

## Author Q and A

### **Where did you get the idea for *Seed Savers*?**

In the documentary, *Food, Inc.*, I saw a story about a man whose business is seed cleaning for farmers (for the next year's planting). This man's business is ruined by MONSANTO because of accusations and lawsuits regarding the seed, ownership, patents, etc. Aside from the questionable issue of seed ownership, I found myself saying, "His occupation is *seed cleaner*? I never heard of that; here is an occupation that is dying out and I didn't even know about it." And then one thought led to another . . . *Seed Savers* was born.

### **In what ways are you like your main characters?**

Well, I certainly share in Ana's love of gardening and eating good food. With Lily, I share the need to reflect by way of journaling. I think I'm most like Clare in her sense of spirituality and maybe feeling like I need to be a responsible person to those around me.

### **How did you come up with the secret signs and symbols the Seed Savers use to identify each other?**

I thought that if Seed Savers was a secret "underground network" they would need secret ways of identifying each other, like the Underground Railroad or hobo traveling signs. The first symbol is purple lupines. As mentioned in *Treasure*, lupines were chosen by the Seed Savers because wild lupines were among the first plants to come back in the barren land created by the eruption of Mt. Saint Helens. That's a fact. To the Seed Savers, it symbolized that their way of life—saving seeds and gardening—would also come back. The second symbol, a circle within a circle, represents an ancient sacred symbol of mother earth and the fertility and fruitfulness she embodies. This fit the overall context of growing one's own food, and also seemed like a cool-looking symbol. The final sign was a verbal question using a code name for final verification purposes, like in all the spy movies. I just made up a name randomly, and I apologize if your name is Amber Jensen.

### **Is *Seed Savers* going to be made into a movie?**

I think *Seed Savers* would be great as a movie. The first two books could even be combined into the first movie. More than one person has suggested Morgan Freeman for the part of Gruff. But before that happens, the books probably need to become more well-known. :)

### **Are there any specific authors whose writing styles or subject matter inspired your books?**

I think I'd have to go with Lois Lowry and *The Giver* and Ray Bradbury with *Fahrenheit 451*.