

Avi's twin sister started calling him Avi, and it is the only name he uses today.



Avi was born in New York City on December 23, 1937.

Avi wasn't a very good student in school. He says, "In elementary school I did well in science, but I was a poor writer. When I got to high school I failed all my courses. Then my folks put me in a small school that emphasized reading and writing. Even beyond that I needed special tutoring.



Honored with the Newbery Medal for *Crispin: Cross of Lead* and a Newbery Honor for *Nothing but the Truth*, Avi is the acclaimed author of several works of historical fiction.



Avi enjoys visiting schools. He identifies with children who are lonely, frustrated, and isolated. "I always ask to speak to the learning-disabled kids. They come in slowly, waiting for yet another pep talk, more instructions. Eyes cast down, they won't even look at me. Their anger glows. I don't say a thing. I lay out pages of my copy-edited manuscripts, which are covered with red marks. 'Look here,' I say, 'see that spelling mistake. There, another spelling mistake. Looks like I forgot to put a capital letter there. Oops! Letter reversal.' Their eyes lift. They are listening. And I am among friends."

All About The Author:

Avi

By Mrs. Albicelli