place in the world not controlled by deadly Winter Spirits or ruled by the tyrant Giant king. In Orphan's Garden, healing trees will melt away Winter's pains, and Lyriana and Zave can live safely in the warmth of Spring. If the garden exists, they must find it. They won't live much longer without it.

Brob, a Giant boy, also needs sanctuary. When the Giant king banishes his family to the Winter Blight, it's a death sentence. Orphan's Garden is his family's only hope, and as far as Brob's concerned, it belongs to him. After all, he was the one who accidentally used an ancient magic to grow the garden years ago. He has no intention of sharing his haven with pesky humans, who will just use up its magic and ruin it.

When it becomes clear that Orphan's Garden is in danger of being destroyed, Lyriana and Brob are the only ones who can save it—but only if they can put the ages-old battle between Humans and Giants aside and find a way to work together.

- Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection
- 2026 Illinois Reads Selection

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Grades 4 and up Ages: 8- 99

"Lyrical in both themes and language, with resonances both literary and ecological."

- Kirkus Reviews

"Themes of trust, interdependence, and the power of music develop meaningfully over the course of this taut, beautifully rendered adventure"

- The Horn Book

Hewitt's elegant story is told in poems, mostly free verse, but also sonnets, haiku, concrete poems, and others ... The pacing is sharp ... The poetic form and the seasonal changes yield a strong sensory experience ..."

- SLJ

Learn more at NicoleMHewitt.com