

Featured Author

Sharon Draper



Sharon Draper wanted to be a teacher since childhood.

She attended Pepperdine University as a National Merit Scholar and majored in English.

She taught junior & senior high school English in Cincinnati, Ohio.

She also wrote the children's book series "*Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs*".

Ms. Draper was voted the *1997 Teacher of the Year* by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic Inc.

“I was an avid reader.

I read every single book
in the elementary school library,”



“all of them.”

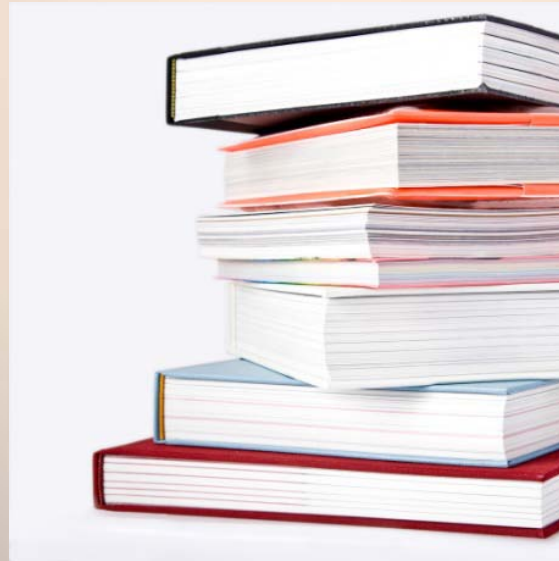


“I did not plan to be a writer until
much, much later.

I tell students all the time that in order
to be a good writer it is necessary first
to be a good reader.”



“You need some information in your head.”



“Reading is input.

Writing is output.

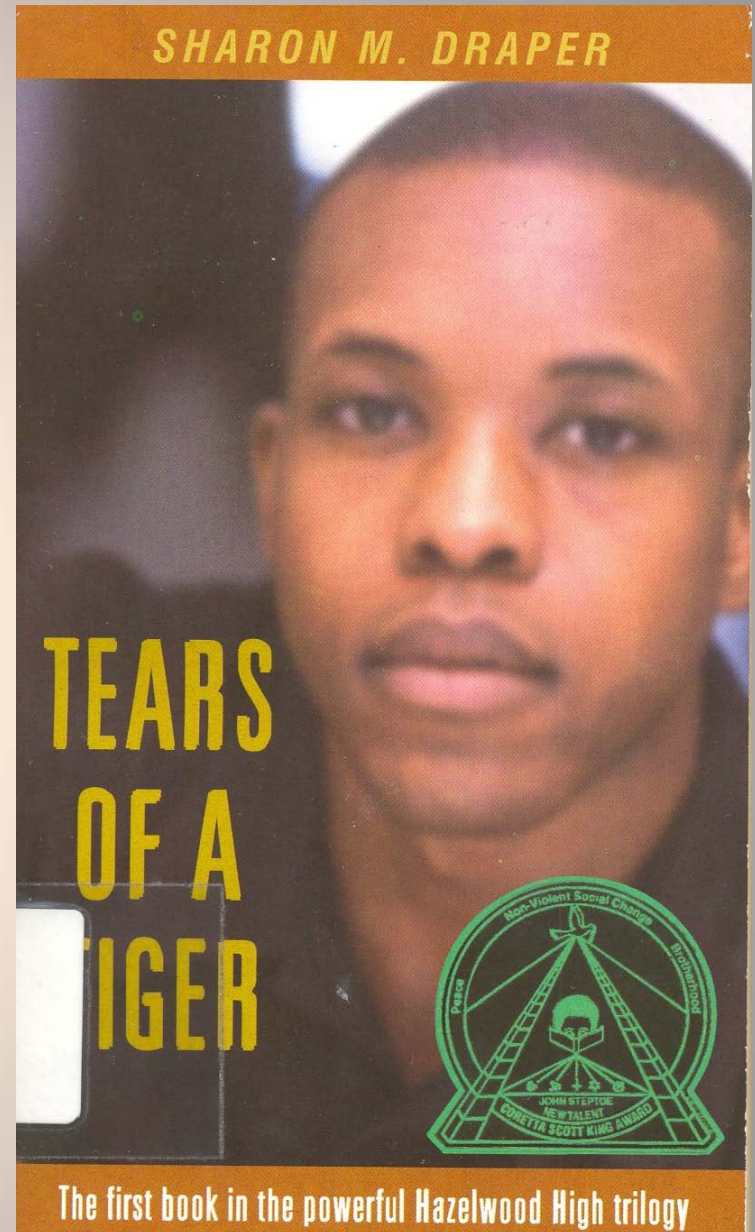
You can't write without input.”

-Sharon Draper



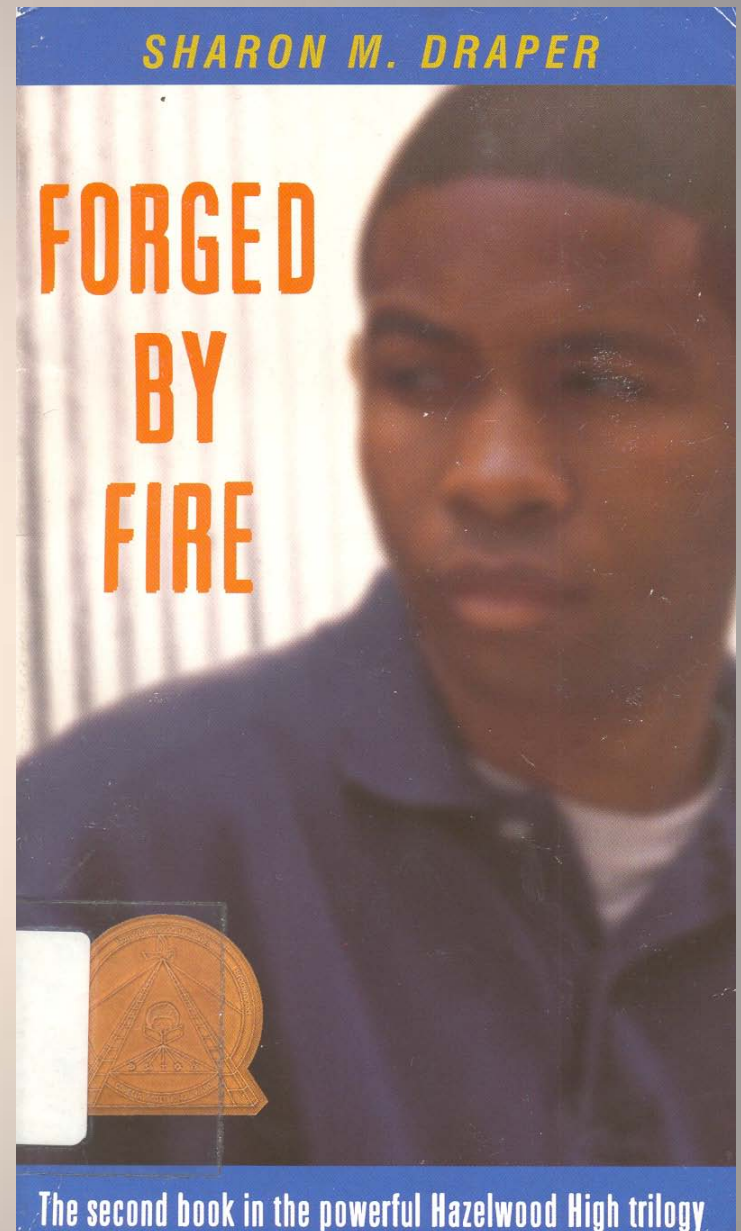
Tears of a tiger

- *Her first novel published in 1994.*
- *1st book of the "Hazelwood High Trilogy".*
- *The death of high school basketball star in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.*
- *Coretta Scott King Genesis Award.*



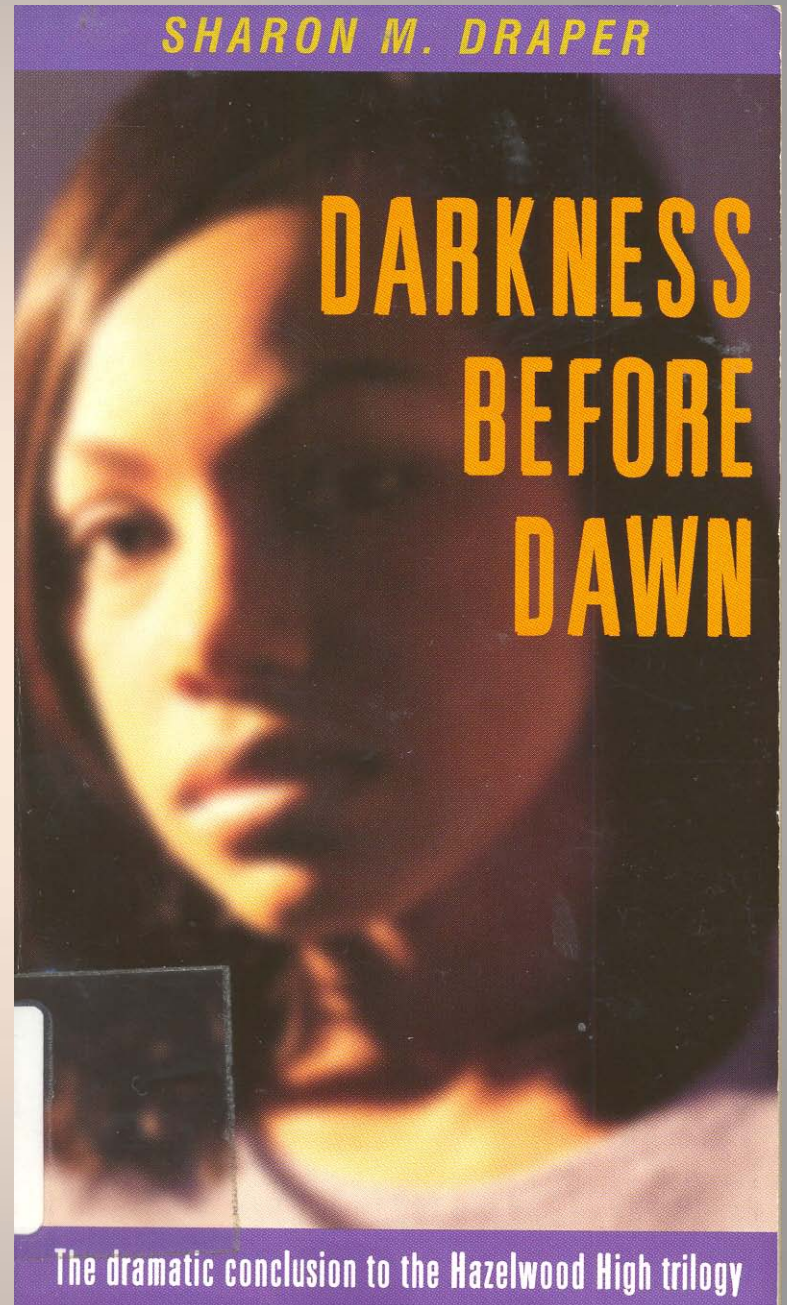
Forged by Fire

- *2nd book of the "Hazelwood High Trilogy".*
- *Teenage Gerald, who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father, faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved.*
- *Coretta Scott Award Winner*



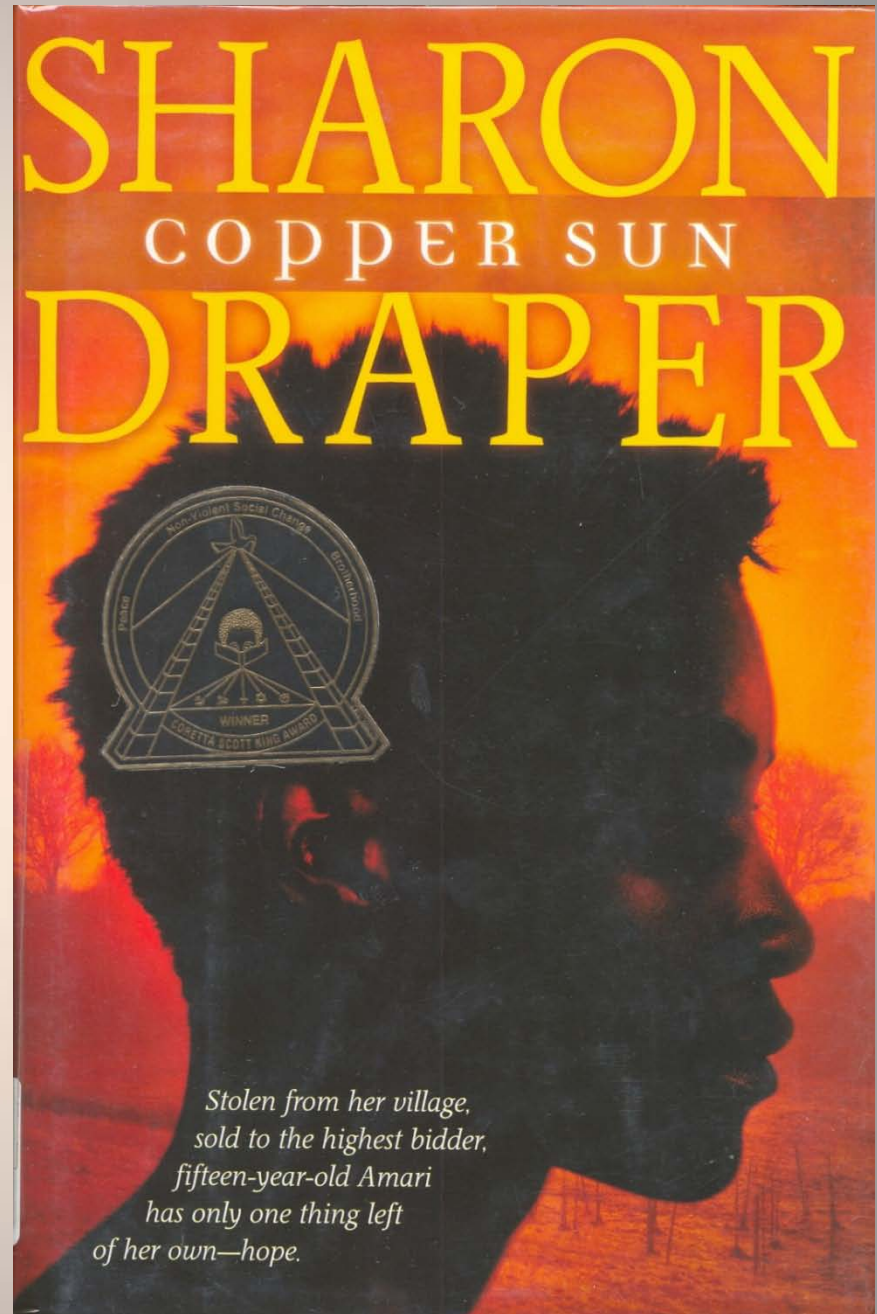
Darkness before dawn

- *3rd book of the "Hazelwood High Trilogy".*
- *Recovering from the recent suicide of her ex-boyfriend, senior class president Keisha Montgomery finds herself attracted to a dangerous, older man.*



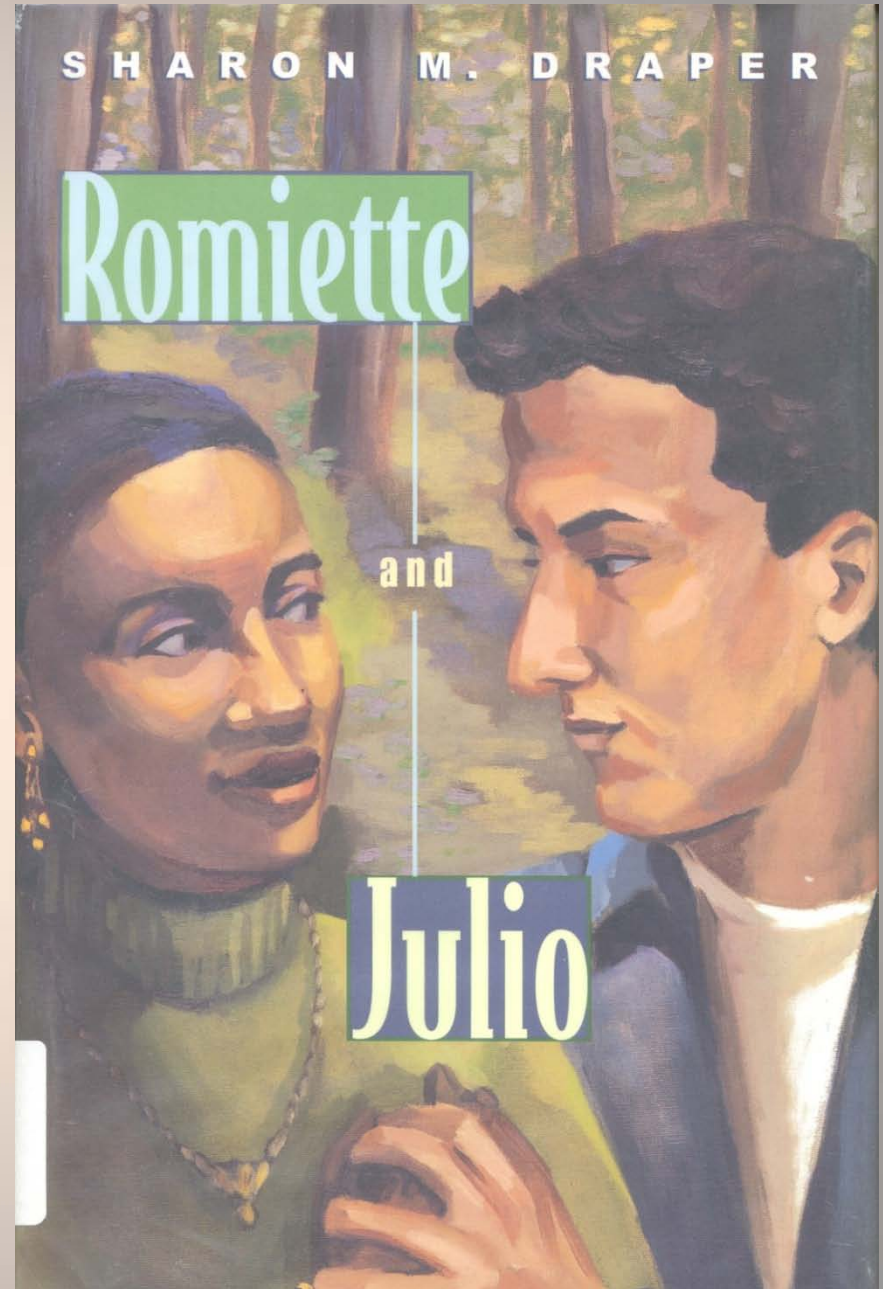
Copper Sun

- *Black Eyed Susan* nominee in 2007-2008.
- *Coretta Scott King Award*
- *Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves in the 1700's.*



Romiette & Julio

- *American Book Award.*
- *Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, discover that they attend the same high school after falling in love on the Internet, but are harassed by a gang whose members object to their interracial dating.*



The Battle of Jericho

- *Coretta Scott King Award Honor Book for 1997.*
- *A high school junior and his cousin suffer the ramifications of joining what seems to be a "reputable" school club.*

