

## 2019 Fort Worth BookFest Author Interview Series



... with **Allison Speer**, author of ... *Theodore the Turkey Who Found a Zoo* ...

### Where is your favorite place to read?

My favorite place to read is in my bed. It's the only time I shut down and am able to enter the wonderful world of words, stress free!

### What is your favorite book to give an adult or a child?

My favorite book to give a child often depends on the child, but some of my favorites are Patricia Polacco's *Thank You Mr. Falker* or Mo Willems' *Knuffle Bunny*. And *Theodore, the Turkey Who Found a Zoo* of course!

### What books do you return to most often, whether passages or whole?

One of my favorites of all time is *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. I read it as a young student, again in my early 20s, and then again to my third-grade students in my early days of teaching. *Wonder* is also a most rewarding book to read to students.

### What is the last book that had you reading past your bedtime?

Right now I'm reading *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* which is about Joy Davidman, C.S. Lewis' wife. I can't put it down, and I pay for it most mornings!

### Who made reading important to you?

It must have been my teachers in middle school (or what we called junior high). We had to study novels like *The Jungle* and *The Scarlet Letter*. They may not have been my favorites but I do remember important lessons the teachers imparted through those books. They taught me that books carry so much more than just words. Then when I became a teacher and saw how books impacted young minds, I became impassioned to read and write even more.

### Author Bio

Allison F. Speer is a writer-turned-mom-turned-teacher. A newspaper reporter for 15 years, Speer has won a number of awards for investigative reporting and feature writing both in Connecticut and in Texas newspapers and magazines. In between writing and teaching, she spent a little time in the marketing department of the nationally ranked Fort Worth Zoo, where she found the inspiration for her first book. She is the mother of five and currently teaches 8th grade reading in Fort Worth, Texas. "*Theodore*" is her first children's book.

Learn more about **Allison** and what's new with her: [Facebook.com/Allison Speer](https://www.facebook.com/AllisonSpeer); [Instagram.com/allispeer1](https://www.instagram.com/allispeer1); [Twitter@speer-teacher](https://twitter.com/speer-teacher); [www.allifishpress.com](http://www.allifishpress.com)

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Saturday | 10. 12. 2019  
11 AM – 4:30 PM  
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Fort Worth, Texas

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