

## 'Perfect Christmas Tree' Author visits ASU

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Award-winning children's book author Gloria Houston shared writing tips with students and fans during the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Lecture last week at Appalachian State University.

Houston says she has "a movie screen" in her head when she writes. The author of more than ten books, including *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree* and the *Littlejim* series, Houston is from Avery County, near the Mitchell County line. Most of her books are about family members.

*Christmas Tree*

, for example, is about her mother, Ruth. Houston encourages writers to ground their work in reality.