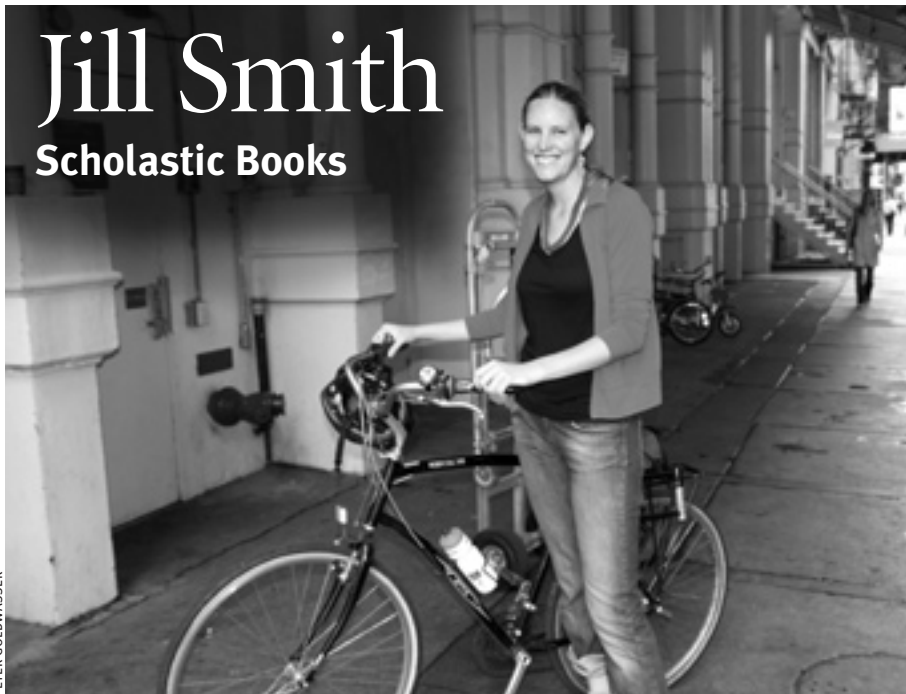


## Jill Smith Scholastic Books



**“I don’t want to badmouth quidditch, but it doesn’t offer a full body workout.”**

**How has your office building made cycling to work easier for you?** There is bike parking inside, which not only keeps my bike safe, but I can leave it overnight if it starts raining. My office also has a gym in the basement, so in the muggier months I can rinse off.

**What’s the best part of your morning commute?** Leaving the traffic behind and getting on the Manhattan Bridge. Also, for the past year it’s been a pleasure to spot the new bike lanes that have popped up on my commute.

**What would be a reason that you wouldn’t ride your bike to work? When not riding, how do you get to work?** There is NOTHING that would keep me from riding to work--except when it gets too chilly. Then I take a heated broomstick and try to get a workout in at the gym.

**If you could put a bike lane anywhere on your daily commute, where would it be?** Hmm. It’s not exactly the same thing, but getting on the Brooklyn Bridge from Manhattan is frustrating. There is now a lane that cars and bikes share, but there are always pedestrians standing where bikes are supposed to get onto the Brooklyn Bridge. It makes me stop in the middle of traffic while I wait for everyone to move. It feels precarious.

**What’s your favorite street to ride on?** I like to ride on Bedford Avenue out to Jacob Riis Park. The changes in the neighborhoods as you ride are so dramatic, it makes me feel like I’m traveling further than just to Queens.

**Are you a lone wolf, or do your colleagues also ride their bikes to work?** There’s a small percentage of bikers here. I think most people still think it’s a bit too dangerous or too much work.

**If you could safely ride your bike and read a book at the same time, what book would it be?** Perhaps the *Odyssey*. I’ve been thinking that it’s a book that deserves a re-read, and it would put the hills in my neighborhood in perspective. At least they’re not Cyclops. □

Jill is one of the dozens of new T.A. members we met at August’s member mixer near our office. A month later, she headlined a rally for secure indoor bike parking at City Hall to talk about her office’s pro-bike policies. In addition to working at one of the city’s most fanciful employers, the indoor bike parking and changing rooms at her workplace give her enviable peace of mind.

**Age:** 31

**Occupation?** I work in publishing.

**How long have you been commuting by bike?** 4 years

**Where do you commute from?** Brooklyn

**Why do you like riding your bike to work?** Exercise, no subway delays, fresh air (sort of), and it’s cheap.

**Do you think Harry Potter likes to ride a bike? If so, what type of bike?** I think he might find that a bike offers more exercise than a broom. I don’t want to badmouth quidditch, but it doesn’t offer a full-body workout.

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