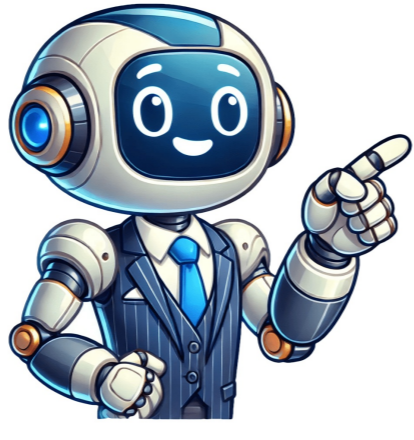


I'm human





Maureen Wartski was a renowned American author born on January 25, 1940, in Ashiya, Hyogo, Japan, to a businessman father and a teacher mother from Switzerland. She was drawn to writing at a young age, inspired by her aunts' stories and folktales, as well as an early introduction to classical literature from her uncle. Her Eurasian heritage and connection with nature significantly influenced her children's books and young adult novels, tackling issues like racism, identity, bullying, and the importance of shared memories in building friendships and trust. Wartski pursued higher education at the University of Redlands and Sophia University, where she received a B.A. in 1962 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen that same year. She worked as an English teacher, reporter, and lecturer on creative writing before publishing her first juvenile book, *My Brother Is Special*, in 1979. Her subsequent novels, including *A Boat to Nowhere*, earned her recognition, such as the Josette Frank Award from Bank Street College of Education. Wartski's most notable works include *The Promise*, which explores themes of identity and connection, and *Yuri's Brush with Magic*, an adventure story incorporating Japanese folk tales for a middle school audience. Her writing aimed to promote understanding and unity among readers, transcending differences and fostering empathy and trust. The books "*The Lake Is on Fire*" and "*Yuri's Brush with Magic*" were published in 1981 and 2010, respectively. Maureen Crane Wartski is the author of these works, as well as many other publications. Her papers are archived at the University of Southern Mississippi's de Grummond Collection. Wartski has written extensively on multicultural themes and their importance in teaching and writing. She has received several awards for her work, including the Indie Book Awards.

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