

Rob Sanders Detailed Bio

Rob Sanders is a teacher who writes and a writer who teaches. He is known for his funny and fierce fiction and nonfiction picture books and is recognized as one of the pioneers in the arena of LGBTQ+ literary nonfiction picture books. Rob's nonfiction work continues to break new ground, including the first picture books about the Pride Flag, the Stonewall Uprising, a transgender Civil War soldier, a gay presidential candidate, and the first gay marriage in America. His work also continues to introduce readers to heroes of the LGBTQ+ community—from Harvey Milk to Gilbert Baker, from Cleve Jones to Bayard Rustin, and more. His fiction explores friendship, relationships, standing up for others, and being allies. *Blood Brothers*, his first middle grade novel, written in powerful, raw verse released in July 2022 and was selected as a 2023 NCTE Notable Novel in Verse. 2024 releases will include Rob's first nonfiction poetry collection—*Queer and Fearless: Poems Celebrating the Lives of LGBTQ Heroes* (Penguin Workshop) and two fiction picture books—*Between You and Me* (HarperCollins) and *We Are a Class!* (Beaming Books).

A native of Springfield, Missouri and a graduate of Missouri State University, Rob has lived and worked in Texas, Alabama, and Tennessee. After earning a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Religious Education, Rob worked for fifteen years in children's religious educational publishing as a writer, educational consultant, editor, editorial group manager, and product developer. In 2006, Rob moved to Florida and began working as an elementary school teacher. Soon he was serving as a district writing trainer and resource teacher. But most of the time he could be found in fourth grade classrooms teaching students about books and words and reading and writing. He took early retirement in December 2020 to focus on his writing career.

And Rob pays it forward. He is a frequent speaker, teacher, mentor, coach, and critiquer. Rob is also a member of the SCBWI Impact and Legacy Fund Steering Committee.

Rob is represented by Rubin Pfeffer.

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