

Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

December 2009
Volume 2, Issue 12

Donna M. McDine
Children's Author



Welcome to the December issue of my FREE newsletter:

Write What Inspires You!

Last month I mentioned about lightening my writing load during the month of December and boy was I forced to do that sooner than I expected. I unfortunately was laid up with the swine flu last week. Even though the initial symptoms of headache, fever, chills, and body aches are now behind me the exhaustion is still lingering. So rather than fight it, I'm listening to my body and taking the needed rest it craves.

My newsletter is normally released on the 1st of the month and it has been nagging me that I haven't distributed the 1st ANNI VERSARY yet so finally here it is. To celebrate the 1st ANNI VERSARY I've interviewed three authors from the Children's Writers' Coaching Club, headed by Suzanne Lieurance. In an effort to keep the celebration going please visit my blog <http://www.donna-mcdine.blogspot.com> on December 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th, and 22nd and learn more about CWCC and all it has to offer. You'll be happy you did. Of course, any questions you may have please contact me at dmcdine@optonline.net.

In celebration of the 2009 holiday season, please be sure to stop by my blog on Saturday, December 12th and share your family holiday traditions and be automatically entered into the DRAWING for "You Are More Than Enough, Every Woman's Guide to Purpose, Passion & Power," by Judi Moreo and as an added BONUS Moreo's Achievement Journal will be included. Even if you are a male writer, please stop by. I look forward to you all visiting on December 12th.

It is my pleasure to present to you interviews with Karen Cioffi, Dorit Sasson, and Kathy Stemke. Don't miss the goodies in the columns: Book Reviews, SFC Best of Anthology, Writer's Digest Best Of, First Book, Media Release, and Sponsor Ads.

If you are interested, please feel free to submit your name for an interview, an essay and/or your successes to: dmcdine@optonline.net

Please share this newsletter with your peers in the writing industry and encourage them to opt-in as a monthly subscriber.

Wishing you ALL a BLESSED Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

Donna

Quote of the Month:

"I owe it to myself to find time for my creative self."
Lenor Fini, Meditations for Women Who Do Too Much

Contents

Welcome	1
Author Interviews	2
Book Reviews	11
Writer's Digest Best Of	11
Dynamic Media Releases	12
Inde-Debut 2010	12
SFC Best of Anthology	13
First Book – Grenier	14
Muse Online Conference	15
Fish for a Free Book	16
Newsletters	16
Supporter Ads	17

AUTHOR INTERVIEW – KAREN CIOFFI

I met children's author, Karen Cioffi, in cyber-space a little over a year ago and have remained in touch personally and through the CWCC since. Come along and learn more about Karen's writing career and the obstacles she has had to overcome to reach her success. I'm sure you will be in awe and will walk away inspired.

DMc: What or whom inspired you to start writing for children?

KC: I always wrote poetry, but when I was expecting my first child I began to focus on writing poems for children. After my daughter was born, I composed Day's End Lullaby. Then, another child and life lead me away from writing until my younger daughter, Robyn, was getting her Masters in Children's Literature. This sparked my writing again and I took up the pen to write children's stories.

DMc: What is the most valuable piece of writing advice you have ever received?

KC: There are actually two "most valuable" pieces of writing advice I've received:

- ✓ Don't judge yourself based on other writers' accomplishments.
- ✓ Don't give up – PERSEVERE! It's not always the most gifted writer who succeeds; it's the one who perseveres.

DMc: What has been your most memorable experience in your writing career?

KC: Wow, until recently I would have no problem pinpointing this – it would be the Muse Online Writers Conference of 2008. It was my first conference. It was completely overwhelming, but I learned so much; it was definitely a turning point for me. A workshop in this conference was the catalyst that motivated me to create VBT – Writers on the Move. Denise Cassino gave the workshop and discussed virtual tours. She suggested the attendees get together and create one. I initiated the process and rather than a one-time tour, I created a group for authors to cross-promote using ongoing virtual tours and other promotional strategies.

But, this month, so much has happened that I have to add three more memorable experiences, and honors: Lea Schizas joined the DKV Writing 4 U team (as the professional editor); my blog site, Karen and Robyn Writing for Children, was added to Sylvan Dell Publishing's Website Blogroll; and my fantasy chapter manuscript was accepted to be read by a publisher. Even if nothing comes of the last one, it's a wonderful learning experience and gives me a little more confidence that others see what I see in the story.

Okay, let me counteract that last questionably negative sentence: they love my ms...they love my...they love my ms. ☺

Oh, one more memorable experience that just happened is the creator of Lullaby Link (a site about and for lullabies) found my book, Day's End Lullaby, through a Google search. She

contacted me, reviewed my book, and created a video for the Lullaby Link site and one for YouTube. I've wanted to get the lullaby on a video and amazingly, now it is!

DMc: What kind of obstacles or challenges have you experienced as a children's writer?

KC: The first obstacle I've encountered is the learning and research curve. Writing for children has many more rules, tricks, strategies, and so on than other writing. It took me a long time to get a sense of writing appropriately for my intended age group. What I mean by that is using the correct words, situations and actions. I work on this constantly. I do have a great children's writing coach, Suzanne Lieurance (The Children's Writing Coaching Club), who helps tremendously in this area.

The next obstacle would be my focus. I've mentioned to some that I'm focused on being scattered. This keeps me from submitting my manuscripts as I should which is a big NO-NO.

DMc: Do you dedicate your writing sessions to one manuscript at a time or do you work on several projects at a time?

KC: I have several projects going at once. I currently have three picture books (one is collaboration with my daughter), one chapter book, and one middle grade book. In addition to this, I write articles and publish them with Suite101, AssociatedContent, and EzineArticles, and maintain four blogs.

DMc: You recently were bestowed the honor of being named to the [Sylvan Dell Publishing Website Blogroll](#). Was this an unexpected honor or do you write for them? Please explain how you made this prestigious list.

KC: Yes, this was a very unexpected honor...I'm still smiling. It's amazing how some things happen: I'm a reviewer for BookPleasures.com. I reviewed one of Sylvan Dell's new books, What's New at the Zoo? An Animal Adding Adventure. Sara Dobie, from Sylvan Dell, remembered me and this particular review and was kind enough to add me to the blogroll.

DMc: Please share with us your inspiration behind Day's End Lullaby co-authored with Robyn Feltman. What was your collaboration process like?

KC: My firstborn, as a baby, woke during the night a lot, so I composed a bedtime lullaby that I sang to her as I paced up and down the hallway trying to get her back to sleep. I sang the lullaby to my second child and all the other little ones that came along in the family. It became a family lullaby that actually helped by soothing babies to sleep. When my first grandson was born, Robyn talked me into turning the lullaby into a children's bedtime picture book. She believed it would be a wonderful book that we could share with others. Since the text was already written, we collaborated on the illustrations to be used, colors, cover, and so on. We also decided to include the sheet music to the lullaby - it's the last two pages of the book. It was a fun experience working with my daughter on this project together.

Since having Multiple Sclerosis, and knowing limitations and health possibilities, I also wanted to create the book for my family and the next generations. This is what prompted us to self-publish rather than taking the traditional publishing road.

DMc: Please share with us your current Works-in-Progress.

KC: I have a fantasy chapter book. It's about a young boy who longs to learn magic and is based on an ancient Chinese tale. I have the beginning of a middle grade science-fiction (or it may end up a chapter book also) story about boys lost in space. I also have two children's picture books, or children's magazine articles – I'm not sure which I'll go for. One is about young superheroes, and the other is about a young boy learning the importance of positive thinking, along with practice. I also have a couple of other children's articles that I'm working on. And, I have the picture book I'm working on with my daughter.

DMc: What can we expect from you in the future?

KC: Well, I recently created a health site dedicated to Multiple Sclerosis, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, Anxiety, and Clinical Depression.

So, now in addition to writing articles about children's writing and marketing, I write about these health topics.

I will also continue to write for children. I favor picture books and chapter book lengths and will probably focus on those.

DMc: You are a member of the Children's Writing Coaching Club. For those of our readers not familiar with Suzanne Lieurance's club please describe what a new member can expect from it.

KC: I've been a member of the Children's Writing Coaching Club for around a year and a half - I have to say it is a great club. It delves into writing children's books as well as writing for children's magazines: the techniques, tips, the dos and don'ts, the tricks, it's all explained. Members are given monthly assignments geared to get your work published. There is also a weekly critique session in which you submit a manuscript or article and Suzanne personally critiques it for you. In addition to this there are weekly teleclasses that teach you the ins and outs of writing for children. All this along with Suzanne's knack for motivating and encouraging her members helps you learn and hone your craft. My writing has improved greatly with Suzanne's guidance and I continue to improve and benefit from this club. I don't think there is another club that offers so much for such a miniscule price per month.

DMc: A signature request I like to ask every author, illustrator, editor, etc., I interview is for the individual to share with us a tidbit from their lives that the reader will find either humorous or surprising. Karen, can you please share one with us?

KC: In my life I've played: violin, harmonica, accordion, piano, guitar and banjo. I played them well enough at the time, but I never mastered any of them.

To learn more about Karen Cioffi's writing career visit:

<http://karenandrobyn.blogspot.com>

<http://www.dkvwriting4u.com>

<http://nothingventurednothinggained.org>

<http://daysendlullaby.blogspot.com>

<http://vbt-writersonthemove.blogspot.com>

http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Karen_Cioffi

<http://twitter.com/KarenCV>

AUTHOR INTERVIEW - DORIT SASSON

Dorit and I first met through the CWCC over two years ago and I've watched and cheered with admiration in all she has achieved. With her background as an ESL teacher, Dorit readily shares her expertise through teaching and writing. Making sure each ESL student has the specific tools in achieving their success both within the classroom and in society. Come along and learn more about Dorit and her well accomplished career.

DMc: You have written articles for a variety of journals, magazines, newsletters, and ezines like Reading Today, Essential Teacher, Teacher and Principal Quarterly, the Internet TESL Journal, WAHM Online, and many others. What do you find the most challenging in keeping your approach fresh and exciting?

DS: One fundamental challenge is picking a topic that my primary audience that is, teachers, seem to be struggling with the most and then write in an attention grabbing and practical way. I'm always looking how to turn serious classroom and teaching issues into simple and sometimes, lighthearted articles that are easy and fun for teachers to read.

DMc: You are a teacher at CCAC Allegheny Community College. Please describe the class structure for your reading and writing classes.

DS: In my ESL classes, Students spend a lot of time using English to communicate and interact for a specific purpose. I always combine speaking with one of the other primary skills of reading and writing. Yesterday for example, the students did a role play of "mock interview" in preparation for an information seeking interview. They will then write their findings in the form of an essay.

Students often work in pairs or in small groups in order to create a classroom community that reflects the globality of learning English.

DMc: What or whom inspired you to become a children's writer.

DS: I've always been taken to reading children's literature especially Charlotte's Web and the All of a Kind Family series. I think after years of reading children's books, I figured I had enough to say and well, write my own. It just was a natural part of the writing journey. I

just thought I'd experiment with writing for children since my focus is for that population anyway.

DMc: How have you combined your experiences as a classroom teacher with your writing?

DS: Since my niche is teaching ESL, I primarily target that part of the educational market. For example, I take many classroom scenarios and issues teachers seem to struggle with the most and turn them into short articles for my blog site, conduct interviews with other professionals and experts in the field, write tip booklets, create podcasts and tele-seminars. Before writing anything, I always look at the needs of teachers and what they're struggling with. I share my own classroom experiences on my blog site and in my weekly ezine. I also focus on larger writing projects such as resource books for teachers.

DMc: What is your biggest challenge in juggling all your responsibilities?

DS: The biggest challenge I find is transitioning from the "teaching hat" to the "writing hat" and carving enough time out of the time to accomplish the tasks without falling on the expense of the other. It's an ongoing challenge.

I am also my own "band." I do everything from marketing to writing. The non-writing activities often eat out of my writing time. Sometimes I wish I had a virtual assistant!

DMc: You are the founder and director of the New Teacher Resource Center. Please share with our readers as to what they can expect when visiting <http://newteacherresourcecenter.com>

DS: The New Teacher Resource Center is an online support site that provides teachers (with the emphasis on new teachers) with resources, tips and teaching strategies - anything they need to jumpstart their careers and become more confident in the classroom. Teachers can find quick tips on parent conferencing or lesson planning. If they need more expert advice, they can turn to Professor Diane Barone and learn how to teach English language learners more effectively or get some hands-on classroom management tips from Professor Howard Seeman.

There are many free resources such as sample teaching resumes, lesson planning charts and links to other educational and teaching resources. There is also a children's writer section including several short recordings from Suzanne Lieurance.

DMc: Through your website you offer a FREE e-book entitled, Taking Charge in the Classroom. How is this resource beneficial to teachers?

DS: The FREE e-book Taking Charge in the Classroom is a handbook of resources and tips on classroom management and lesson planning. Each article gives teachers tips on what they can do to become a more effective lesson planner and classroom manager by creating a classroom management plan that works and speaks to them.

DMc: Please share with us your current Works-in-Progress.

DS: Well, I just finished a tips booklet, "Yes! You Can Teach Your K-12 English language learners successfully!" and it is available for downloading at

<http://www.NewTeacherResourceCenter.com> and <http://www.tipsbooklets.com/>

I also have a book manuscript under discussion with Scholastic entitled: Helping ESL Students in Grades 1-2: Activities to Increase Word Recognition, Reading Comprehension and Oral Fluency in Just One Month which I collaborated with my coauthor.

And finally, I have a children's picture book under discussion (My first one!) entitled, The Hummus Party with the multi-cultural publisher, Kane-Miller.

I'm really excited about the prospects of these three projects and what they can bring.

DMc: What can we expect from you in the future?

DS: I'm working on my second tip booklet for teachers and getting ready to submit a short story for a fiction contest about my journey coming to the United States after living in Israel for many years.

I'm also in the process of finishing another ebook, Tips and Tricks to Survive and Thrive in the Classroom: Practical activities and tips for teachers made easy, which consists of 10 special reports on a different area of teaching.

I'm also working on a second picture book for children.

DMc: You are a member of the Children's Writing Coaching Club. What led you to joining? What would you like to share with someone contemplating in joining?

DS: I felt I needed the online support and feedback from a writing group in order to move my children's writing to the next level. Besides benefiting from the already low price, I found a home with other talented writers.

A writing group is an excellent way to receive support and feedback from other writers. Although writers can be lonely people, they still need the camaraderie and support to keep at the writing especially during hard times. Rejection is part of the business.

DMc: A signature request I like to ask every author, illustrator, editor, etc., I interview is for the individual to share with us a tidbit from their lives that the reader will find either humorous or surprising. Dorit, can you please share one with us?

KC: After serving in the Israeli army as an officer and living on a kibbutz in Israel for 19 years, I returned to the United States in 2007 with my husband and young son. I'm originally from New York City (I live in Pittsburgh now) and the multi-cultural hats I wear also feed into my writing and teaching. I feel I can adjust to anything! My students look at

me like I'm crazy when I share this tidbit with them and I always wonder why! Living in Israel is a lot safer than living in the U.S.

To learn more about Dorit Sasson's writing career visit:

The New Teacher Resource Center - <http://www.NewTeacherResourceCenter.com>

AUTHOR INTERVIEW - KATHY STEMKE

Kathy and I first met online and at the CWCC and now I'm proud to say we are both "Angels" of Guardian Angel Publishing. It always amazes me how friendships come full circle. Kathy combines her teaching background and writing in a unique fashion bringing it all alive in Rhythm and Movement. Be sure to have your dancing shoes on, since you will be moving and grooving as you learn more about Kathy.

DMc: Please share with us your background before becoming a children's writer.

KS: I have always had a passion for the arts and all things creative. I've been a dancer and choreographer since my college days at Southern Connecticut State University. With a background in physical education and early childhood education I've taught in public and private school for many years.

With graduate coursework from New York Institute of Technology and Columbia University in dance and communication arts, television production, I created evangelistic presentations at New Covenant Church in New York. These presentations included, dance, music, drama, narration, computerized slides and lighting. I choreographed the dance and took most of the pictures. Sometimes I combined dance with slides. I wrote the narration and the skits as well. I earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Christian ministry at Covenant Life Seminary.

In 2000, I became a full time tutor. In fact, I still teach one day a week. I've taught courses in creative writing, English, math and SAT preparation. I am now a contributing editor for The National Writing for Children's Center.

DMc: What lead you to becoming a children's writer.

KS: I'm a teacher at heart, and I always want children to learn something new about life and their environment. After publishing several articles, I created my blog, Educationtipster, to share teaching tips with parents and teachers. My first book, Moving Through All Seven Days, was an outgrowth of my blog. I found that teachers wanted more movement oriented books and activities. That's what got me writing children's books with an emphasis on action and movement.

DMc: You offer a newsletter entitled, Movement & Rhythm Newsletter. For those of our readers not familiar with it please describe what they can expect from it. And where they can subscribe to it?

KS: My free monthly newsletter is full of movement exploration, stories, games, songs, poems, and activities with a focus on movement. These activities can be used to teach language arts, math and science. I also include book reviews, lists of teaching resources, and interviews with great children's authors. Just go to my blog to sign up.

DMc: Please share with us your inspiration behind Moving Though All Seven Days.

KS: There are many books about the days of the week, but this book has rhymes that teach children how to spell each day. This book inspires movement as children learn about the days of the week. The activities at the end of the book are designed to reinforce the concepts as well as give impetus to movement exploration.

DMc: What tip would you offer to parents dealing with a reluctant reader?

KS: Find books that interest your child and are the correct reading level for him/her now. The grade level is only a guide. Make sure your child is below his/her frustration level. Include hands on, active games about the books to keep your child engaged in reading.

DMc: You publish a blog entitled, Educationtipster at <http://educationtipster.blogspot.com>. What can your visitors expect from you on a weekly basis.

KS: My movement activities, book reviews, and parenting tips will help parents and teachers teach children phonics, math, writing and science! Each month I feature an author and his/her books.

DMc: Please share with us your current Works-in-Progress.

KS: Trouble on Earth Day is a fun and educational story about a Squirrel who helps a new friend while learning about recycling. This book is a one stop shopping value for parents and teachers because it is full of great recycling ideas, craft projects, and worksheet pages.

DMc: What can we expect from you in the future?

KS: I plan to write a series of picture books with environmental themes. Trouble on Earth Day is almost ready to be released. I recently completed the second book in this series titled, Wonderful Water Explorers. This book opens up conversation about water preservation with a story of a thirsty bluebird named Charlie, who has lost his ability to sing due to a lack of water. When he meets up with his squirrel friend, Shelby, they set out on an adventure to find fresh drinking water and to bring back singing to the forest. I'll be writing a third book about air pollution.

Guardian Angel Publishers will publish my book titled Sh, Sh, Sh, Will the Baby Sleep? In this action packed story a "superhero" named Zachary must keep his new baby sister asleep. In the process he finds out that he loves her very much. This book and the activities included in the back focus on teaching children about consonant blends. Teachers will love it.

I've also started my first YA fantasy novel. Although I'm still fleshing out my characters and plot, I'm very excited about this story.

DMc: You are a member of the Children's Writing Coaching Club. What do you find to be the most valuable aspect of the club? If you need to list more than one please do.

KS: The weekly teleseminars have taught me how to write a good children's picture book, how to get it published, and how to market it. The professional critiques have saved me lots of time in fine-tuning my books.

DMc: You are a member of VBT - Writers on the Move. Please share with our readers the concept behind this group. Where can people visit?

KS: Put your writing career in motion with this yahoo, marketing group. You can promote your platform, yourself and your books! They utilize ONGOING tours; viewpoint segments; mystery site give-aways; marketing and writing tips, blog radio spots; and much more to increase visibility and readership.

To find out more contact Karen at: karenrcfv@yahoo.com
Please put "VBT" in the subject box.

DMc: A signature request I like to ask every author, illustrator, editor, etc., I interview is for the individual to share with us a tidbit from their lives that the reader will find either humorous or surprising. Kathy, can you please share one with us?

KS: I've taught myself antiques for many years. I've collected both dolls and dance memorabilia. My dance collection includes dancers in oil paintings, sculptures, glass, dolls, books, prints, calendars, scarves, posters, jewelry, pottery, and sheet music. In fact, I decorate my Christmas tree with all dancers. I'm putting together a book of poems about life from a dancer's point of view.

To learn more about Kathy Stemke's writing career visit:

<http://educationtipster.blogspot.com>

<http://www.helium.com/users/406242.html>

http://www.associatedcontent.com/user/237923/Kathy_stemke_dancekam.html

<http://kathystemke.weebly.com>

Moving Through All Seven Days is finally available for purchase on Lulu for just **\$3.00!** Just click on this link:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/e-book/moving-through-all-seven-days/7386965#>

BOOK REVIEWS



Title: Moving Through All Seven Days
Written by: Kathy Ann Stemke
Illustrated by: Tony Glisson
Ages: 3-7
Publisher: Lulu.com
Published: 2009
E-book: 32 pages
Price: \$3.00

Move and groove along with the whimsical characters of *Moving Through All Seven Days* as they slip, twirl, and glide you through the days of the week. Accompanied with an activities resource to help reinforce the learning process of spelling the days of the week is a welcome bonus. It provides an ingenious way of getting the children up from behind their desks to experience learning through movement.

Children's author, Kathy Ann Stemke brilliantly blends lyrical rhyme and the learning process in a fun and educational twist. Along with the vibrant illustrations created by Tony Glisson, *Moving Through All Seven Days* is a must have for preschool and kindergarten classrooms and no home library would be complete without it.

To learn more about Kathy visit her at:

<http://kathstemke.weebly.com> and <http://educationtipster.blogspot.com>

Reviewed by Donna M. McDine for the National Writing for Children Center.

Writer's Digest
WRITE BETTER GET PUBLISHED

I am going to shamelessly request your assistance. If you appreciate Write What Inspires You Newsletter please consider nominating it for the "Writer's Digest Best Newsletters for Writers." Send an email to: writersdig@fwpubs.com with your comments and nomination and be sure to note "Writer's Digest Best Newsletters" in the subject line.

And, if you find the blog associated with Write What Inspires You <http://www.donna-mcdine.blogspot.com/> helpful please consider nominating it for the "101 Best Websites for Writers." Send an email to writersdiq@fwpubs.com with your comments and nomination and be sure to note "101 Websites" in the subject line. Deadline: January 1, 2010. Thank you in advance if you are so inclined.



Overwhelmed? Don't have time to write and post your media releases. Let the panic settle and don't fret any longer. Let Donna take the pressure off. Writing a media release requires a certain technique and online media distribution can be quite time consuming. Coupled with her marketing manager experience at Stories for Children Magazine, Donna is uniquely positioned to help provide you with a top notch media release.

You'll discuss your good news and happenings to get a clear indication of your direction. Your valuable information will then be written into a dynamic media release. Even if you don't have publishing credits under your belt, announcing guest interviews or your topic of choice will help draw traffic and recognition to you and your writing blog.

Don't wait. Let Donna take the pressure off you today. References furnished upon request.

Contact information: Donna McDine / dmcdine@optonline.net / 845-359-6646
<http://www.donnamcdine.com/dynamicmediareleases.html>



Do you have a book coming out in 2010? If your press is not listed in Children's Writers & Illustrators Market, you won't be eligible for online marketing groups like Class of 2K10 or Authors Now! Many small presses aren't listed.

So...Amy Allgeyer Cook is putting together a group for debut authors in this situation. The group is called: Inde-Debut and it's open to anyone who has a book coming out in 2K10 with a small or CWIM-unlisted press.

Publishers just need to be members of Independent Book Publishers of America, Small Publishers Association of North America or listed in the Small Press section on SCBWI's PAL application form.

We hope to gather about twenty to thirty authors to help each other with publicity in their areas, through blog tours, virtual book launches, tweets, Facebook posts, etc. Plus, it never hurts to have new author friends!!

If you're interested, please email me with your publisher, title and release date. I'll send you an invitation to the group if your publisher meets the criteria listed above.

Contact Amy Allgeyer Cook at: amyacook@live.com



Stories for Children Magazine First Annual "Best of" Anthology!

Stories for Children Magazine is proud to announce the release of its first annual anthology, Best of Stories for Children Magazine Volume 1. Come take an adventure in the World of Ink and let the SFC Contributors and Stanley Bookman show you how your imagination can be your guide.

There has always been an enchantment about reading a good children's story. Children take pleasure in having a story read to them anytime or anywhere - whether it be around a campfire, under a starry night, in their beds wrapped up tight in snuggly blankets, beneath a shady tree on a hot summer's day, or in front of a roaring fireplace on a cold winter's day. Children love to listen to a story being read and this can go as far as adolescence. Best of Stories for Children Magazine Volume 1, is a collection of over 20 poems, stories, and articles published by leading children's authors.

At Stories for Children Magazine the World of Ink is a place where imagination is everything and everything is only your imagination. Stories for Children Magazine has been inspiring children, parents, librarians, and teachers for well over two years with their monthly online magazine. Now with the release of the Best of Stories for Children Magazine Volume 1, children, parents, librarians, and teachers can enjoy the top stories, poems, and articles from Stories for Children Magazine's first year of publication over and over again.

The Best of Stories for Children Magazine Volume 1 can be purchased nationwide from any bookstore, or online through several internet websites including Amazon.com, LuLu.com at <http://www.lulu.com/content/4892856>, and the SFC Bookstore at <http://www.storiesforchildrenmagazine.org>

Come visit the SFC Team and SFC Contributors in the World of Ink at Stories for Children Magazine! There are many wonderful articles, stories, and interviews with leading Children's Authors or Illustrators in each monthly issue.

To learn more about Stories for Children Magazine visit:

<http://www.storiesforchildrenmagazine.org>

Editor, Stories for Children Magazine

Email: vsgrenier@storiesforchildrenmagazine.org

Phone: 800-670-4416



DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE MAGIC
OF YOUR
FIRST BOOK?

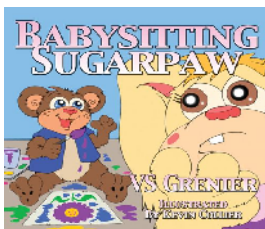
VS Grenier has joined forces with First Book to help children find the love of reading and writing. Here is what Bonnie Johnson from First Book had to say about me joining their cause.

"First Book provides new books to children in need addressing one of the most important factors affecting literacy – access to books. Since 1992, First Book has distributed over 65 million new books to children from low-income families in thousands of communities nationwide.

"Programs that serve predominantly children from low-income families can receive books from First Book and that is why VS Grenier has joined First Book in our fight to bring children their first book.

"First Book works with many different authors and/or publishers big and small! We are thrilled to be working with VS Grenier at First Book in our donation program. We have done similar donations and generally because First Book works with thousands of recipient groups across the country we try to find a group near an author and/or publisher that could benefit from a donation such as this."

However, getting a book into a child's hands is much harder than it sounds and so I need your help. You can help me bring a child their first book a few different ways.



1. Place an order for an autographed copy of Babysitting SugarPaw and 25% of the sale will go to books for First Book. Place your order at <http://vsgrenier.com/BabysittingSugarPaw.aspx>

2. Buy and donate Babysitting SugarPaw to First Book. Once we reach the 100 book level, First Book will proceed in donating the books to a group in my local area where I get to personally hand each child their First Book. You can place your donation at <http://vsgrenier.com/BabysittingSugarPaw.aspx>

3. Tell your friends about Babysitting SugarPaw and how I have joined forces with First Book in bring children their first book. You can use this announcement or parts of it on our blog, website, or social networks.

If you would like to know more about First Book please visit their website at <http://www.firstbook.org>

To learn more about VS Grenier and her picture book Babysitting SugarPaw visit <http://vsgrenier.com/BabysittingSugarPaw.aspx>



If you missed the 2009 Muse Online Writers Conference be sure to visit <http://themuseonlinewritersconference.com> to register for the 2010 conference.

Don't miss out on this one of a kind conference.

To be held October 11-17, 2010

Block out the week so you have the chance to snuggle into your most comfortable clothes and slippers. That way you are your most comfortable while navigating the cyberspace hallways of the Muse Online Writers Conference.

Jammed packed with week long workshops, lectures, pitch sessions, networking. You name it the Muse Online Writers Conference has it.

Check out the testimonials coming in for 2009 at:

<http://www.themuseonlinewritersconference.com/2009testimonials.htm>



Ever wish you had a go-to place to find all the latest children's literature give-aways on the web? Look no further! Lori Calabrese has started a new monthly meme (if there's enough interest, it might possibly become a weekly meme) in which she links to book giveaways around the Kidlitosphere and web.

If you are hosting a children's- young adult book-related giveaway, sponsoring a giveaway, or just found a really awesome giveaway that you'd like to share, please leave it at Fish For a Free Book! <http://loricalabrese.com/category/giveaways/fish-for-a-free-book-meme/>

NEWSLETTERS



Looking for the latest children's literature news? Don't have time to scour all of the blogs out there (and we know there are a ton!), but would like to be pointed in the direction of some of the best articles and gossip?

Be sure to sign up for The Book Bugz Newsletter from [Lori Calabrese Writes!](#) The Book Bugz Newsletter flutters your way once a month and covers all of the latest children's book buzz—everything from the latest children's literature news, things happening throughout the Kidlitosphere, book reviews & recommendations, book giveaways, and tips for writers on writing and marketing.

Lori is so interested in what other writers and bloggers have to say. After becoming inspired from the wealth of information out there regarding children's books and children's literacy, she wanted to create a newsletter that not only highlights what's happening at [Lori Calabrese Writes!](#), but also highlights the recent news being talked about throughout the kidlitosphere.

The subscription is FREE and subscribing is easy. Just visit the NEW! [Lori Calabrese Writes! blog](#) and subscribe at the top right sidebar. Then we'll be buzzing about children's books in the November issue of The Book Bugz!



MOVEMENT AND RHYTHM NEWSLETTER

Attention all educators, home schooling parents, and librarians!

Kathy Stemke, Freelance Writer, Author, and Educator has a fantastic newsletter jammed packed with tips and activities your students and children will surely be thrilled to join in on. To become an opt-in subscriber today and to learn more about Kathy visit:

<http://educationtipster.blogspot.com/>

At <http://educationtipster.blogspot.com/> you will also find important information on movement activities, book reviews, and parenting tips which will help parents and teachers teach children phonics, math, writing and science! All this at your fingertips and in your email in-box...you surely can't go wrong.



At SFC Newsletter for Writers, we believe writers naturally want to help along those starting out. I know you will enjoy this monthly newsletter loaded with helpful information, fun stories about the writing life, and the successes of fellow writers.

Voted one of the 101 Best Websites for Writers by Writer's Digest 2009

<http://storiesforchildrenpublishing.com/SFCNewsletterforWriters.aspx>

SUPPORTER ADS



Award-winning author of the HowToDoItFrugally Series of Books for writers, including USA Book News' award winners

The Frugal Editor <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0978515870/>

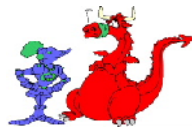
The Frugal Book Promoter <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/193299310X/>



If you'd like to become a published children's book author yourself, join the Children's Writers' Coaching Club like I did, at the National Writing for Children Center and get the help you need to succeed ~ <http://www.cwcoachingclub.com>



[Lea Schizas](http://leaschizeditor.com), is a multi-published and award-winning author and editor. Her commitment is to help you tighten your manuscript before it's submitted to agents or publishers. She will stick with your manuscript until we are both satisfied of the conclusion ~ <http://leaschizeditor.com>



Need A Manuscript Critique?

Do you have a wonderful story, but need a second pair of eyes to look it over?

VS Grenier will look for grammar, spelling, setting, plot, character development, and so much more. Critiques are designed to help us become better writers. We all need our stories looked at by others who have experience in the writing world. VS Grenier was voted one of the Top Ten Editors ~ Preditors & Editors Readers Poll 2007. To find out more about VS Grenier's critique services visit: <http://vsgrenier.com/critiques.aspx>

Karina L. Fabian

Fiction, Faith and Fun!

<http://www.fabianspace.com>

<http://www.dragoneyepi.net>

You have a book published! Now what? No money for a publicist? If you're new to book marketing and want to learn how to help your publisher sell your book, the Marketing Mentor is here for you! Karina Fabian, published author and instructor, offers classes, mentoring and a task-oriented newsletter to teach you how to market your books. No longer can publishers do all the publicity themselves--we need to make readers want our books. The Marketing Mentor can get you started. Go to www.fabianspace.com and click on Marketing Mentor for a description of programs and prices.



Parents, grandparents and caregivers often hear these familiar words: "I'm bored, there's nothing to do." And the most famous of all while traveling - "Are We There Yet?" Now -- There's an App for that.

iKids Play™ by Shering Solutions LLC, is the perfect creative play activity developed by educators and now available for iPhone/iPod Touch through this new App. Sue Thurman's, *Maybe We Are Flamingos*, is now available in this innovative format, at the Apple Store in the iTunes section.

Your child can use the Rub 'n Color activity, which is perfect for small fingers providing the ability to magically reveal pictures. The Touch 'n Color allows children to select one of many colors, then use their finger as a crayon to color the illustrations. This is the perfect way to color without breaking or misplacing crayons on a long trip. The iRead Aloud function will let your child read the story and record it in their voice, or listen to Storytime read by Safari Sue Thurman. Adults also love these fun activities, when they can get their children to share.

Read more at: <http://www.examiner.com/x-2174-Arizona-Family-Examiner>

**Please share this newsletter with your peers in the writing industry and encourage them to opt-in as a monthly subscriber @ <http://www.donnamcdine.com>

We DETEST spam and we do not share or sell our mailing list
To unsubscribe from this newsletter, simply send an email to: dmcndine@optonline.net with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line and you will be removed.

Copyright © 2009 by Write What Inspires You! Newsletter ~ Donna M. McDine.
All rights reserved ~ ISSN #:1946-5270