

Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

February 2010
Volume 3, Issue 2

Donna M. McDine
Children's Author



Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Welcome..... | 1 |
| Author Interviews..... | 2 |
| Blog Content Request..... | 8 |
| Haitian Support..... | 8 |
| Dynamic Media Releases..... | 9 |
| First Book – Grenier..... | 9 |
| Muse Online Conference..... | 11 |
| Fish for a Free Book..... | 11 |
| Newsletters..... | 12 |
| Supporter Ads..... | 13 |

Welcome to the February 2010 issue Write What Inspires You!

January 2010 ended on a terrific note with my attendance at the NY SCBWI Winter Conference at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in NYC. The speakers and lectures were inspiring and I invite you to visit my blog <http://www.donna-mcdine.blogspot.com> in the coming weeks when I share my experiences from the world wind weekend. To add to the excitement I met up with two of my online critique partners, Lori Calabrese and Stephanie Hoina. We first met at the Eastern SCBWI conference back in 2007 and we were delighted to see in each other in person for the first time since our initial meeting.

In celebration of Black History Month, I invite you to join me at my other blog <http://www.thegoldenpathway.blogspot.com> throughout the month of February. Nancy Sanders will be my guest author on February 10th where she discusses her new release, America's Black Founders: Revolutionary Heroes and Early Leaders. I will also feature three-time Newberry Honor winner, author, Jacqueline Woodson with a book review of Show Way and excerpts from her luncheon keynote speech at the NY SCBWI Winter Conference on February 17th and 24th, respectfully.

Now onto this month's features it's my pleasure to present to you interviews with Official Soda and Bobbi Miller. Don't miss the goodies: Dynamic Media Release Service, Haitian Support from the Depths of Despair Media Release, First Book, Muse Online Conference, Newsletters, and Sponsor Ads.

If you are interested, please feel free to submit your name for an interview, an essay and/or your successes to: dmcldine@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 the very best!

Donna

Quote of the Month:

"Let me listen to criticism that I can benefit from and let me forget the rest!"

AUTHOR INTERVIEW – OFFICIAL SODA

As many of my readers know, I'm a fan of JacketFlap. This social networking site is a terrific way of connecting with writers, illustrators, editors, and publishers in the children's publishing industry. The talent found here is like non-other and Official Soda is no exception. Come along into his fascinating world and be amazed.

DMc: Your first novel, *The Wizard of Odd*, was published by Llumina Press, June 2009. Please share with us your creative process behind it.

OS: The creative process behind *TWOO* was a long one. I have been writing as far back as I can remember and always have wanted to pursue it but my music was always at the forefront of what I do creatively. So, after *TWOO* was finally complete it sat around for a while before I tried to really do something with it. I went down a bunch of different avenues, and after much time and thought I wound up going with Llumina, even after that it was an arduous task. But I loved this book so much I felt it was finally time to put this on the front burner as I had a little more freedom away from what I was doing musically at the time. Working with Llumina was a tremendous amount of work, lots of back and forth, lots of phone calls, lots of waiting but I worked very hard and it finally came out in June and I've been working to promote it since then, and it's been going real good. I am working on a prequel now as well as a few other writings. I hope to be able to share it soon...well as soon as it's written anyway!

DMc: Please describe the plot of *The Wizard of Odd*.

OS: Well, it starts with a young boy named Donovan and his family as they are ready to start a vacation. En route to their destination there is a terrible accident which leaves Donovan separated from his family and alone with only his stuffed rabbit to wake up in a strange place called "Cloud City" in which he finds himself surrounded by a bunch of pink and blue people. The people of the city do not think it is coincidence that he has arrived, but rather fate because few humans can actually see the city at all. He is special. They explain this to him as well as the fact that their wizard has just been taken by an evil witch who lives at the tip of their land known as "The Cusp." Donovan meets many memorable characters in the city and soon a small little group of eclectic warriors, including his stuffed rabbit that comes to life in the city is assembled and together they travel to the end of the land to the witch's dark castle in hopes to free the wizard. It is no small task...they travel through a haunted forest, battle deformed flying pigs, learn the history of the city and in turn become very close friends and learn that if they help each other they can succeed, even at the darkest times.

DMc: Please share with us your road to publication.

OS: It wasn't something that was easy nor was it something that was overnight. I felt that *TWOO* was, at the time, my best piece of work yet and needed to be given the life it so deserved. I looked for agents, I queried, I pounded serious pavement and I was faced with wall after wall. I then decided to look into self publishing and found that the assistance was not there from any companies that offered this service...and I didn't want to feel left out in

the cold and wanted this done right. So, after research and deciding who to work with, Llumina had wound up accepting my manuscript into their program, which is print on demand...which is something I recommend. My book was put out as if it were put out by a major. It is available through every major chain, online, in different countries, etc. So, really...it's tough but if you work and don't let things get you down you will reach your goal.

DMc: You are also an accomplished musician. Please share with us your musical journey.

OS: This is certainly a loaded question and there really is no short answer. I have been a working musician for the past 15 years. I self released my first recording back in 1994 at a young age and I have not stopped since. I have worked with a few indie labels through the course of this time but I have predominantly done everything on my own. Everything from booking gigs, to releasing the records, to building websites, etc. It's a lot of work but rewarding when something good happens. I have had music on indie radio, in films, worked on jingles for radio stations, traveled, etc. There have been many ups and downs but my history is so vast and I'm proud of that. I have accomplished a lot and it's just from sheer dedication...so don't let anyone ever tell you NO.

DMc: Writing and performing music is live storytelling. Do you blend your musical background into your book writing?

OS: I can...my personal musical background has not yet mixed into my writings. However I am working on a killer Vampire novel with one of my best friends, Chisto and it is based around a rock band. We are very happy with it and hope to bring that to life in the future as well.

DMc: What or whom inspired your musical career?

OS: I was always heavily into music, that's just the way I was. I am inspired by lots of different bands and artists...it's truly vast. I enjoy a lot of obscure bands that never quite made it. I really dig for music...the surface is so bland. If you really get down there you'll find some truly amazing stuff. I love 80's and 90's era alternative and rock and stuff like that. A few of my all time favorite bands/artists are Jellyfish, Extreme, Saigon Kick, Spookey Ruben, Cree Summer...I mean it's really such an insanely long list!

DMc: What or whom inspired your writing career?

OS: Writing too has always been a passion but I spent way more time on making and releasing and supporting my music. I always wanted to pursue writing more...I feel that I have finally started to do that and really plan on hitting hard with it from here on out, not just something on the back burner. As far as other authors go, some of my favs who really inspire me are RL Stine, Ray Bradbury, Clive Barker...

DMc: You can go by the pen name, Soda. Do you also go by this name for your stage presence?

OS: I predominantly go by Soda in general, with my creative outlets and without. I's been my nickname for about half of my life and I just prefer it. To me it is my "real" name.

DMc: Why do you prefer to be known by a pen/stage name?

OS: Same as the above really. People have called me Soda forever. My birth name is no secret and some still use it...to each their own I guess.

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. Soda, can you please share one with us?

OS: I have very poor eyesight, and it upsets me greatly. I guess that's the surprising route and not the humorous one, huh? Would that even count as surprising?...

Learn more about Official Soda at:

www.officialsoda.com

www.myspace.com/soda13

www.hismightyrobot.tv

www.myspace.com/hismightyrobot

www.myspace.com/wwwtheghostofmenet

www.myspace.com/thewizardofoddbook

www.facebook.com/officialsoda

AUTHOR INTERVIEW – BOBBI MILLER

Come along for this fascinating and humorous interview with children's author, Bobbi Miller. Bobbi and I met through a referral for book reviews and I jumped on the chance to interview her. I'm thrilled she did! It has provided me a wonderful opportunity to learn about her amazing background and gifts as a writer.

Bobbi will be checking in periodically, so take the time to ask her questions or leave comments. She's looking forward to interacting with the visitors of Write What Inspires You!

DMc: What or whom inspires you to write?

BM: I read many books, on all kinds of subjects in all kinds of genres. Many of the best adventures are on our own landscape! The western frontier, the Mississippi, the Civil War, the Revolutionary War, New Orleans, Boston, Chicago, New York, the Midwest and the Southwest, the coming together of many cultures, many languages and many stories — why, we have the BEST stories in our own front yard! This inspires me to write.

When I write, I travel. I go to the landscapes where my stories take place. The key to inspiration is becoming engaged in the life and landscape surrounding you. Inspiration and

motivation does not come out of the ether, and is not created in a vacuum.

I spend my time exploring the American landscape and the grand voices that make up the American story. The language that creates these stories is as big and grand as the landscape itself. It is this audacious, bodacious, just splendiferous landscape and language that inspire me to write.

DMc: How did you get started?

BM: I am one of those nerds who knew how to read and write by kindergarten. I have always read and written stories. I studied hard to hone my craft, too. As an undergraduate, I studied writing and anthropology.

I went to Simmons College, the Masters of Children's Literature Program, where I studied the folklore process in children's literature. I investigated voice and perspective, and most of all, the language of the storytelling process!

I also went to Vermont College (now the Vermont College of Fine Arts) MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults Program. To tell you the truth, I think everything I learned up to that moment was preparing me for this experience. I studied under true masters. Eric Kimmel and Marion Dane Bauer. I owe them for my life, true enough. It sounds sappy, yes. But when everything - every moment, experience, understanding - comes together to finally make sense and direction, it does become a sappy life-altering moment. I continue to call Eric my Guru, and Marion my ultimate Mentor. I also call them dear friends. That's the experience of Vermont College, and I sense that everyone who attends the program walks away with a similar sappy moment. For my creative thesis, I wrote nine picturebooks, four of which were eventually sold.

DMc: What did you find to be the most frustrating step/process of getting your first book published?

BM: The business of publishing is the most frustrating for me. It's more than just understanding contract language, various rights and clauses, which is complex enough for me! But the business, as any business, is constantly changing in reaction to economic stresses, consumer demands, and constantly changing technology. It's hard to keep up. But writers need to understand how the business of publishing works just as any one engaged in a career should stay informed on what influences how she works. I try to educate myself accordingly, and found many resources that help me do this. I'm not shy about asking friends and people in the know about how things work. I belong to the Author's Guild and to Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), who offer resources about this topic. Harold Underdown has a wonderful website that discusses this aspect: <http://www.underdown.org/>. Cynthia Leitich Smith's website is another incredibly valuable resource: <http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/>.

Now that my first two books are out, I find myself engaged in marketing these books. Marketing is an important aspect of the business, but Luddite that I am, the technology confuses me at times, so this is my challenge. I have a wonderful web goddess, Lisa Firke,

who designed my website. We are creating an inspirational site, I think, a resource for educators, students and writers, and not just a promo for my books. I'm quite excited about how it's coming together.

DMc: Do you have an agent? If yes, how long did it take for you to find one?

BM: I do not have an agent. As any writer would, I have written to a couple that I thought a good fit. Alas, they did not think so! From what I've heard, it's tougher to get an agent than to get an editor. I think it'll happen when it happens, just like any relationship. Meanwhile, I am working with the bestest, wonderfulest editor with my picture books. I just Love her to pieces. And, I'm talking with other editors, equally wonderful, about my older reader projects. I'm looking forward to building a relationship with them, too.

DMc: How long did it take for you to write *One Fine Trade* and *Davy Crockett Gets Hitched*?

BM: My process takes me a long to complete. As I tell my students, it takes as long as it takes. I can take me a year to finish a picture book, and several years to finish an older reader. Many think because picture books are shorter, they are easier to write. But, not so! Picture book writers have to do everything that the writers for older readers do—create characters, establish setting and point of view – but do so in less than 1000 words. Picture books exemplify those devices of style: figurative language, the imagery, symbol, hyperbole. Picture books are also a lesson in the conservation of words. Sometimes the difference between a really grand book and an okay book falls upon the choice of a single word. It's an art form, and one I fear is an endangered species.

For *Davy Crockett*, I researched both the myth and the man. I researched the historical context, including gender roles, so I have a feel for Miss Sally Ann. I also read his books to get a sense of his language and personality. My story is a combination of many tales, some of which he told, and some of which were told by others. I highlighted the recurring motifs, engaged in the language, and then created a story from that.

Stories tend to be organic, and sometimes outlines, research, and all the 'great plans of mice and men' need to be tossed as characters take over. In which case, I tag along for the ride. Miss Sally Ann is not your typical gal, as Davy Crockett discovered, and you'll discover more about her in my next book, also illustrated by Megan Lloyd and will be published by Holiday House. She demanded to whoop it up, and I whooped right along with her.

I take these lessons into my writing for older readers as well.

DMc: Which is your own favorite book or character?

BM: Because I tend to read a lot, I would say that any book I am reading now is my favorite book. I have always been a heavy reader. I was reading Charles Dickens in the fourth grade, and just loved *Oliver Twist*. So much so, that I copied the book, making it into a play: "Please, sir. I want some more!" I read Robin Hood stories, and wrote about the daughter of Robin Hood. I read about pirates – and I wrote about the Pirate Queen! None of these

stories that I wrote were very good, but the process engaged me in the language of story, how language works.

I am now reading Anita Silvey's glorious book, *Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Children's Book* [Roaring Brook Press, 2009]. This book features 100 leaders from many fields, including publishing, arts, and science, and their recollections of a favorite children's book and its impact on their lives. This book embodies everything I believe about children's book writing and publishing: Children's books change lives. In fact, I was so enamored with this book, I had a conversation with Anita Silvey about the process she underwent on collecting these stories, and posted it on my website, under *A Conversation with Anita Silvey*: <http://www.bobbimillerbooks.com/>.

DMc: What advice would you give someone who wants to get a book published?

BM: The best advice: hone your skills. Read as a writer. Deconstruct elements of your favorite stories to understand how these elements fit together. Keep taking classes. There are many online courses, and I list a few on my website. I also teach online courses, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, in writing for children. [Write me for more information] Go to Conferences. I try to go to one or two every year. Recognize that rejection is a function of the business, and everyone gets rejections. Eric Kimmel shares some thoughts on this very element on my website, under *A Conversation with Eric Kimmel*.

DMc: What would you be if you were not a writer?

BM: I have never NOT wanted to be a writer. I've worked at many jobs to pay the bills, but the focus was always to be a writer. Sometimes I get frustrated with the business, and with the process, of writing, and I entertain thoughts of becoming something else. I once thought about becoming a nurse. Well, that lasted for about fifteen minutes. I teach now, and I never thought I would become a teacher. But I teach writing, so even this keeps me engaged in the language of story. It is as poet Rainer Maria Rilke suggests, "Find out the reason that commands you to write; see whether it has spread its roots into the very depth of your heart; confess to yourself you would have to die if you were forbidden to write."

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. Bobbi, can you please share one with us?

BM: Most surprising thing: I once thought about becoming a nurse. I decided I'd rather be a pirate.

To learn more about Bobbi Miller visit: <http://www.bobbimillerbooks.com/>



Calling all writers!

Want to become a contributor to a terrific blog and get your name out there beyond your own blog and/or website? Look no further, J. Aday Kennedy is looking for content for her blog <http://jadaykennedy.blogspot.com>.

Contact her today at: jessicakennedy1971@yahoo.com and get a dialogue going on her needs and yours. You'll be happy you did!

MEDIA RELEASE

CONTACT: Nicole Weaver, Children's Author
Email: lumiereleclaire@yahoo.com
Blog: <http://support4usparentsofhaitianorphans.blogspot.com>

For Immediate Release

Haitian Support from the Depths of Despair

From the depths of despair one woman has risen out of her own grief for her perished relatives in the Haiti earthquake. Knowing her strong held faith in praying for those who died will help the spiritual side of this disaster, Nicole Weaver, has turned her helplessness into action.

Fluent in Creole, French, Spanish, and English Ms. Weaver is reaching out to American families who are contemplating adoption of Haitian orphans. Knowing the vast differences of American and Haitian cultures first hand being a Haitian American herself, Weaver is offering support through her blog <http://support4usparentsofhaitianorphans.blogspot.com> as a one stop resource to make the transition of a Haitian adoption go smoothly as possible.

American families are offered detailed information on:

- Planning and preparing Haitian meals, including where to purchase Haitian foods.
- Lessons on how to learn Creole and French.
- Suggested books on the grieving process of losing a parent/parents/siblings.
- Free translation services.

Additional services for those living in the Denver, Colorado Metropolitan area, Weaver is offering in-person food preparation and babysitting services to assist further in making an adoption transition a success. If you don't reside in the Denver Metropolitan area, Weaver is offering consultation via telephone, email, or Skype.

Visit <http://support4usparentsofhaitianorphans.blogspot.com> today for more information and to be in contact with Nicole Weaver directly.

Thank you in advance for your interest.

###



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
REMEMBER
THE MAGIC
OF YOUR
FIRST BOOK?

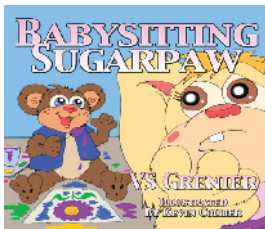
VS Grenier has joined forces with First Book to help children find the love of reading and writing. Here is what Bonnie Johnson from First Book had to say about me joining their cause.

"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.

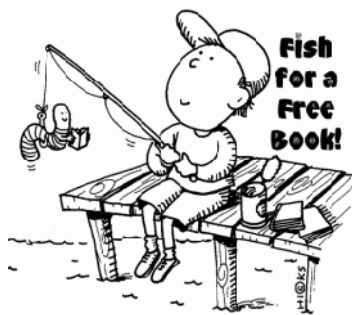
To be held October 11-17, 2010

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 HowToDoIt tFrugally 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: dmcldine@optonline.net with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line and you will be removed.

Copyright © 2008-2010 by Write What Inspires You! Newsletter ~ Donna M. McDine.
All rights reserved ~ ISSN #:1946-5270