

George Ella Lyon

Writing in many genres for readers of all ages, George Ella Lyon has published over forty books. Of her new poetry collection *She Let Herself Go*, *The Washington Independent Review of Books* said, "Lyon, with joy and conviction, teaches us how to write. The trick is to make life right so each day is energized, restoring the writer to herself. . . . [E]ach poem makes you feel better than the one before." *Kirkus Reviews* calls her newest novel for young adults, *Holding on to Zoe*, "an intriguing window into the life of a damaged teen."

Often rooted in Appalachia, Lyon's work speaks to a broad audience. As a *Booklist* reviewer wrote of the novel *With a Hammer for My Heart*, "Lyon gives readers a story rich in precise, gorgeous language that glows like a sword on the forge and cuts as deep. . . . Tragedies old and new weave a tiny Kentucky town into the center of the universe."

Publishers Weekly called her picture book "*Which Side Are You On?*" *The Story of a Song* "a high-stakes account of grace under pressure," and *The Horn Book* says of *All the Water in the World*, "It's a familiar subject but a vital one, to which author and illustrator bring a passion and artistry that give it the power of story."

Lyon's books have received many awards, including ALA's Schneider Family Book Award, a Jane Addams Honor, a Golden Kite, the Appalachian Book of the Year, and the Bluegrass Award. She's had numerous Notable and Best Book citations, and her poem "Where I'm From" is used as a writing model around the world.

George Ella holds a PhD in English from Indiana University, where she studied with poet Ruth Stone. She has taught writing on many campuses and spoken at hundreds of schools, libraries, and conferences throughout the country.

The mother of two grown sons, she is married to musician and writer Steve Lyon and lives in Lexington, Kentucky, where she writes songs and works for peace.