

## About the Author

Debbie Doctofsky-Solomon is a graduate of City University of New York at Hunter College Masters in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program. Debbie has taught English as a Second Language to children and adults of all levels in various community colleges in New York, New Jersey and overseas.

After she completed her undergraduate degree in International Relations in 1992, Debbie worked for international trading companies for several years. She travelled with unyielding curiosity to more than 25 countries without trepidation developing new business opportunities for her company. Then she went back to school to earn her Masters. She lived abroad and taught ESL (English as a Second Language) in Cyprus after graduate school. During her time experiencing other countries, she became passionate about other cultures and has incorporated this theme into her writing. Each of her works has a cultural component unique to the country in which it takes place. The settings are places to which she has personally traveled, and the information in the text is a blend of fact and fiction taken from her own rich experiences.

Children from any country can relate to the simple characters and themes in her books. Debbie's stories encourage children to explore the world's diversity and gain an appreciation of other cultures with her collection called "*Expeditions in Learning*". Each story is not simply a story, but a complete learning experience. On her webpage, **DebbieSolomon.com**, children ranging in ages anywhere between 4-9 will learn about the geography of the story setting, how to make the main character's favorite dish and have the opportunity to print out many age appropriate activities

associated with the book (i.e. a maze, coloring pages, story sequencing, word scramble, writing and thinking skills, writing prompts, map skills -- just to name a few). Also, these books will be a great asset to any classroom.

Debbie's first book *Journey to the River of Perfumes* was inspired by several trips to Vietnam.

*It* was written in loving memory of Debbie's mother, Maureen. The underlying theme of this book is about helping others just like her mom had always helped her.

Debbie's next book in her cultural collection is called, *Hidden in the Himalayas*, which takes place in Nepal, another one of her memorable destinations. And, its main theme is cross-cultural friendships.

Her third book, "*Pedro's Decision*" takes place on Ometepe Island in Nicaragua. In this story, Pedro is faced with a very common childhood problem. He consults with a friend, his abuelo and some rainforest animals. In the end, he makes his own decision on how he should handle his predicament. This story resonates with children all over the world. Imbedded in the story is a life lesson that is important to address at a young age---be yourself. Children will learn many words in Spanish, the geography of Central America and interesting facts about the culture of Nicaragua.

On a personal note, Debbie has kept handwritten travel journals over the years documenting her international adventures. She has been recording the lives of her children for 9 years. She is an avid cook of all types of cuisine. She is also a strong advocate of a plant-based diet. She is fond of making dresses and other things

for her daughters on her mother's sewing machine. She takes pleasure in being able to stay home to raise her two beautiful daughters, Hannah (9.5) and Arielle (6.5). She has fun participating in outdoors activities, especially biking and hiking. She will complete her 4th triathlon this summer. Of course, travel is still in the equation as well. She doesn't deny having a bit of wanderlust and is looking forward to her next adventure!