

**BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND ARTS EDUCATOR EXPLAINS
HOW TO CREATE LIFELONG LOVE OF READING IN “*RAISING BOOKWORMS*”**

Chappaqua, NY – “How can I get my child to turn off the Gameboy and pick up a book?” This is the question that **Emma Walton Hamilton**, best-selling children’s book author, arts educator, and Editorial Director, **Julie Andrews Collection** publishing imprint, hears often. Whether on book tour with her mother and co-author, legendary actress Julie Andrews, at schools and libraries, or in casual conversation, this question surfaces again and again. In ***Raising Bookworms: Getting Kids Reading for Pleasure and Empowerment*** (Beech Tree Books), Hamilton offers a creative approach and simple, effective strategies to help kids discover the joys of reading.

Elective reading has dramatically declined over the last fifty years, yet to participate fully in the future workplace, young people will need powerful literacy skills. Hamilton offers insights, recommendations, and tactics to engage even the most reluctant reader, and demonstrates how reading ties in with virtually every area of life. Drawing on her theater background, she shows how to bring books alive with creative techniques and arts-based activities. Her insightful tips, strategies, and reading recommendations demonstrate how books can be a springboard for fun and shared learning. At www.raisingbookworms.com, readers can share their own strategies and success stories.

Emma Walton Hamilton has co-authored sixteen books, four of which have been *New York Times* bestsellers, including the *Dumpy the Dump Truck* series, *The Great American Mousical*, *Thanks to You - Wisdom from Mother and Child*, and *Simeon’s Gift*. She co-founded Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor, NY, an esteemed regional theater, and created and managed their unique performance and arts-in-education programs. She has developed writing and performing arts curriculums, and has created teachers’ guides, games, and activities for the website, www.julieandrewscollection.com.

Hamilton is a member of the Author's Guild, The Dramatists' Guild, The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the International Reading Association, SAG, AEA, AFTRA and ASCAP. She has served on the theater panel for the New York State Council on the Arts, and as National Ambassador for The Broadway League's "Kids' Night on Broadway." She has spoken on literacy and the arts for such organizations as the American Library Association, the New York State Association of Arts Educators, Macmillan McGraw-Hill, and Target.

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