

Wobar and the Quest for the Magic Calumet

A New Fantasy Adventure Book

By Henry Homeyer

Wobar is a fantasy-adventure about a boy, a cougar and a quest. Wobar was found on a doorstep shortly after his birth with a full head of hair – and a mustache. A big mustache. It never fell out, causing him endless trouble at school with other kids. He also has the magical ability to communicate with animals. He gets in trouble at his new school for biting his teacher when she tried to yank off his mustache (thinking he pasted one on to be funny). So he runs away from home.

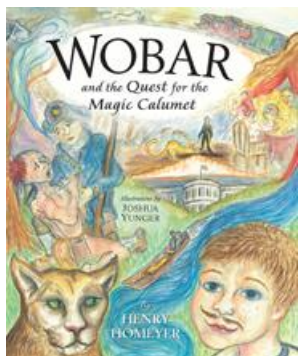
In the woods Wobar meets a cougar named Roxie, and they end up going on a big adventure trying to find a magic calumet (an Indian peace pipe) after meeting the ghost of a Revolutionary War soldier. The soldier was given the peace pipe and was to have delivered it to General George Washington, but it was stolen from him, and he was killed soon afterwards. Simon, the ghost, must remain in limbo until the pipe is found and delivered to the American president.

Wobar needs to get to New Orleans, so Wobar and Roxie hop a freight train, steal a small boat – and more. Disguises? You bet. A gypsy fortune teller helps them in their quest, which is full of exciting adventures.



Henry Homeyer reads from *Wobar & the Quest for the Magic Calumet* to students at Cornish Elementary School.

"My favorite character was Roxie. Wobar couldn't have lived without Roxie and Roxie couldn't have lived without Wobar. It's not only an adventure for Wobar and Roxie but it's an adventure for the reader too." - Anya Eckerle, fourth grade, Morris, Minnesota



Book Review by Tia Esposito, Library Director, Boston College High School:

"Wobar and the Quest for the Magic Calumet is reminiscent of Jay O'Callahan stories. It is the kind of story that made me fall in love with reading and storytelling and ultimately to become a children/YA librarian. You don't find stories like this in print anymore—it is not a pre-packaged kind of story that fits into the standard mold for children's literature, but it is wonderfully delicious—you want to savor the segments yet finish it all at the same time. Zany adventures like Astrid Lindgren's *Pippi Longstocking* or *Holes* by Louis Sachar, *Wobar* is a masterfully told story - a heart-warming, uplifting tale of a young man doing the right thing always in the aid of others — fun and fantastic."

To book a reading of *Wobar & the Quest for the Magic Calumet* or a creative writing workshop at your school or library, contact Henry at henry.homeyer@comcast.net, 603-543-1307. Website: www.henryhomeyer.com.

On Writing Wobar



"Henry Homeyer's visit to our school was fabulous. Don't hesitate for one moment to bring him to your students. He will inspire them with his lively discussions, as well as his readings from both Wobar and his own diaries."

-Rachel Roper,
Cornish Elementary
School

Henry Homeyer on the Story of Wobar

"Wobar and the Quest for the Magic Calumet is a story I told in installments one summer when I was in college and running a summer recreation program in Saxton's River, VT. That was 1966. Parents of my kids on the playground begged me to write the story as a book, so eventually I wrote it as a book in 1982. But I had not a clue how to sell a book to a publisher back then, so after a few rejection slips I put it away in a drawer. But I kept thinking about how much kids loved this book, and showed it to the publisher of my gardening books, Bunker Hill Publishing, and they agreed to publish it. I got my stepson, Josh Yunger, to illustrate it – he is an artist who has illustrated my 4 gardening books and several others."

What is fun about this book is that despite the improbability of the events, kids believe the story and plow through it – each chapter ends at a turning point. Despite the fact that my boy Josh was not a good reader, he read it all in a night or two when he was 8. He couldn't put it down."

Creative Writing Workshops

Henry also leads creative writing workshops with children covering a variety of topics:

- How do you write a book? How do you get it published?
- Keeping a diary or journal: How do you do it? Why bother? What is the fun of it?
- How can children get good at using their imagination and then using that imagination to write stories, plays, skits or movies for others to enjoy? Among other tools, Henry uses illustrations from Wobar to get children to speculate about what comes in the chapters ahead – or to create their own storyline.
- How do we preserve our writing? Will diaries written on a computer still exist in 50 years the way Henry's handwritten diaries do? What can children do to ensure that their writing lives on?



Henry Homeyer is the author of five books and former elementary school teacher who enjoys working with children of all ages. He taught third and fourth grade, and was the part-time principal of a public school before going on to other careers, including the Peace Corps. He is delighted to work with groups to stimulate a love of writing and reading. Henry was recently selected as a presenter for the Children's Literacy Foundation.

To book a reading of *Wobar & the Quest for the Magic Calumet* or a creative writing workshop at your school or library, contact Henry at henry.homeyer@comcast.net, 603-543-1307. Website: www.henryhomeyer.com.