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**KANSAS HISTORY INSPIRES TEACHER TO PEN NOVEL, A VOICE FOR KANZAS**

Debra McArthur, a former history teacher in Kansas now working and teaching writing at Park University in Missouri, once assigned her high school students a journal writing project based on the settling of Kansas territory. Her own participation in the process became the starting point of a years-long project that has culminated in the release of **A Voice for Kansas**, a middle-grade fiction book published by Kane Miller, a Division of EDC Publishing. The book is available now in bookstores and through [usbornebooksandmore.com](http://usbornebooksandmore.com).

Kansas Territory in 1855 is a difficult place to settle, particularly for a thirteen-year-old poet like Lucy Thomkins, the plucky and determined heroine of **A Voice for Kansas**. Between the proslavery Border Ruffians and Insiders like her father who are determined to make Kansas a free state, it's hard to be heard, no matter your age. But after Lucy makes two new friends – a local Indian boy and a girl whose family helps runaway slaves – she makes choices to prove to herself (and others) that words and poems are meaningless without action behind them. Through their struggle to help a slave girl to freedom, Lucy ultimately finds her voice. A voice for Kansas.

The author of several non-fiction books for young people, Ms. McArthur did extensive research to accurately portray the setting and events that surround the fictional Lucy and her family. Ms. McArthur is available for presentations on Kansas history, on the process of writing **A Voice for Kansas**, and on the writing process in general, including group writing workshops. More information can be found at her website, [debramcarthur.com](http://debramcarthur.com).

Since 1983, Kane Miller Books has specialized in publishing children's books from around the world. Kane Miller Books bring the children of the world closer to each other through sharing stories and ideas, while exploring cultural differences and similarities.

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**A Voice for Kansas**, by Debra McArthur, Published by Kane Miller, a Division of EDC Publishing  
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