

Jennifer Bradbury, B.A. English, 1997, & M.A. English, 2004

By Callie Compton

Young Adult Fiction Author

Jennifer Bradbury (1997, 2004) has published award-winning books of young adult fiction, including [*Shift*](#), [*Wrapped*](#), [*A Moment Comes*](#), and [*River Runs Deep*](#). A former high school English teacher, she has triumphed on the quiz show *Jeopardy!*, participated in a [*Fulbright Teaching Exchange*](#) in India, and biked from Charleston, South Carolina, to Los Angeles, California.



Jennifer's experiences with teaching and traveling greatly impacted her first novel, *Shift*, which was picked as an ALA Best Book for Young Adults in 2009. Jennifer's Kentucky roots also visibly influence her work. Her novel *River Runs Deep*, for example, features a twelve-year-old boy being treated for consumption in Mammoth Cave.

Bradbury grew up in Owensboro, Kentucky, and earned both her BA and MA in English from Western Kentucky University. While attending WKU, she also studied abroad for a semester at Cambridge University in England. She currently lives in Burlington, Washington, and balances writing with raising a family.

Bradbury said her WKU English degrees provided very practical tools for her to pursue teaching and writing goals. Composition and literature courses "absolutely parlayed into my teaching," she said, and writing, "no matter the genre or topic," allowed her to practice and prepare to write fiction. She encourages those interested in English and in writing to be "intentional and gracious" with themselves—to tackle big goals one day at a time. "Five hundred words a day may not sound like much," said Bradbury, "but it's amazing how a novel can come together over time if you keep to that sort of schedule."

