

## Bio of Cheryl Coon

Cheryl Coon's work with individual children since 1991 led her to the realization that children's books can be immensely helpful to children struggling with both common and more challenging issues. In 1999, she began a project to research children's literature and compile a comprehensive list of books on specific issues, that eventually resulted in *Books to Grow With: A Guide to Using the Best Children's Fiction for Everyday Issues and Tough Challenges* (Lutra Press; 2004).

In addition to her work on the upcoming sequel in the *Books to Grow With* series, Cheryl presents workshops throughout the Northwest on the use of books to help children and consults with school districts and with the military on using children's books. She has lectured at the annual "What's New in Children's Literature" Institute and spoken at annual conferences of school counselors, school media specialists, reading specialists, and educators of young children. Most recently, Cheryl presented her work at the 2005 International Reading Association's Annual Conference. In 2006 she will be the featured speaker of the Bibliotherapy Special Interest Group at the International Reading Association's annual conference.

Cheryl lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband Jim and her children Nora and Eli. She is currently working on the sequel to *Books to Grow With*, which focuses on the best books to use with adolescents. She also writes the monthly *Books to Grow With* newsletter (free by subscription at [www.lutrapress.com](http://www.lutrapress.com)) and teaches.