## Bill Wallace

Award-winning author Bill Wallace started writing after a tough year of teaching fourth graders. As he says, “Trying to read to a class of 25 kids who aren't listening is downright MISERABLE. Finally, students asked me to tell stories about when I was growing up. I soon ran out of these, so they decided I should make up new stories. I became a writer so I could survive my first year as a teacher. The class loved the stories I wrote for them and persuaded me to get somebody to make us a real book.” *Shadow on the Snow*, *Trapped in Death Cave*, and *A Dog Called Kitty* all started out as books for his students. However, it took ten long years for his first book (*A Dog Called Kitty*) to be accepted for publication. Since then, this former elementary-school teacher has written over 31 books and won numerous awards. Other favorites include: *Red Dog*, *Buffalo Gal*, *Danger in Quicksand Swamp*, *Beauty*, *Aloha Summer*, *Watchdog and the Coyotes*, and *Coyote Autumn*. He was honored with 20 State Children Choice Awards as well as receiving the Arrell M. Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000.  He was privileged to speak to children all across the United States.

Wallace was born and raised in [Chickasha, Oklahoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chickasha,_Oklahoma). William ‘Bill’ Wallace was born Aug. 1, 1947 in Chickasha, the son of L. Keith Wallace and Mabel (Burke) Wallace. He graduated from Chickasha High School in 1965. He studied professional writing at the [University of Oklahoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Oklahoma). He then got a B.S. in Elementary Education from The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in 1971 and an M.S. in Elementary Administration from SWOSU in 1974. He started teaching in 1971, and became the principal/P.E. teacher at West Elementary in Chickasha in 1977. The school was later named The Bill Wallace Early Education Center. When the new Early Childhood Education Center was built, the name Bill Wallace was transferred to the new school. The themes from the books written by Bill Wallace previously mentioned, are symbolically used to designate centers or areas within the school.

Mr. Wallace was inducted into the Chickasha Hall of Fame in 2003. He passed away in 2012.