

## Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Vaunda Micheaux Nelson loves bringing books and children together and feels lucky to have two careers that foster this. The children's librarian and author says, "It was destined from the day I was born. My mother found my name in a novel she was reading."

Vaunda's first book, *Always Gramma*, was selected by the Children's Book Council as a Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies. *Mayfield Crossing* won the Georgia Children's Book in 1995, and *Beyond Mayfield* received a 1999 Parents' Choice Gold Award. *Almost to Freedom*, her most recent title, received a Coretta Scott King Honor for illustration in 2004. In addition, Vaunda's poetry has been published in *Cricket* and *Cicada* magazines.

Vaunda has been a teacher, newspaper reporter, bookseller, school librarian, and twice a member of the Newbery Award Committee. She holds master's degrees from The Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College, Vermont, and from the University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Science. Her memberships include the SCBWI, the American Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children. The Pennsylvania native is currently the young adult librarian at a public library in New Mexico, where she lives with her husband, Drew, and two cats.