

# ***Serafina's Promise***

By Ann E. Burg

## **Annotation**

- Serafina lives in rural Haiti. Life is hard. Serafina desires to go to school. Antoinette Solaine, the doctor who tried to save Serafina's baby brother, Pierre encourages her. Serafina's conflicting feelings toward her mother and her homeland are brought forth in this novel in verse.

## **Book Talk**

- Eleven year old Serafina's life is filled with chores and struggle. But she dreams of going to school and becoming a doctor. Living outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Serafina has already witnessed the loss of a baby brother to disease and hunger and faces flooding as well as the earthquake of 2010. Now Manman is about to have another baby. Will her family be able to do without her help or afford her school uniform? This novel is written in verse and weaves a story of Haitian history, culture and Creole phrases.

## **Book Trailers**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrLjjC\\_LSBk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrLjjC_LSBk)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzu73cLVEjl>

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://www.annburg.com/>
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Ann E. Burg](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ann-E.-Burg)
- Blog: <http://anneburg.blogspot.com/>

## **Items to use in a library display**

- Bucket to fetch water, jump rope, bright yellow notebook, stethoscope, pictures of the President's Palace and Haitian flag.

## **Food**

- rice, p. 16; mango, p. 18; banana, p. 43; bread, p.53; oranges, p. 58; sapote, p. 251

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- <http://www.scholastic.ca/kids/discussionguides/pdfs/SerafinasPromise.pdf>

## **First Line of the Book:**

- "Under my bare feet,  
brown brittle grass

prickles and stings.”

### **Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

- *Haiti* (Blastoff! Readers: Exploring Countries), by Jim Bartell
- *Earthquake in Haiti* by Miriam Aronin
- [Earthquakes](#) by Franklyn M. Branley

### **What to Read Next**

- *A Long Walk to Water*, Linda Sue Park
- *Island of the Blue Dolphin*, Scott O’Dell

### **Other Books by this Author:**

- <http://www.annburg.com/books.html>

### **Additional Resources**

- Music: Haitian National Anthem
- Poetry read by the author: <http://www.annburg.com/younger.html>
- Interview with the author:  
<http://www.scholastic.ca/kids/discussionguides/pdfs/SerafinasPromise.pdf>
- Lesson ideas: Jump rope song on p. 164, Counting in French and/or Creole; The science of earthquakes, the topography of Haiti.