

Dear Readers,

The **Mother Lode Book Festival** in Murphys, California on Saturday, May 3 was SO much fun, starting with a gob-smacking drive on Highway 49. The trees and foliage were fully leafed out, and the rugged landscape was a scenery painter's delight. Among other lovely sights, we passed through Calistoga, home of the Jumping Frog competition made famous by Mark Twain.

Murphys itself, although nestled in the heart of the gold rush country, is today more of a wine-tasting attraction, pulling in visitors from far and wide. At the book festival, in addition to selling a number of books, I met up with people from as far as Monterrey who had driven up just for the day. I even connected with a couple who were lately from my hometown of Appleton, Wisconsin!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the **Sacramento Book Festival** on Saturday, May 31 at Shepard Garden & Arts Center on McKinley Blvd. I'll be there all day, as will more than 100 other local authors and bookstores, as well as several notable author/speakers. The event is free, but the sponsors ask attendees to please bring a children's book for the Mustard Seed School, which is a free private school for homeless children ages 3-15 years old. If you come, do stop by my table and say hello!

Cheers,  
Jenifer