**Interview of Author/Illustrator** [***Teresa Lakier***](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Dntt_athr_dp_sr_1?_encoding=UTF8&sort=relevancerank&search-alias=books&ie=UTF8&field-author=Teresa%20Lakier) **on her new book** “**POETRY & PORTRAIT: AN ANTHOLOGY: PART I AND PART II.”**

Interview, Los Angeles, California, 2012.

**Q. Where are you from?**

A. South Africa, originally.

**Q. Why did you begin writing?**

A. I began writing to express what I cannot express in a visual form and to verbalize my thoughts about visual art. I found writing about art to be apathway to writing about other things.

**Q. What inspired this book?**

A. Thoughts and ideas in the form of poetry. These thoughts, ideas, and writings keep up the spirit when things around us make us feel down. The illustrations of heroes/ heroines. And my artist statement.

**Q. What was the most challenging thing about publishing this book?**

A. Poetry come naturally to me, as well as, my specific style of illustration. But compiling it was a challenge.

**Q. Do you have a writing style?**

A. Yes, I think so; it’s a unique way of expressing myself. It has kind of a quirky feel to it.

**Q. Is there a message you want readers to grasp?**

A. That no matter how bad your troubles, there is always a positive side. We learn and grow from these experiences, and we find of some sort of validation from them for future positive action.

**Q. How much of the book is real?**

A. It is an intellectual discourse, so I suppose, philosophically speaking that makes it real.

**Q. Are experiences based on someone you know, or events in your own life?**

A. Both. Part I is based on heroes/heroines, which have touched me in some way. Part II is about various events in my life that has been abstracted.

**Q. What book are you reading?**

A. Leo Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina

**Q. What other current projects are you working on?**

A. Hopefully a picture book will come to fruition in the next while. Also, I am in the midst of writing and illustrating "Poetry & Portrait: An Anthology: Part III and IV".

**Q. Name one entity that you feel supported you.**

A. SCBWI. They have taken me in and informed me of the process of illustrating and writing for publication.

**Q. Can you explain in one sentence what the book is about?**

A. Human character and self-evolution**.**

**Q. Who designed the cover?**

A. I did.

**Q. What was the hardest part of the writing of the book?**

A. The writing and editing processes**.**

**Q. Did you learn anything from writing the book?**

A. I have learned about many areas of expertise: writing, editing, publishing, and marketing. You name it, I have learnt about it.

**Q. Do you have anything specific you want to say to your readers?**

A. Don’t distress. There’s always a way to find your way out of your troubles. You just have to look for it.

Questions about this interview should be sent to Teresa Lakier at info@teresalakier.com or please reach her at 310-801-2295. You can learn more about Poetry & Portrait: An Anthology: Part I and Part II by going to www.poetryandportrait.com. Poetry & Portrait can be found on Create Space, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble, as well as, some indie websites.