

Frequently asked questions

What inspired you to write this book, Casey the Container and her first day in port?

Inspiration came from several places. Many years ago, when starting my waterfront career, my Mom said, “you need to find a way to share what you do with others.” I would have never imagined this sharing would take the form of a rhyming children’s picture book. My son Nolan is very aware both “Mom and Dad work in the port.” One day while driving across Terminal Island in the Port of Long Beach, Nolan said “Mom, let’s get a book about this.” He was referring to the port. I did what most parents do, searched Amazon, but I couldn’t find a children’s book specific to the interworking of the waterfront. I then started searching bookstores and asking the managers of the children’s section to search their databases. Their response was all the same “there isn’t a book like that.” That’s when I knew I needed to write a children’s book to fill this knowledge gap.

As I began writing and sharing the concept with industry peers, feedback was positive. An experienced Foreman said, “now we have a way to show kids what we do.” That was a lightbulb moment for me. I realized this book provides a platform for thousands of individuals who work in ports across the world the opportunity to share with their loved ones the work they do. For those who don’t work in industry, I’m excited to shed light on an environment unbeknownst to many. People are aware ports exist, but they don’t always understand how goods get to the shelves of our local stores.

When did your awareness of the port begin?

In third grade. Mrs. Jager arranged for a field trip to the Port of Long Beach. I remember riding in the yellow school bus, wind blowing in our hair as we traveled south on the 710 freeway. We came back to class, recreated gantry cranes from toothpaste boxes, and painted them red. Our port recreation was on display for parents at open house.

Does your family work in the port?

Yes, my husband is a crane mechanic at a terminal in Long Beach. We both started work on the waterfront in 2005. I’m grateful we work in the same industry as we understand what each other does. I recently discovered that my great uncle was a longshoreman in New York many years ago.

What will readers take away from Casey’s journey?

Operational knowledge. It was very important that Casey’s journey was accurate as this is one path a container discharged from a vessel could travel. Readers will also share in Casey’s learning of teamwork and working together as a family. The concept of ones “work family” is a tribute to the waterfront culture.

Tell us about your main character.

Casey is a teal colored, standard forty-foot shipping container, and this is her first day on the job. She’s nervous and excited because she’s embarking on a new journey, one she’s never experienced before. Fortunately, a few seasoned shipping containers named Frank and Molly welcome her onboard and provide a bit of “on-the-job training.” Casey is a good listener, loves to help others, and is enthusiastic about her work. As Casey’s experience matures, I’m looking forward to her interactions with other characters and the new destinations she will visit.

Will the story of Casey and her journey continue?

Absolutely! Containers are all around us and all over the world. Casey will continue to show us the many places containers travel and the cargo they carry.