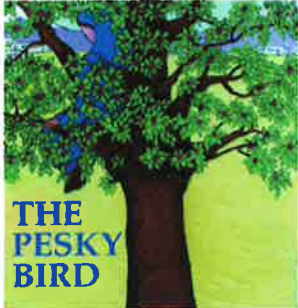




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## *The Pesky Bird*

Written by Marianne Markarian  
and Illustrated by Margaret Markarian Wasielewski

★ *Best Juvenile Fiction, 2003 Santa Barbara Writer's Conference*

★ *"The Pesky Bird gives young readers a fine glimpse into the customs of another country." —Joan Bowden, children's book author.*

Mariam loves to climb trees, but now that she has turned 12, her mother tells her it's not ladylike. Mariam, however, cannot resist the temptation. Set in the "old country" of Anatolia at the turn of the century, *The Pesky Bird* tells the story of a young girl who devises a clever (and quite humorous) way to get out of a sticky situation.

This cultural tale explores social differences as it shares Armenian traditions with readers, making the book an excellent source for the fifth grade California curriculum on heritage as well as other social studies programs that deal with foreign cultures. Vivid pastel illustrations portray the beautiful countryside and colorful dress of the Armenian people.

The author, Marianne Markarian, is a former marketing executive and a long-time writer and SCBWI member. *The Pesky Bird* is based on an anecdote from her grandmother's life.

"I love to tell children that my grandmother told this story to my mother, who then told me," says Ms. Markarian. "Immediately they begin telling me stories passed down from their own family members."

The illustrator, Margaret Markarian Wasielewski, is an award-winning artist and member of the Cincinnati Art Club. Her work has been exhibited in New York, Detroit, Cincinnati, Florida, and Chicago.

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