

THE RIGHT(S) GLASSES

Name: Toula Ballas
Company: Sterling Publishing

Question #1: Where and when do you read?

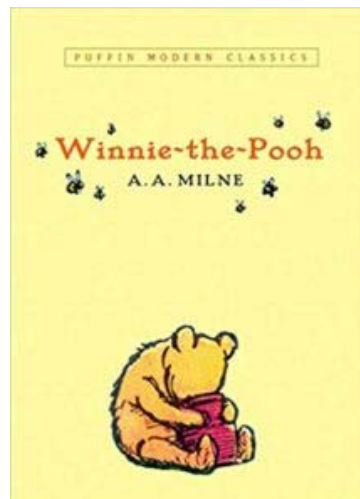
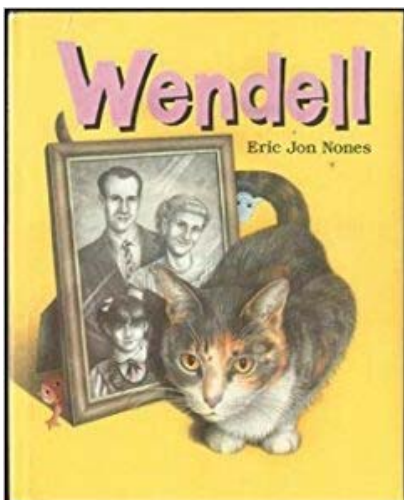
I always carry a book in my bag for my subway commute (right now, it's *A Shepherd's Life* by W.H. Hudson), but I also read on my phone while traveling by using the New York Public Library's app (current download: *Five Came Back* by Mark Harris). At home, the cat and I fight over the cozy chair in the bedroom. It's a great place to reread old favorites like *Gaudy Night* by Dorothy L. Sayers. The cat is usually less than thrilled.



Question #2: Which book have you most given as a present?

A children's picture book called *Wendell* by Eric Jon Nones (because I was the model for the mother).

After that, it's a set of *Winnie the Pooh* books, which were childhood favorites.



Question #3: What do you remember about your first book fair?

The crowds at my first Frankfurt. It was so much more packed and hectic than it is now.

Also the staggering variety – of size, shape, price, and subject - of books on display. Somehow it feels now as though the corners have been rounded off publishing, and we are all promoting the same kind of books– and the same book designs – in every stand.

Question #4: Tell us the resolutions you have made for this year.

Resolutions rarely end well – for anyone.



Question #5: Tell us about a bad habit, an obsession or a particular attitude you have picked up since starting to work at Sterling

I'm obsessed with a site with the unfortunate name of gofugyourself.com, but it's simply delightful. GFY is run by Heather Cocks and Jessica Morgan, who write about fashion, celebrity, books, and so much more. What makes this site work is their wit and their tone. The subjects they cover may seem utterly frivolous, but these writers are funny without being mean, as well as Smart, generous, kind, and perceptive, and I admire the delicate and difficult balance they maintain. They neutralize a little bit of the casual political cruelty and stupidity that floods the media here on a daily basis.

GO FUG YOURSELF