



NANCY·TURGEON

ALEKIZOU

A U T H O R

CONTACT

WELCOME to
NanTurgeonAuthor.com
and Alekizou.com!

Introductions are in order
and this colorful site will help
me do the honors!

My name is Nancy Turgeon.
I'm a children's book author with
flights-of-fancy credentials earned
since childhood. You can read all
about my journey toward writing
for children, [here](#).

I'd like to introduce you
to my new and exciting children's book,
The Alekizou and His Terrible Library Plot!

The 'Kizou has been patiently waiting
in the wings to make his debut, so...

...scroll down, or
hit the "ALEKIZOU" tab above, to
learn all about him!



Alekizou!

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Within the stacks of children's books released each year, there are few that stand out and also become a contribution to the pivotal years of early education, while being a joy to look at and fun to read!

The Alekizou and His Terrible Library Plot! is truly one of those distinctive books. It may well become a valued learning helper for parents, grandparents, teachers, librarians and specialized instructors of the hearing impaired or of English as a Second Language.

Cleverly written by Buffalo, N.Y. children's book author, Nancy Turgeon, beautifully illustrated by Washington, D.C. area artist, Patricia Cullen Raine and published by Buffalo's City of Light Publishing (formerly Buffalo Heritage Press), the engaging and quirky story of *Alekizou* is certain to capture a child's imagination!

The Plot

Alekizou lives in a mountain-top woodland. His body is constructed entirely of consonants, giving the reader a little hint about the misadventures to come. He has an intuitive and playful side to him, but *Alekizou* broods and is ignorantly "above it all," even as he curiously looks down at the town below.

As the story unfolds, the reader is introduced to the Owl, who befriends *Alekizou* as a mentor and classmate. His friend learns the letter shapes of the alphabet and can read, but *Alekizou* flatly refuses to learn (he has NO idea how he's constructed). He finds the shapes and "book learning" itself, boring, and prefers only to visually create objects using the magical pink-red lump-bulb on top of his head. The Owl scowls at *Alekizou's* jealous desire to venture down into the town where boys and girls seem to be having MORE fun with books by gathering in a big building (marked LI-BRAR-Y).

Alekizou concocts a plot. He disguises himself with a crown and robe, marches into town and attracts awe and confusion from the children and their parents. At night he eagerly breaks into the big building (The Li-brar-y) he'd seen through the spyglass, to see what was so mysterious and wonderful about the place.

Once inside, *Alekizou* rifles through the volumes and sees shapes that remind him of those in the books he'd refused to study. He's still clueless that these are actually letters, but this time, *Kizou* is suddenly and oddly drawn to the vowel shapes in the colorful library books:

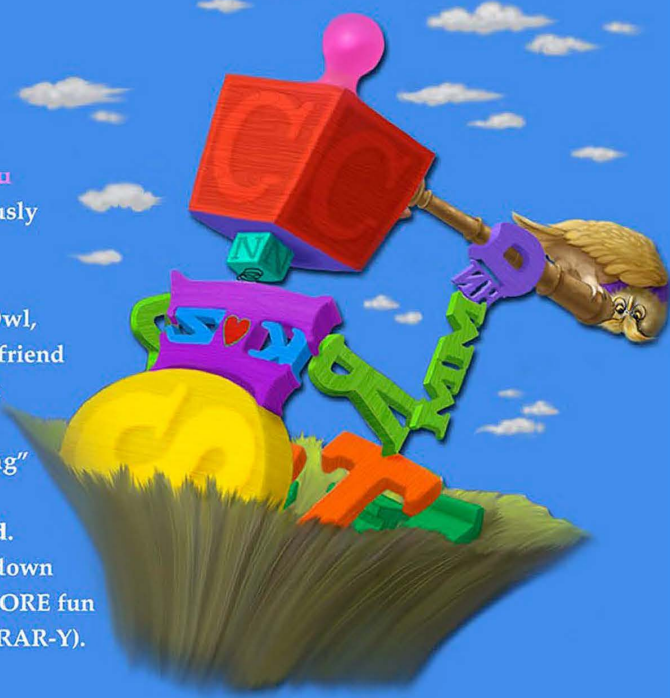
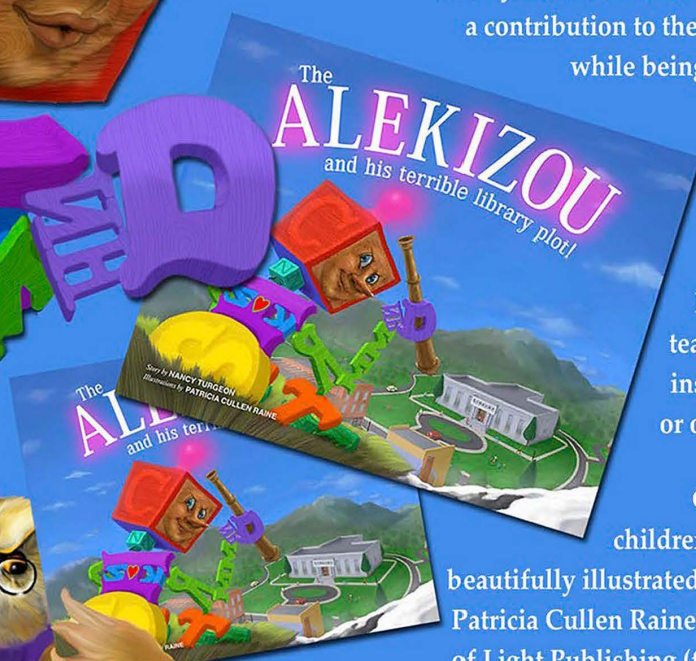
HE FINDS THEM APPETIZING!

Alekizou then EATS all the vowels, but in the process, he destroys all the books ...and the English language itself!

After this VERY strange snack, *Alekizou* becomes helpless and begins to screech (vowels are hard to digest)! The children race to his aid and the entire town is alarmed, because language has become nonsensical and books cannot be read! The problem MUST be solved!

And solved it is, by *Alekizou*, his friend the Owl and the children. He fires-up his pink-red imagination-bulb trying to restore the missing vowels as the chaotic Library adventure takes the most wildly unpredictable and clever turns...

... RIGHT UP TO THE VERY LAST PAGE!



About the Author

I've always had a vivid imagination. Early on, I invented countless puppet shows--- dutifully witnessed by a large audience of favorite dolls. I wrote and directed the grade school play, "Double or Nothing" and penned my first book. "Holley House Adventure," all about our family's move to a Civil War era house. As a teenager, I continued fun and creative quests, writing travel adventures and winning several public speaking contests. I was encouraged to pursue study in the Arts at Ohio Wesleyan University, ultimately graduating with a degree in Creative Writing. (Outlines for "The Alekizou" and another book, "The Maroon Sheep," were begun there).

After graduation, I landed a writer's job at Buffalo's WKBW Radio and turned out scripts for award-winning commercials and my first broadcast special, "Vera, the Ticklish Violin." At age 27, I founded my own advertising agency---The Creative Express---during an era in which entrepreneurial women were not the norm. My business partner (also a woman) and I got off to a strong start with our animated film campaign written for children and the Savings Banks of Western New York: "How Rodney River Rat Made His Savings Grow." (Oh, those river "banks!"). It took Best of Show!

Our agency grew, along with its good reputation. We garnered 160 awards over the years. Personal milestones include:

- * The American Advertising Federation's Silver Medal Award for significant advancement of the field (presented by William Shatner, Star Trek's "Captain Kirk");
- * Executive of the Year, presented by The Public Relations Society of America;
- * One of the Top Ten Women Executives in Buffalo;
- * As president, National Chapter of the Year (Buffalo) for American Women in Radio and Television (presented by Walter Cronkite);

And, somewhere behind those fulfilling scenes, was The Alekizou, waiting to be published! I'm thrilled that he's finally arrived!



Alekizou's BACKSTORY

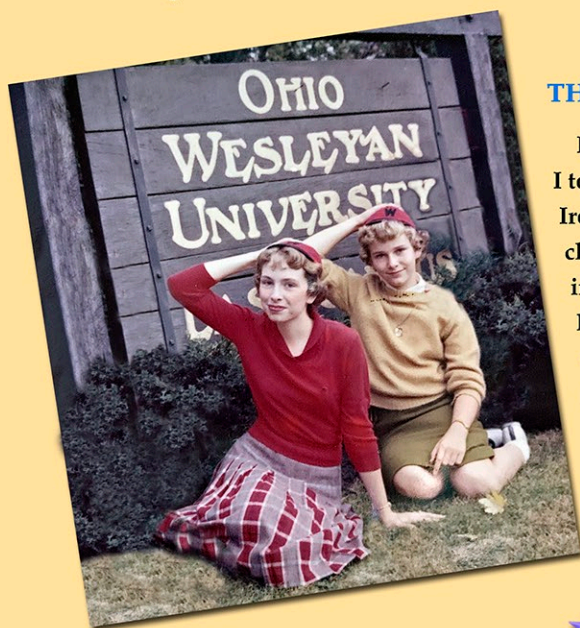


THE SECOND-GRADE INSPIRATION

The Alekizou and his Terrible Library Plot was inspired by an assignment given by my second-grade teacher (that's her on the left; Mom's on the right). Miss Velotte assigned homework that offered \$1.00 for each word we could find in the dictionary that DIDN'T contain a vowel. Lesson learned! There aren't any!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

After a dozen years and that impossible second-grade A-E-I-O-U assignment, I revisited the vowel conundrum and thought, "Hmmm... say the letters out loud and they could become a funny sounding name." The idea struck like magic --- almost the same kind of magic I believed in as a seven year-old (that's me with the wand). The name and potential character of the **Alekizou** was born! I realized that **Alekizou** is the only character in the world whose name uses vowels in the alphabetical order in which they appear in English. When you see and say his name, you automatically know the vowels in sequence. My second grade challenge was evolving! Could this lead to a book?



THE FIRST DRAFTS

My college years included a course called "Kiddies' Lit." I took it because I wanted to *write* for children, not teach. Ironically, after graduation, one of my first public relations clients included libraries interested in helping children increase their enjoyment of reading. I remembered how I loved Dr. Seuss books with their wonderful rhymes and silly characters. I thought, if only I could bring vowels to life in a story using the mnemonic device I'd discovered, vowels would be much easier to remember. I tried and tried to write it, but ultimately had to shelve the project for a time, because it just wasn't working.

THE ALEKIZ-OOPS!

Finally, years later, the story of Alekizou began to come together. However, as I prepared the manuscript for submission to a publisher, I realized that something was missing! I thought: "Just how many vowels are there, Nancy? A-E-I-O-U...that's five. But what about EXCEPTIONS? There should be six!" I had written about all of them except the letter Y. Oops! Then I thought: "The plural of Y sounds like WISE!" So now you know. My mistake gave birth to Alekizou's pal, Ys Owl!



FINDING THE ILLUSTRATOR

The first illustrator I hired, quit. Probably because it was so difficult to answer the important question:

WHAT DOES ALEKIZOU LOOK LIKE?

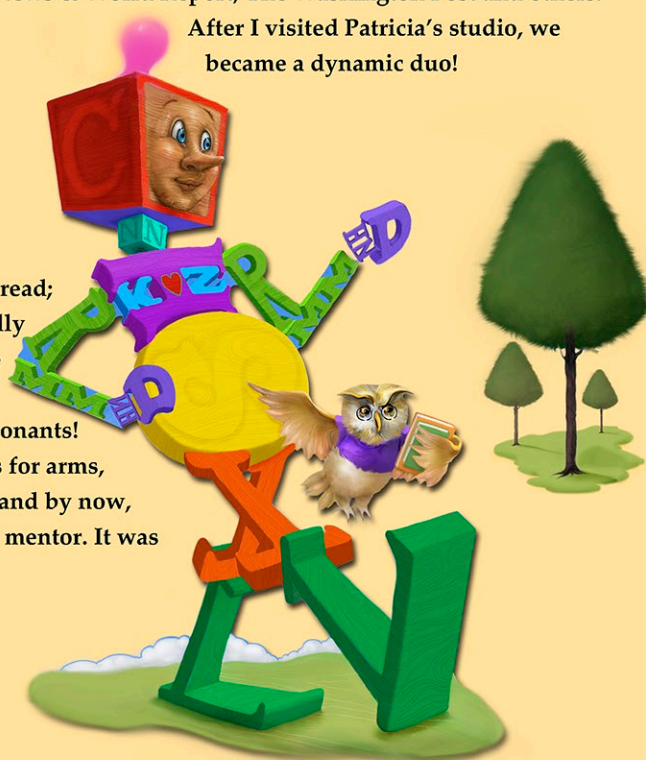
The answer for an illustrator was suggested by my sister who was invited to a luncheon. Guests had been chosen for their ability to represent the best of their professions. None had previously met. My sister was introduced to Patricia Cullen Raine, a freelance illustrator whose clients had included U.S. News & World Report, The Washington Post and others.

After I visited Patricia's studio, we became a dynamic duo!



THE LOOK OF ALEKIZOU

His look was inspired by the story. Alekizou can't read; hasn't paid attention in school. In my opinion, he really deserved a wooden block for a head. And, because he eats all the vowels, Patricia thought his body should be constructed with some of everything else: the consonants! She used upside-down Ts for thighs, Ls for legs, RMs for arms, HNDs for each hand and so on. It was memorable --- and by now, she had painted a bespectacled Owl as his friend and mentor. It was a happy collaboration!



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

I had spent some time out west and so had Patricia, so it was easy to conjure visions of a forested mountain-top lair for Alekizou, who looks down upon the town. And, I had decided to put the Alekizou up there at the beginning of the story because I thought he might feel superior looking through his spyglass at the town and the "big building" (the Library) below. Then, as the tale unfolds, it is the interior of the Library that almost becomes a character unto itself. Most of the misadventures and resolutions occur right there, in that treasure-trove of a place, which sparks the imagination.

GARBAGE WORDS

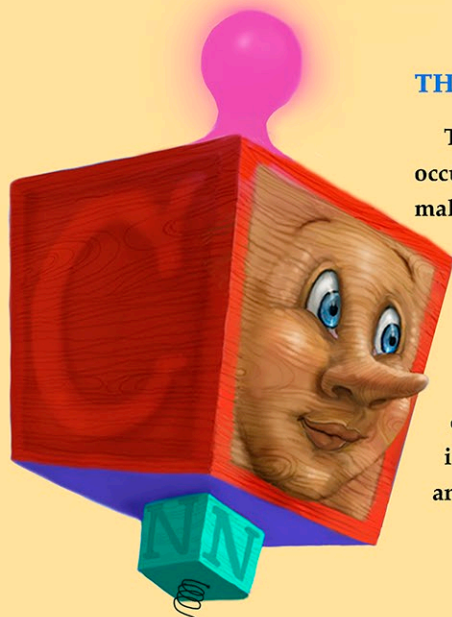
These are words with no vowels, of course! For example, just try to write your name --- or ANY word --- without vowels. Then say it out loud! The missing vowels make reading "The Alekizou" much more fun! After he EATS every vowel, all that remain are garbage words, like the one on page 19: "HLPSCRTCH! --- that's "Help! With a screech!"



THE TIMELESS LESSONS OF THE ALEKIZOU

These are the cautionary and transformative lessons that occur in many myths and fairy tales. The Alekizou initially makes some dunderheaded decisions to ease his loneliness.

He disregards the scowls of his friend and mentor, the Ys Owl, and thinks that he alone knows all the answers. He doesn't! The Alekizou, the Library, the books and speech itself are all saved with the help of the children, who can easily see the Alekizou's foolishness. And, chastened, the Alekizou finally helps himself and inspires the children with his own resourcefulness and better use of his gifts.



About the Illustrator

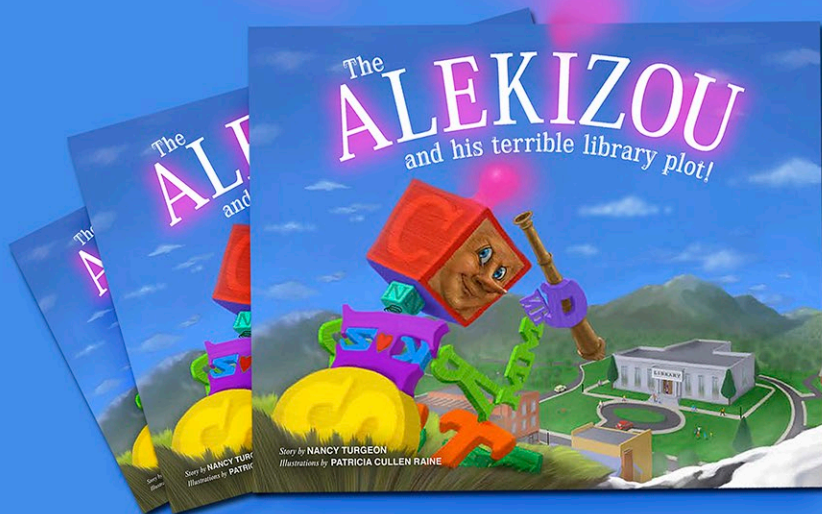
Patricia Cullen Raine has been an artist, writer and musician for most of her life and a free-lance illustrator/graphic designer for 35 of those years. Among her first influences as a budding young artist were the luminous paintings of illustrators N. C. Wyeth, Arthur Rackham, Maxfield Parrish and Jessie Wilcox-Smith. She went on to receive her BFA from Miami University of Ohio and later, was inspired to develop her own pen and ink caricaturist style, influenced by the brilliant David Levine of *The New York Times*.

Her clients have included *The Washington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report* and several national book publishers. Her work has received awards from national graphic design and illustration organizations and she has been twice-honored by The Society of Illustrators in New York. Patricia occasionally takes a recess from the complex, grown-up world of visual editorial commentary---political, social and literary---to create richly-imagined paintings for the infinitely sweeter world of children. The Alekizou is the delightful result of one of those rare interludes.

www.patriciaraineillustration.com



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and His Terrible Library Plot"***

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may now be purchased directly from
the author, Nancy Turgeon.

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The logo features the name "NANCY · TURGEON" in large red capital letters with a black outline. Below it, the word "AUTHOR" is written in smaller red capital letters. The main title "ALEKI NEWS!" is in large blue capital letters with a black outline. A colorful marionette character with a yellow body, orange legs, and a red head is positioned between "ALEKI" and "NEWS!". Above the author's name, there are several small illustrations: a person in a red and yellow outfit, a brown animal, a person in a blue uniform, a person in a red and white outfit, a black penguin, a grey elephant, a brown animal, and a carousel.

NANCY · TURGEON

AUTHOR

ALEKI NEWS!

Watch this space for NEWS regarding

Alekizou.com

and NanTurgeonAuthor.com!

This is the place to find my schedule for

Alekizou sightings / book signings

(once the lockdown has lifted!) and

for links to an upcoming 'book trailer'

and possible video-reading.

Also, there will be announcements of
new book titles-in-the-works and other events!

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