

Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

March 2010
Volume 3, Issue 3

Donna M. McDine
Children's Author



Welcome to the March 2010 issue Write What Inspires You!

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Time certainly has a way of flying by. Even though it has been a long cold and snowy winter in the Northeast I cannot believe it's March already! Not that I'm complaining. I can't wait for the nicer weather to get here and stay. I'm looking forward to getting back to my daily walks along the Hudson River. Talk about inspiration! And what a glorious view the library offers of the TZ Bridge and Hudson River. I'm not too sure if I'd get too much writing done there with the beautiful distraction. At least that would be better than the distraction of housework.

What are your plans with the onset of spring? Will you choose a different location for writing? A change of scenery is always a good thing. Stop by my blog <http://www.donna-mcdine.blogspot.com> on Tuesday, March 9th and join in the discussion of changing locales to bring new inspiration forth.

Now onto this month's features it's my pleasure to present to you interviews with authors, Barbara Ehrenthreu and Katie Hines; and editor, Jennifer Hirsch. Don't miss the goodies: Dynamic Media Release Service, Indie-Debut 2010 Media Release, CWCC Testimonial, 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:

"Remember too, that your book will never be to everyone's taste, so don't be discouraged. A firm belief in your own success is often what is necessary." Simon Rose

<http://absentwillowreview.com/archives/interview-simon-rose>

AUTHOR INTERVIEW - BARBARA EHRENTREU

Thanks to the Muse Online Writers Conference writers from all walks of life have the opportunity to meet without leaving home. Many times the friendships developed have no barrier of distance. This such friendship has developed for Barbara and I.

DMc: Please share with us your hosting duties at Red River Writers Live Tales from the Pages.

BE: When you are a host for Blog Talk Radio you need to enter your show information onto the show's page and because this is for Red River Writers Live we all have to enter it by a certain date and April Robins makes sure that it gets posted. If we can't post our specific information for that month's show, she posts a generic account for us so there is something there. I usually try to get my show information posted, but we have to do it a month ahead :) I was able to keep up with it until these last two months when, well, you know what happened to me. But maybe your readers don't, so I should let them know that for these last two months my family and I have been in a hotel due to being homeless. Our apt was made completely uninhabitable because of a fire in our next door neighbor's apt. There was so much damage we had to stay away and relocate permanently. Please read my blog for the details: <http://barbaraehrentreu.blogspot.com/>

Other than needing to be on the phone and speak with my authors, I also send interview questions to anyone who is my guest before the show. Then I try to stay within the guidelines of those questions. I find that it helps me to stay on topic and helps the author to feel a little more comfortable about being on the radio. Each author sends a bio, headshot and synopsis of their writing or if it is short I will read the whole piece. Usually I use the current piece of writing for questions as well as their past writing. It is always up to the author's discretion on the questions that I ask and they are usually very happy with the ones that I give them.

DMc: How would someone land a guest spot at Red River Writers Live Tales from the Pages?

BE: If you have anything published either online or in a book form or in a magazine you are eligible to be a guest on my show. Or if you are a publisher or editor you are welcome as well. There are various ways you can become a guest. One way is if I know your work or I know you :) Another way to become a guest is to write to me and let me know about your work. You can also write to April Robins and she will post the possible guests for Red River Writers hosts. So far I have at least one guest for each month through June and usually before the show I find at least one more guest. I like to have both an author and either an editor or a publisher. I find that the discussion created by both sides is very interesting to writers. Also I don't limit the amount of guests per show. On one of my shows, the December one, I had the members of Milspeak and there were nine guests on the show! Another way you can become a guest on my show is to be a guest author on my blog.

DMc: You are a NaNoWrimo 2009 winner. Please share with us your experience in writing a novel in one month.

BE: When I first started writing seriously I learned that I have this ability to just sit down and write whenever I need to do that. So for me it was just a matter of finding an idea and forming my first sentence. From there after I wrote the first chapter I was able to write about 2000 words a day. Of course when you get to the point of about 25,000 words and you get stuck in your story that can be a problem, but the support you get from the NaNo writers and the people who are the admins for it is great! One thing that helped me was the sprints on Twitter and the forum groups that encourage you to push yourself to write those last words. Last year I joined a group that was pushing to get to 50,000 and we all supported each other and it was great when you did it!

DMc: What or whom inspired you to become a writer?

BE: I guess I would have to say it was my 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Parisi. She was one of the first to use a workshop approach. She took us to her desk and had a conference with us. I think I knew I loved writing when a poem I wrote was published in the school district's newsletter. It was the first time I had ever seen my name in print and I loved seeing it. My mother cut it out and kept it in her wallet. I found it after she died and I had never known it.

DMc: What genre do you prefer? Why?

BE: Probably the genre I prefer is YA, because they're kids, but they're also growing up and get into situations that can get messy. It's the young romance and the heartaches, the crazy things teens do and their ways of trying to get out of them. It's the cattiness of the girls and the crushes that don't quite materialize. I like writing adult romance too, I found out last year.:)

DMc: As a book reviewer have you ever come across a book you have found difficult to review? If yes, how did you handle it?

BE: I screen the books that I review pretty carefully, so if a book looks like something I wouldn't like to read I don't review it. Usually I really enjoy reading the books I choose to review so I don't run into any problems. I did run into a very sad review when I reviewed *The Blue Notebook* which is about prostitution and child abuse in India. I don't think there is anyone who can read that book and not want to cry and then attack the vile people who practice this abuse.

DMc: How would an author contact you to review their book? Do you prefer PDF or hardcopy?

BE: An author should contact me the same way as you would to become a guest on my show. Write me an email or send me a message on Facebook, if we are friends. I am friendly with a great many authors, so please let me know you want a review. Also I write for Authorlink.com and review at least a book a month for them. You can find my reviews on

their website. In addition, I have a column on Examiner.com as the NY Literature Examiner. You can read my column and leave me a comment and I will contact you if you leave your info. Usually I always review the books of my guest authors on my blog.

I love reading hardcopy, but I will also read a pdf if it is an eBook or if the book is not published yet and you want me to read it.

DMc: Please share with us your current W-I-P.

BE: My current W-I-P is called *When My Life Changed* and I have been writing this for almost three years. :) I started it for NaNo while my husband was in the hospital for triple bypass surgery after he had a heart attack. He had a lot of complications and I was very stressed. NaNo helped me to make some sense of it. I started it as a YA and started subbing chapters to MuseKids before it was finished. I am three quarters finished with it and hope to be able to finish it by the summer. Also I am subbing my novel from last year, *Tall Poison*, which is completely finished as a first draft and I joined a group that only does romance for this, *Apollo's Muse*. I have only subbed one chapter to them, but I'm enjoying the comments.

DMc: What do you find to be the most frustrating process of the publishing industry?

BE: The most frustrating process of the publishing industry is the *Catch 22* of a writer needing an agent, because rarely get noticed without one. What frustrates me even more is the way publishers will publish almost anything a celebrity writes! It seems that the way to get published these days is to become a celebrity of any kind. :)

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. Barbara, can you please share one with us?

BE: When I was going for my Masters degree at Manhattanville College I took part in what they call "Writer's Week". For me it was a requirement for my degree, but for others it was just another workshop week. I chose the workshop for Children's writing with Paula Danziger as the workshop leader. Paula was amazing as a teacher. The first day of the workshop I went to the wrong classroom and wound up coming in late. I had never seen a picture of her so I didn't know what to expect. She had bright red short hair and wore purple shoes. :) Almost everything she wore was purple or pink or a combination of them. But she was probably one of the best teachers I have ever had. We had to write a three page piece to get into the workshop. Paula took us aside for a private conference on our pieces. When she got to mine she started crossing out whole paragraphs. She rewrote a paragraph in one or two sentences for me and then after she had crossed out half of my words she wrote all over the paper *Cut, Cut, Cut!!* That three page piece of writing became the first chapter of my now finished, but not published novel, *If I Could Be Like Jennifer Taylor*. Then in the workshop whenever I answered anything or talked about my writing she would always say *Cut, Barbara. Cut, Cut Cut*. I know she would look at this answer and tell me to cut too. :)

Visit Barbara at:

Barbara's Meanderings

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

Red RiverWriters Live Tales from the Pages

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/redriverwriterslive/2009/11/24/red-river-writers-live--tales-from-the-pages>

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/redriverwriterslive/2009/12/22/red-river-writers-live--tales-from-the-pages-1>

NY Literature Examiner for [Examiner.com](http://www.examiner.com)

<http://www.examiner.com/x-33746-NY-Literature-Examiner~topic575176-book-reviews>

AUTHOR INTERVIEW - KATIE HINES

Katie and I first met through the Muse It Up Club several years ago and have stayed in constant contact with each other since our initial cyberspace meeting. It has been a thrill to watch Katie's career blossom over the last several years. Join me today in welcoming Katie as my guest author and learn about her fascinating writing career through a personal one-on-one interview. Katie will be checking-in throughout the day, so be sure to leave a comment and/or question

DMc: Your novel *Guardian* has been released by 4RV Publishing. Please describe to us the process you went through from the time your manuscript was accepted to publication.

KH: It was a longer process than I thought it would be. I signed my contract October 31, 2008 and thought everything would fall into place in a couple of months. Wrong! I'm not sure of the whole procedure on the publisher's end, but I spent the time that I was waiting learning about promoting and marketing. Lots of time. Media kit. Creating a blog. Creating a website. The cover was done first, and it is beautiful. Diana Navarro with 4RV did a slam-dunk job. Although originally scheduled for earlier, the book was actually released in January, 2010. There were a few miscommunications when emails that I sent didn't make it through to 4RV, so that caused delays. Finally, in December, 2009, the copy editing began, and once that was finished, it was a mere matter of weeks before I held the book in my hot little hands.

DMc: How have you approached your marketing of your novel *Guardian*?

KH: I think it has helped that I already have a blog and website and media kit. I have hired a marketing firm to do some of the marketing for me. I have also guest blogged, do an author interview once a week on my blog, joined various groups that are either relating to writing or to groups that I think would be interested in my book. I have done a few radio spots. I also have a blog tour set to begin March 1, and I'm looking forward to that.

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

KH: The length of time between the contract and the finished product.

DMc: When did you decide you wanted to become an author? Do you have another job besides writing?

KH: I toyed with the idea of being a writer on and off throughout my life. I always knew I wanted to write some books (like a lot of people), but actually did something about it (unlike a lot of people). I knew I wanted to write, but I didn't want to write journalism, and didn't want to teach English. I really didn't think I could write a book until I sat down and began the actual writing process. I do not have another job outside the home, but I've got the same kind of housework, etc. schedule that other moms have. I consider "being there" for my kids, grandkids and husband to be my number one priority and writing comes after that.

DMc: Were you an avid reader as a child? What type of books did you enjoy reading?

KH: I've been reading since I was 4, and never stopped. My early love--to this date--is fantasy. Back in the late 60s and early 70s, there simply weren't fantasy books written apart from Lloyd Alexander. Finally, in the mid-70s Terry Brooks wrote "The Sword of Shannara" and I fell in love with the book and couldn't wait for the others to come. So, fantasy is my first love. But, I read all the fiction bestsellers: murders, thrillers, some horror, romance, you name it and I've read it. Thank God for the public library. There is no way I could personally finance my love for reading!

DMc: What has been your personal experience with social networking to gain a presence in the children's publishing world? Blogging?

KH: I have a small presence on a few social networking groups, but I spend most of my time with Facebook and some on Twitter. I tend to get frustrated with Facebook because a lot of time is spent scrolling past all the Farmville and Yo'ville junk to get to personal and writing friends' posts. I think the most important thing is exposure. For me, blogging has been a much better use of my time, but my blog tends to be geared towards writers rather than children. I did a website at one point for kids, but it wasn't very good, and I let it lapse.

DMc: Do you feel it is essential to a writer to attend conferences? If yes, why?

KH: Essential, no. Wise, yes. Sometimes one simply doesn't have the money to go, except for the excellent free online conference presented by Lea Schizas. By not going to conferences, you miss out on the opportunity to network, which is an important part of a writer's life and presence.

DMc: What piece of advice would you offer to the newbie writer?

KH: Don't be afraid to spend pre-writing time on research. There were many times when the research I did for *Guardian* resulted directly in integral chapters for my book. Be sure and write, write, write and read heavily in your chosen genre.

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

KH: Bored.

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

KH: More books. I have a few I am working on. A couple chapter books, a young adult novel, another middle grade urban fantasy, and an adult book. I will continue to guest blog, and write for an online Catholic ezine.

To learn more about Katie Hines, please visit:

Website: <http://www.katiehines.com>

Blog: <http://katiehines.blogspot.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/people/Katie-Hines/1442953493>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/katiehines>

NOW AVAILABLE! "*Guardian*" a middle grade urban fantasy

Order from <http://www.4RVPublishingllc.com>

EDITOR INTERVIEW - JENNIFER HIRSCH

JacketFlap has once again proven to be an instrumental part of contacting authors, illustrators, editors, and publishers in the children's publishing industry. I sent an interview request to editor, Jennifer Hirsh of *American Girl* and she graciously accepted the invitation to be included in this month's newsletter. What better way to get insightful answers than through an interview?

DMc: Do you find it difficult to switch roles between editor and writer for *American Girl*?

JH: No—the creative thought process is very similar. Whether writing or editing, I'm constantly evaluating what needs to be communicated and whether the text in front of me—whether written by an author or just typed by my own fingers—fills the bill. Would the character say or do this? Is this scene believable? Is the narrative compelling and fun to read?

When an author's work comes in rough, say in a first draft that's not working very well, I have to be able to think like both a reader and a writer in order to understand what isn't working about the story and how to fix it. The trick is to fix it in a way that is true to the author's own ideas. As editor my goal is to honor my author's vision and not impose my own,

although at *American Girl* the editorial process is often highly collaborative, and our authors have to be prepared for that.

DMc: Since *American Girl* does not accept unsolicited manuscripts, how do you select authors for your titles/series?

JH: We read similar books to find ones we like, and then contact the authors. For example, our newest historical character is Rebecca, a Jewish American girl growing up in 1914. When I was planning her series, I knew I needed an author who really knew Jewish culture and history of that time period, could write for children, and was a natural storyteller. I read probably 30 or 40 books by various children's authors who write about Jewish history. I contacted five of them and invited them to submit a proposal outlining the series, with a detailed outline of the first book and a complete first chapter. From there, we selected Jacqueline Dembar Greene, an award-winning author who has written some excellent historical fiction and nonfiction for children.

Writing an *American Girl* fiction series is an intense process that's not for beginners; we need to see an author's writing chops, and we need someone who understands the publishing process and has "been around the block," so to speak. That's why we rarely work with new writers for our books. We do, however, sometimes use new writers in our magazine, *American Girl*.

DMc: What development process do you go through in creating new titles and series?

JH: I have a full-time historian on my staff, and after we've identified a time period or theme for the series and hired an author, then the author, historian, and editor talk extensively about what the series should focus on and why. While that's happening, we hire an illustrator, which may also involve a testing and selection process. The third big element for *American Girl* is coordinating development of the story and illustrations with development of the toys—the doll and her outfits, furniture, pets, and accessories. Most other publishers don't have this additional element as part of their development process; or if they do, it's licensed out. But our content and product are developed in tandem, all in-house. While it makes for a complex process, it's also really exciting to see the character and her stories come to life, literally, in three dimensions, in a playable way for girls.

DMc: What do you find to be the biggest challenge in editing manuscripts?

JH: I really love editing, the process of helping a story "be all that it can be." When a manuscript comes in, my job is sort of like that of a sculptor who takes a block of marble and must be able to see the finished product within the rough stone and determine what to cut out or scrape away and what to leave in order to create the sculpture. It's a highly creative process, even for the editor, and working with an author can be very intimate and intense, because this is their heartfelt creative work I'm shaping and critiquing. If they're doing their job right, their ideas come from a place deep inside—and then here am I, stepping in and telling them they need to do this differently, this scene isn't working, that

character or phrase isn't quite right, and so on. For an author to be able handle this kind of criticism and coaching—not just handle it without crumbling, but even more, to actually *believe* that I'm right when I'm telling an author she's wrong, the author has to really, really trust me as her editor. Gaining that level of trust does not happen overnight; it must be earned. So I believe the most critical and delicate part of the editor's job is to establish that deep, intimate trust with an author—a trust where *ego* is set aside, and both of us know with utter conviction that although our roles are different, we are partners in the service of a shared vision, this story we are creating.

DMc: Is there a particular genre you prefer to read? Or are you open to almost anything?

JH: I seem to go through phases, and I find it depends in part on my kids' ages and what I'm reading to them. I've really enjoyed renewing my appreciation, as an adult, of childhood favorites like Dr. Seuss and Beverly Cleary (Ramona the Pest gets my vote as all-time greatest girl character in children's literature), as well as discovering new classics like Harry Potter, with my kids. For adult fiction, I love exquisite stylists like Jane Austen, Jennifer Egan, and A.S. Byatt. I most enjoy fiction that explores the psychology of characters and relationships. I also really like biographies (there, the characters are real!) and other types of historical nonfiction. Researching our American Girl series and writing the historical essays at the back of the American Girl historical fiction opened my eyes to this genre and its pleasures. Art history is a favorite subject of mine—probably because the characters are fascinating, and the illustrations can't be beat!

DMc: What piece of advice would you provide to the newbie writer when submitting?

JH: Target your submissions appropriately—choose a publisher who actually publishes books like yours. This goes for fiction and nonfiction. You need not be an industry insider; just go to a bookstore and find books that are similar to the book you want to create; those are your targets. Don't be afraid to simply call up the publishing house and ask who the editor is for a certain book or series or imprint. Some will direct you to the slush pile instead, but you're usually better off if you can get your manuscript or proposal directly into the hands of the right editor. If you know anyone in publishing, whether an editor, agent, or author, pump them for contacts, and ask if you can use their name in your cover letter. That can make all the difference in whether your submission actually gets reviewed by an editor rather than a slush reader. In my case, slush goes straight back to the author unread, but on the rare occasion that a professional-looking proposal comes in with the name of someone I know attached to it, I will give it a read and give the author a personal response. I think most editors—and agents, for that matter—work that way. I have also worked as a freelance magazine writer, and that personal connection really made a difference in getting my work into print. A great way to meet editors, agents, and writers is to attend writer's conferences. Check with a university in your area, if there is one, or join the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and attend a regional conference.

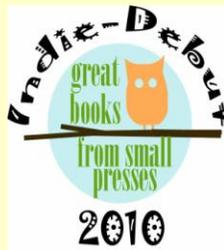
DMc: In your opinion what do you see the future as for hardcopy books with the Kindle and the iPad on the market?

JH: I can't speak to adult trade books, but I can say that until the e-readers can include art and illustration, children's books and coffee table books will hold their own on paper. However, at the rate digital readers are evolving, gorgeous graphics probably aren't far behind. And for better or worse kids dearly love technology; I see this in my own kids, who are great readers but, though it hurts me to say it, they love playing computer and video games more, and they would probably find digital readers very appealing. So publishers are eagerly trying to understand what opportunities this new technology offers for delivering content, both fiction and nonfiction—and how to make a profit in the process.

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. Jennifer, can you please share one with us?

JH: This will date me, but I'm a dedicated fan of the Rolling Stones. I've been to 16 concerts in five states, spanning the last century and this one!

Thank you Jennifer for this wonderful opportunity in getting to know you.



MEDIA RELEASE

CONTACT: Amy Allgeyer Cook, Author
Email: amyacook@live.com

For Immediate Release

Indie-Debut - Small Press Month Makes a Huge Impact

In celebration of Small Press Month, Indie-Debut 2010 is thrilled to announce their March event schedule for the week of March 7, 2010. Join in the fun and cruise on over to <http://indiedebut2010.blogspot.com> and read insightful interviews from prominent individuals in the small press world. Participate in lively discussions, Friday gift giveaway contests, and so much more.

Highlights for the week of March 7, 2010:

Mon, March 8: SPOTLIGHT: Miriam Forster and Winner Announcement

Tues, March 9: Stephen Mooser Interview w/ Amy Cook

Wed, March 10: Discussion: As a reader and lover of books, do you pay attention to the publisher or the quality of writing?

Thurs, March 11: Indie Bookstore Interview with Amy Cook

Fri, March 12: SPOTLIGHT ON TEASERS: Scott Heydt & Carla Mooney

PLUS Giveaway: Fabulous Follower Prize: Become a follower of our blog, twitter, and Facebook and be entered to win:

- The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade tote bag - prize by Lori Calabrese
- Amazing Africa Projects - prize by Carla Mooney
- Show Way by Jacqueline Woodson - prize by Donna McDine

Thank you in advance for your interest. We look forward to your visit.

Be sure to check back for next week's schedule.

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More information is available upon request electronically.



Overwhelmed with all the information out there for writing for children? Not sure how to weed out the essentials? Look no further! Visit the Children's Writing Coaching Club (CWCC) today and learn how to set your weekly marketing plan in place (you may refer to this as your "To Do List"). Coupled with weekly tele-classes and monthly assignments you will soon see your writing career moving in a positive direction.

The guidance and support at the CWCC has been instrumental in the success of my writing career. My first story book, due to be released Spring/Summer 2010 by Guardian Angel Publishing, is a direct result of an assignment through the CWCC. And my most recent news, by attending one of the tele-classes I received direct information about a work-for-hire opportunity, I took the plunge, submitted my information, and was hired within 14-days!

Writing can be a lonely business, but with the expert coaching from Suzanne Lieurance and camaraderie of the CWCC members you will no longer feel adrift in a sea of jumbled words." Donna McDine, Children's Author

Check it out today:

<http://www.1shoppingcart.com/app/?Clk=2847621>



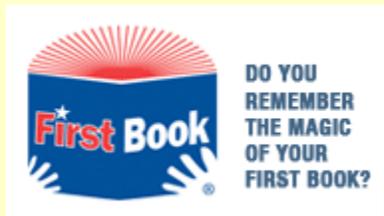
Overwhelmed? Don't have time to write and post your media releases. Let the panic settle and don't fret any longer. Let Donna take the pressure off. Writing a media release

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 / dmc dine@optonline.net / 845-359-6646
<http://www.donnamcdine.com/dynamicmediareleases.html>



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.

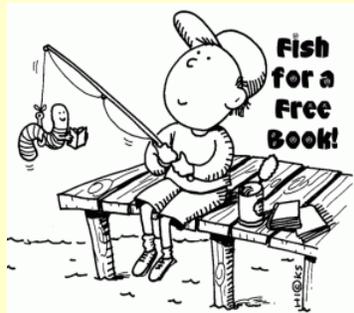
To be held October 11-17, 2010

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

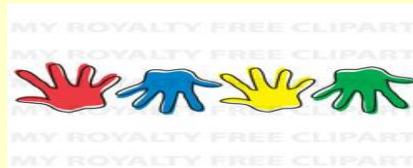


Looking for the latest children's literature news? Don't have time to scour all of the blogs out there (and we know there are a ton!), but would like to be pointed in the direction of some of the best articles and gossip?

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

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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.

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