

4116 Pomona Ave.  
Miami 33, Florida

December 2, 1947

Dear Miss Montgomery,

I am sorry to be so long in filling out this questionnaire for you. My husband has been seriously ill, and I've let most things slide until I knew he was getting better.

I'm glad that you want to include "Little Bear" in your new book. That's my own favorite of my books, I suppose because it was the first one.

Enclosed is a snapshot which I'd like returned, please. It was taken a few years after I wrote Little Bear, in the first summer of my marriage.

My address after Dec. 15 will be Edisto Island, South Carolina. We have a home there, and are returning for a long rest.

Very sincerely yours

Eleanor Frances Lattimore Andrews

February 9, 1948

Dear Miss Montgomery:

I like your story about me very much. And I cannot think of any changes to suggest, beyond the few I've written on your manuscript.

It must be interesting work, writing a book such as yours. You are including most of my favorite juvenile authors, so of course I'm glad to be in their company.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Eleanor Labimore Andrews

P.S.

My husband is very much better. Thank you!



Prompted by Pictures,  
The Job that Made a Job  
"Little Pear"

(Mrs. Robert Armstrong Andrews) Published by Harcourt, Brace + Co. Year 1931  
Real name Eleonor Frances Lattimore Pen name Eleonor Frances Lattimore  
Andrews  
What do your family and friends call you? Eleonor

She Made a Job for Herself.

A. YOUR BACKGROUND

Date of birth June 30, 1904 Place of birth Shanghai, China  
Father's occupation Teacher Number of Brothers 2 and sisters 2  
Father's nationality American Mother's nationality American  
Kind of home during childhood (farm, small town, city apt. etc.) In a  
College compound Where Shanghai, Paotingfu, later Tientsin  
Amount of schooling (high school, college, etc.) Taught by parents  
Economic status during childhood (poor, middle class, wealthy) middle, I guess  
Special interests as a child (sports, books, games, etc.) Drawing, outdoor  
and indoor games. Went to seashore every summer, swimming, diving etc.  
Childhood ambitions To be an artist, to go to America  
When did you begin to write? Professionally, in 1929  
Why? In order to earn a living, and to market my drawings  
Who encouraged you? Elizabeth B. Hamilton, then Juvenile Editor at  
Harcourt Brace  
What and when was your first success or recognition? When "Little Pear", my first book, was published in 1931  
How did you happen to write for children? Because I like

children, and have drawn children ever since I can remember.

Anything else about your background which has a bearing on your writing.

My family and I lived in Europe (Switzerland, Germany, England,) in 1913-1915. Years later in 1932 I went to Europe again. I've put some things from various times in my life into my books.

My family life was harmonious and happy, and even now that we are all married and scattered, my brothers and sisters and I keep in close touch with our parents who are living in Washington, D.C. (their old home.)



B. THE WRITING OF THIS BOOK

Where did you get the idea for the book? It was suggested that I write a "real" story about an everyday Chinese child, to match drawings I had in my portfolio. It was the suggestion of Mrs. Hamilton

When? (Season as well as year) Winter, I think - 1928-29

Were the characters real people, or based on real people? They were imaginary, based on village children such as I'd seen during my childhood in China.

Where were you living at the time? In New York City

What was your major occupation? Free-lancing as an artist

Names (also nicknames) and identities of members of your household at the time. (If children, give ages.) I was living in a small apartment with another girl who wrote articles for decorating magazines. My family home was in Hanover, N.H., my father being Professor of Chinese History at Dartmouth at that time.

Did you talk the book idea over with any of them? No.

Did you discuss it with an editor? The idea in general, not the story.

Where and how did you get the material? (library research, travel, personal experience, etc.) Personal recollections for background material. The incidents were all imaginary.

When did you begin to write the book? In Dec. or Jan., 1928-1929

Where? I wrote the first draft at the Studio Club, New York - and finished it.

How much had you had published when you began it? (Give names of books) This (Little Peas) was my first book. Since then, I've written 15 more

What was your purpose in writing this book? To see if I could do it, and to have a book to illustrate.

How do you write? (typewriter, long-hand, dictate) longhand and on the typewriter

Where? (study, office, etc.) at home, anywhere

Do you keep regular office hours? If so, what are they? I work at night

Do you revise much? Sometimes Write easily or laboriously? Sometimes it's usually

Do you let your family or friends read your work, or try it out on children? Not till a story is finished easy, sometimes not.

apartment mentioned above.

finished it.



Who makes your final copies? (yourself, private secretary, public typist, etc.) I make my own final copies now.

Did you make an outline before writing the book? Chapter titles only

Did you decide on the title first or last? Last

How long did it take you to write the book? One week (first copy)

Did you work on it steadily? Quite steadily

Did it go fairly smoothly or did you hit rough spots? (Details of any particular difficulty and its solution would be appreciated.) I wrote too quickly and did not put in enough description. Since the first book, I've written more slowly, and generally work out a plot first.

Was your book accepted immediately by a publisher? Yes

Was it immediately popular on publication? Yes

Anything else about your writing that might be of interest, especially anything that concerns this book. Since I wrote Little Bear I've married and had two children, and this accounts for my working at night, if I'm doing a book. Keeping house takes care of all the daytime hours.

### C. ILLUSTRATIONS

How much did you have to do with the illustrations of your book? \_\_\_\_\_

I made them all (105 of them)

If you did them yourself, which came first, the pictures or the text?

I made a few "sample" drawings, submitted with the

What medium did you work in? India ink and brush <sup>manuscript.</sup>

How much experience had you had in illustrating? I had drawn

all my life, and as a child illustrated stories

I wrote myself.

I added two chapters later.



D. WHAT SORT OF PERSON YOU ARE

What did you look like when you wrote this book? Dark or fair? medium

Tall or short? Tall, 5 ft. 5 in. Thin or plump? Thin

Color of eyes? blue Wore glasses? when I work

Color of hair? light brown Kind of hair--long or short? short and

Curly or straight? curly How did you wear it? I can't remember!  
<sup>wavy</sup>

Any special features of your appearance (square jaw, dimples, stoop, etc.) Oral face, slightly turned up nose, one cheek dimple

Are you quiet or talkative? Rather quiet Friendly or reserved? Friendly

Do you laugh a great deal or are you usually grave? Sometimes I laugh,

Are you quick-tempered or calm and placid? Not quick tempered, but <sup>usually fairly quiet</sup> on the

What sort of clothes do you wear most when writing? (sports, suits, <sup>high-strung</sup> slacks, etc.) Just a kneedress, or a sweater and skirt  
<sup>side.</sup>

Favorite occupations and hobbies? Gardening, pets, travel, etc.

What is your normal speech like? (Meticulously correct, colloquial, slangy, abrupt, rambling, etc.) Much too rapid

What are some of your pet expressions and exclamations? I don't think I have any.

If strongly religious, give denomination. Not strongly religious

Any other details about yourself, no matter how trivial, which might help me to picture you in my own mind. Very happy with my husband, and with my two sons, Peter and Michael, now nine and eleven years old.

Can you direct me to any articles or books which have been written about you? I believe I'm included in several anthologies, such as "Junior Book of Authors."

If you have a photograph or snapshot of yourself of about the vintage of your book, I would appreciate it. Of course I would return it promptly.