

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lainie (Ελένη) Damaskos-Christou was inspired to write this children's book from her son and daughter's frequent questioning of, *why do I have to go to Greek school?* Ultimate success was achieved as her children are both bilingual and truly appreciative of their parents' efforts to instill their Greek heritage and language, as well as to acknowledge all cultures as unique and beautiful. Lainie is a National Board-Certified World Language Teacher with the Niskayuna Central School District in Niskayuna, New York, an adjunct professor of Greek and Spanish at the College of St. Rose, and director/teacher of the St. Sophia Greek Language and Culture Academy both in Albany, New York.

Her roots are from Sparta, Greece, from where her devotion to maintaining her Greek culture in the diaspora began. She is currently the District Governor for New York State of the Daughters of Penelope—a women's nonprofit organization that is part of the AHEPA family with chapters worldwide that promotes philanthropy, Hellenism, education, civic responsibility, family, and individual excellence. Her nonstop work ethic and passion to inspire second language acquisition is endless. She hopes to promote the love of learning about new cultures and countries through this book and her future books intended for all educators of young children—whether it be parents, grandparents, or teachers.

Lainie and her husband, Euripides, currently live in Schenectady, New York. The costars of this book, her two children and daughter-in-law, all work and live in New York City.