

# HACKMATAACK

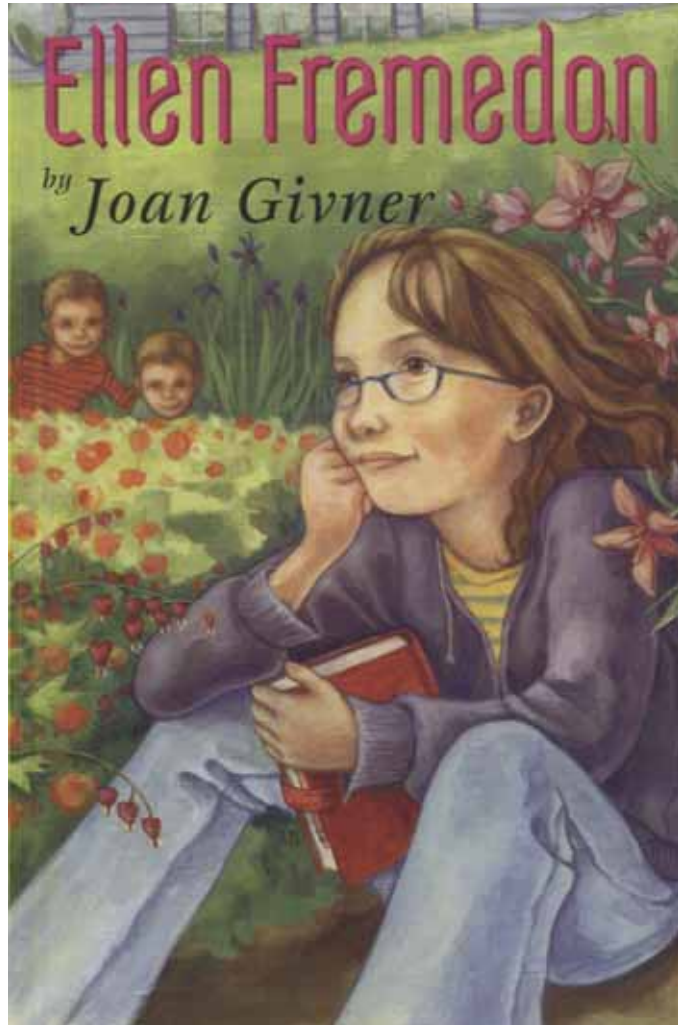
## 2006

### ***Ellen Fremedon***

by Joan Givner

Because Ellen Fremedon's family cannot travel, she is faced with a long summer at home. Partly to save face with neighbours who keep asking about her summer plans, she decides to write a book. She has little trouble with characters and setting but the plot presents a problem. However, when a developer schemes to build 400 houses on the aquifer that supplies the town's water, and her father decides to oppose it, Ellen finds she has a ready-made plot. The plot thickens when the Fremedons discover they have an enemy in their midst -- someone posing as a friend who is really on the side of the developer. Things get scarier when Ellen's twin brothers disappear. Nothing is resolved neatly (developers are hard to stop) but with the wise counsel of her philosopher father and the advice of her best friend, Jenny Brown, Ellen ends the summer a happier and wiser person.

Joan Givner was inspired to write this story when her husband's health prevented them from travelling and a developer planned a subdivision in her community similar to the one in *Ellen Fremedon*.



### **Thematic Links:**

Environmental issues  
Writing fiction  
Family relationships  
Basic Philosophy

### **Activity Ideas:**

- Try writing a book. Discuss writer's block, having a writing space of your own, the anxieties of having others read your work.
- Explore other ways of creative expression: paint, paper collage, sculpture
- Research the water supply in your community.
- Research how construction in your community affects the environment.