

BIOGRAPHY

Cecilia Casrill Dartez

Cecilia Casrill Dartez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, along with her Louisiana elementary teacher certification, and teacher certification for the educable mentally retarded. She has done graduate study in reading instruction at Tulane University and in psychology at Princeton University.

A former teacher in public and private schools of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes in Louisiana, Ms. Dartez is now an author of children's books, guide books for tourists, and organizational newsletters. She also educates and entertains school children and adults with her informative and entertaining interactive lectures and presentations on the history, heritage, and culture of Louisiana; conducts young writer's workshops; and, teaches memoir writing in the area's largest senior citizen educational activity program.

As a licensed tour guide, she has conducted tours for national and international groups. She is also a guide for children's historical tours with the Hermann-Grima/Gallier houses – original mid-19th century house-museums in the French Quarter.

Ms. Dartez is the author of – *L is for Louisiana* (state approved – McGraw Hill's K-4 Louisiana Social Studies Program 1999 – 2005); *Jenny Giraffe Discovers the French Quarter*; *Jenny Giraffe and the Streetcar Party* (an Accelerated Reader Selection); *Jenny Giraffe Discovers Papa Noel*; *Jenny Giraffe's Mardi Gras Ride* (all Jenny Giraffe's stories are also on cassette tape, read by Ms. Dartez), *The Louisiana Plantation Coloring Book*; *A Marmac Guide to New Orleans* (Editor); and she developed the internet story "Jenny Giraffe Discovers the Library" (www.nutrias.org) - (earned a key to the city for this children's project).