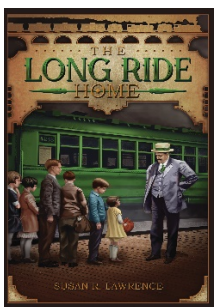


Susan Lawrence  
3430 Evergreen Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50320  
515-238-6675  
[srlauthor@mchsi.com](mailto:srlauthor@mchsi.com)  
[www.susanrlawrence.com](http://www.susanrlawrence.com)



Susan Lawrence is an author, speaker, and storyteller. After teaching elementary school for 26 years, she hung up the chalkboard to devote more time to writing. Her published works include two family devotionals, *Atonement for Emily Adams*, *The Blue Marble*, and *The Long Ride Home*. Both *The Blue Marble* and *The Long Ride Home* are written specifically for middle grade readers. Susan lives in Des Moines with her husband and short-legged Lab, Molly. She has three children and seven beautiful and brilliant grandchildren who love to hear her stories.



Bert and his sister, Emma, ride an orphan train from New York City to Iowa, hoping to find a family. When the Vogels choose Bert, he is excited to live on a farm. But he has a lot to learn, and some of those lessons aren't just about milking cows and collecting eggs. He needs to learn about kindness, bravery, and most importantly, family. Will he stay in Iowa with his sister? Or will he have to take a long train ride back to New York?



Matthew longs to escape from his family. But when he finds a blue marble, drops it into his pocket, and winds up in an orphanage in 1946, getting what he wished is not so fun. A cruel staff leader and a friend paralyzed by polio are only the beginnings of his difficulties. As one orphan teaches him to play marbles, another teaches him to trust God. Can his amazing skill using the blue marble win the National Marble Tournament and buy the leg braces Betsy needs? And will he ever find his family again?

Susan R. Lawrence can provide your school with:

- A story (monologue) in period costume
- Classroom visits or large group talk
- A lesson on best writing practices and practical tips
- An opportunity for students to purchase quality literature

A visit to your school will:

- Spark interest in reading
- Motivate and improve writing skills

Two final reasons to invite Susan to your school:

- For every book purchased at your school, Susan will donate \$1.00 to the school.
- All additional proceeds go to Pour International, a non-profit agency that builds and maintains abandoned baby and children's homes in Swaziland, Africa.