

# Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

November 2009  
Volume 2, Issue 11

Donna M. McDine  
Children's Author



Welcome to the November issue of my FREE newsletter:

## Write What Inspires You!

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I know I say it every month, but time is sure flying. It's hard to believe November and another round of Holidays are upon us. Once the celebration of my dad's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday is complete it will be time to get the family Christmas photo taken and to start Christmas shopping. I always like to get my shopping done before December so I can enjoy the time of decorating our home, baking goodies, and wrapping gifts with my daughters.

I tend to lighten my writing load in December, try my best to stay up with networking, and get myself organized for the New Year in an effort to enjoy this festive time of year. This way I can start the New Year with a bang and hit the ground running after the girls return to school after an extended holiday vacation.

What family traditions does your family have? I'd enjoy hearing about them at my blog on November 23<sup>rd</sup> when I'll be sharing more of my family traditions.

It is my pleasure to present to you interviews with authors Heather Adams, Shari Lyle-Soffe, and Kristi Valiant. Don't miss the goodies in the columns: Book Reviews, Reflections and Dreams by Sue Chehrenegar, Proclaim Your Successes, 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: [dmcidine@optonline.net](mailto:dmcidine@optonline.net)

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

Thank you to Carolyn Howard-Johnson and Kathy Stemke for mentioning my newsletter either within their newsletter and/or blog. Thanks ladies, your support means the world to me!

Here's to your inspiration and continued success!

Donna

## Quote of the Month:

"Be yourself my dear, no one else sees the world as you do, take your dream and soar." Marie Rossi (my Nana)

## AUTHOR INTERVIEW – HEATHER ADAMS

I met children's author, Heather Adams, after reading and writing a book review of Hollowbush Mystery Players – It's been a long time coming. We have stayed in contact via email and through JacketFlap. Come along and learn more about Heather's wonderful career and be sure to read my book review included in this newsletter.

DMc: Tell us a bit about your latest book, and what inspired you to write such a story.

HA: My book is a fantasy/mystery, age range of 9-12 and it follows a teen drama club that is getting ready to perform in a production for a local celebration when magical and mysterious things begin to happen linking them to an event that occurred in the past involving some of Broadway's biggest Stars. I have always loved the excitement of theatre and although I do not possess the great vocal abilities of a Broadway performer, I sometimes envision myself up on stage in the leading role of a famed Broadway show mesmerizing the audience with a Tony Award winning performance.

DMc: How would you describe your creative process while writing this book? Was it stream-of-consciousness writing, or did you first write an outline?

HA: I did have a general outline of what the story would be about and when I began to write, the characters would lots of times take me on a journey down a different path than I had originally had in mind, and the story would kind of create itself. So it was a little bit both.

DMc: From the moment you conceived the idea for the story, to the published book, how long did it take?

HA: The book was published two and a half years from the time of creation to completion.

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

HA: The most frustrating process of the experience was the editing; I went through several rounds before I was happy with the final result.

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

HA: I am looking for an agent, which is a process in itself that can get frustrating. I am actively seeking a good agent that I can trust. I would appreciate any input on this matter that anyone might have.

DMc: Which is your own favorite book or character?

HA: I like the Twilight series books by Stephenie Meyer and also I am a fan of Harry Potter and JK Rowling. I love the fiction/fantasy genre. I am intrigued by the dark, mysterious characters of a book.

DMc: Are your characters based on yourself or anyone else you know?

HA: There is a different part of me in many of the characters. Caitlin has the sensible part of me, thinking about the consequences. While her twin sister Cassidy deals in the mischievous side of me (In a good way!) who loves to play pranks and have fun. Nicholas has my desire for the exploration of things, always ready for an adventure. Danny has my paranoia, wondering if there is someone standing behind ME ready to pull a prank.

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

HA: I would say to them "Do not get discouraged if the process takes longer than you anticipated. Be patient, it will be worth it in the end. Just keep doing what you love and believe in yourself and your dreams."

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

HA: I love animals; I have always owned dogs and I love to go horseback riding. When I was growing up my reply to everyone who asked me what I wanted to do as an adult was that I was going to be a jockey and race. Well I was a tall kid and it didn't stop, I kept growing and growing until I passed the prime height of a Horse Jockey and reached 5 foot 10 inches. So I am not sure that this will ever be possible. (And now the age factor thing would go against me also).

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. Heather, can you please share one with us?

HA: I really enjoy meeting and talking with people, but when I am in front of a large group of people I become anxious and nervous. I have to tell myself to calm down and just do it. I once took a public speaking course at a local college; we would have to prepare speeches then get up and present a topic to the class. We went through several sessions of these exercises, after a few times of doing this I was still quite nervous but I found it was getting easier each time. So for the final class we were presenting our topic to a larger audience of students who were enrolled in other courses. A few students that I had become good friends with were seated in the front row waiting their turn to speak. I made the mistake of focusing in on these people thinking that familiar faces would ease my apprehension. I was going along fine or (so I thought I was) until I noticed that one of the male students sitting next to my friends with his turn soon approaching, had a wardrobe malfunction. The fly on his pants was wide open!! I was immediately lost as to what I was speaking about. My thoughts first became "what should I do try and signal him while standing there with everyone watching me or do I just keep going and ignore it and let him find out on his own." I did not have the chance to decide as I was overtaken by the humor of the situation and could barely continue with what I was saying. My face turned red and I began to feel very warm as I was thrown into a fit of laughter. Tears streamed down my cheeks, every time I thought it was under control I would start again. I managed to gain composure and finish. I returned to my spot to watch the next person and observed that

the male student must have noticed the glitch and fixed it. The lesson I learned from this is to always keep shifting your attention around the room, do not focus in on the front row.

And changing from the subject of finding humor to finding personal satisfaction I would like to speak about some visits that I am in the process of setting up. I will be going to some local schools and hospitals to read to the kids. I think it is important to show kids the fun of reading and using your imagination. I would also like to give the sick children of the hospitals a break from their fear and worry.

Thank you again Donna I had a wonderful time talking with you. I am honored.

To learn more about Heather Adam's career visit: [hollowbushmysteryplayers.com](http://hollowbushmysteryplayers.com)

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## AUTHOR INTERVIEW – SHARI LYLE-SOFFE

Shari and I first connected as fellow “Angels” through Guardian Angel Publishing. Shari puts pen to paper in Southern Oregon where deer, squirrels, rabbits, birds, skunks, opossum, and raccoons enjoy romping in her yard. The antics of the raccoons mesmerized her so she decided to write about them.

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

SLS: I have always used writing as a means of expressing myself, my thoughts, my feelings but not for others to see. The idea of being a “writer” was always in the back of my mind, but I didn't think I was qualified. I loved being read to as a child, and later reading to myself, so writing for children was a natural choice. When the time and events were right I decided to learn all I could about writing for children. I scoured the library for books on the subject and joined a chat room at the Institute of Children's Literature. I also joined the children's-writers group online.

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

SLS: Read all you can of the genre of books you want to write, and don't stop.

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

SLS: My first acceptance of an article I wrote for Once Upon A Time magazine. We had company and I burst into tears. I think our guests thought I was nuts.

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

SLS: Lack of money has been a big obstacle, but there are ways to cope.

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

SLS: I work on whatever my muse wants me to at the time. Of course deadlines are different they come first.

DMc: Please share with us your inspiration behind your series Rooter and Snuffle.

SLS: As a child I lived in the Redwoods north of San Francisco. We had two raccoons who visited our back porch garbage cans every night. We could stand inside the door and watch them without them knowing we were there. I thought they were so cute with their little black masks and paws that resembled little hands. I was the oldest of four children so siblings were a natural choice for a topic.

DMc: Please share with us the storyline of our latest picture book, *A Horse of Course*.

SLS: This book tells about Aaron and the horse he receives as a birthday gift. Aaron wants Horace to live in the house with him, but he doesn't ask Horace what he wants. A horse in the house makes for some humorous events for the reader but not for Aaron and his family. Aaron has to find a way to make things right.

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

SLS: I have a book with my publisher called *Shoo Cat!* I am working on a book called *Swimming With Noodles* about some hens who think the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. I need to start the next *Rooter and Snuffle* book, and I have an idea for a tween novel I want to write. I have more ideas than I have time to write them.

DMc: Please share with us the collaboration process between you and illustrator, Kevin Scott Collier. Did you have the opportunity to select Collier, or was he assigned to you?

SLS: Ah, good question. Kevin selected me. He had seen one of my *Rooter and Snuffle* stories and wanted to illustrate it and submit it to his publisher. I wasn't going to say "No". She accepted the book and it was the start of a wonderful relationship. I write the stories..and I let the illustrator do the illustrations. An illustrator is a professional and doesn't need the author to tell him/her what to draw. One of the joys of writing is to see how the illustrator interprets your writing.

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. Shari, can you please share one with us?

SLS: How about a childhood memory? When I was very young and painfully shy, my teacher asked me to stand on a table in front of the class and look like I was walking to school. The class was supposed to draw me. I needed desperately to use the bathroom. Finally I asked the teacher if I could go to the restroom. She said, "No class is almost over. You can wait."

She was mistaken. I stood there humiliated as the pee ran down my leg, into my shoe and left a puddle on the table. It's funny now but it wasn't then.

To learn more about Shari Lyle-Soffe's writing career visit: <http://sharilyle-soffe.com>

Donna, thank you for having me.

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## ILLUSTRATOR INTERVIEW - KRISTI VALIANT

Many of the illustrators and writers I meet, I meet through JacketFlap. Illustrator Kristi Valiant is another one of those individuals. Her artistic abilities left me in awe. Without talented illustrators a writer's words would fall flat in picture books. Come along for this colorful interview. I'm sure you will be left in awe too.

DMc: Kristi, you have quite the accomplished illustrating career. Between chapter books, leveled readers, the educational market, and magazines including Highlights for Children. How do you balance your many different projects?

KV: Well, I should have an organized method to balancing my different projects, but I don't. I've always been able to stay up late if I've taken on a busy workload. We're due in January with a little girl, so she's making me more selective about the projects I take on and the organization of my time.

DMc: Are you normally hired by the publishing house or author for your illustrating talents?

KV: I work with an art director or editor from the publisher. I usually don't have any contact at all with the author.

DMc: What have been some obstacles you needed to overcome for your illustrating career?

KV: When I first graduated from art school, I needed time to build up enough clients to do freelance illustration full-time. I took a job laying out leveled readers at an educational publisher; it was a great experience. Over the years I built up enough clients to do full-time freelance, and I've been doing that now for six years.

One large obstacle for me was when I became serious about pursuing trade picture books instead of the educational market. I joined SCBWI and had my portfolio critiqued at an SCBWI conference by an art director from a large publisher. I realized then that my illustrations were very educational-market-looking, so I needed to redo my entire portfolio for the trade market. Over the last few years, I've been working hard on that. Cora Cooks Pancit came out in April 2009 and was my first trade picture book. Even now, I take any portfolio critique opportunity to see how to further improve my work for the trade picture book market.

DMc: Please share with us your break through moment of your career.

KV: I've had many mini break-through-moments, but I think I'm still waiting for my biggest break-through-moment! My goal is to write and illustrate trade picture books. I have one picture book dummy that I just started submitting, so we'll see how that goes.

DMc: Please share your collaboration between the author Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore and yourself on the picture book *Cora Cooks Pancit*.

KV: Actually, I've never talked with Dorina herself! I work with the publisher. Shen's Books called me after they acquired the manuscript from Dorina. Picture books are stories told partly by the text and partly by the illustrations, so it's important to let the illustrator tell their visual part of the story. After reading Dorina's text and dividing it up into pages, I figured out in sketches what parts of her text I wanted to elaborate on in the illustrations and what else I wanted to add to the story that isn't told in the text (the dog bringing stuffed animals to the main character, for example).

DMc: Do you conduct school visits? If yes, how is a typical visit structured?

KV: Yes, I've done a few. It depends on the age of the children as to if I do a writing and illustrating exercise with the kids or if I make it more of a show and tell time.

DMc: Do you have a favorite medium or style?

KV: I work almost completely digitally now. I even do most of my sketching right on my computer with my Wacom tablet and pen. It makes resizing, redrawing, moving things around, changing colors, and all that editing so much faster. The professional version of Photoshop allows me to create all sorts of brushes that look like traditional mediums, so my artwork doesn't look like I painted it on the computer. Clean-up is easier too!

DMc: Please name a couple of your favorite children's illustrators. What intrigues you about them?

KV: Janet & Anne Grahame Johnstone – they draw beautiful children  
Holly Hobbie – Toot, Puddle, and Opal's expressions and the lovely backgrounds  
LeUyen Pham – the body language of her characters  
Adam Rex – just hilarious  
Hilary Knight – body language and expressions of his characters  
Julia Denos – elegant  
Jen Corace – great use of white space and sense of design and the list goes on...

DMc: How long does it take for you to illustrate a book?

KV: That completely depends on the type of book, the number of pages, the amount of detail in the illustrations, if there's a rush from the publisher, what else I have on my schedule, etc.

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. Kristi, can you please share one with us?

KV: I used to compete in swing dancing doing flips, jumps, and all that fun stuff. The picture book I'm illustrating right now is all about dancing, so I love illustrating this book!

Where can our readers visit you?

My website: [www.kristivaliant.com](http://www.kristivaliant.com)

M blog: <http://kristivaliant.blogspot.com>

I'd love to hear in the comments on my blog that you've read this interview.

Thanks so much!

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## BOOK REVIEWS



Title: Hollowbush Mystery Players ~ I t's been a Long Time Coming  
Written by: Heather L. Adams  
Ages: 9-12  
Publisher: AuthorHouse  
ISBN: 978-1434386359  
Published: November 2008  
Softcover: 256 pages  
Price: \$15.99

Nicholas Nichols is welcomed with open arms into a new circle of friendship when he visits his Great-Aunt and -Uncle for the summer. From the onset Nicholas clicks with Danny and sisters Cassidy and Caitlin. With the help of Cassidy and Caitlin's mother Jan they form The Hollowbush Mystery Players to participate in the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Broadway Entertainer Festival Spectacular. In their off time, the foursome, explore the woods and discover an old abandoned building and mine shaft. From the moment of entry, odd noises and happenings occur. Unexplainable, the friends ignore and continue with their exploration. Within a short amount of time strange instances begin to occur at the theatre and Aunt Hannah and Uncle Ellis' home.

Are the instances related? Will the members of The Hollowbush Mystery Players make the connection and discover what or whom is behind them? Time is of the essence to clear this matter up once and for all so the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Broadway Entertainer Festival Spectacular can go off without a hitch.



Heather Adams takes the reader on a mysterious ride leaving the reader breathless with each turn of the page.

To learn more about Ms. Adams visit: <http://hollowbushmysteryplayers.com>

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

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## REFLECTIONS OR DREAMS

I am pleased to welcome guest author, Susan Chehrenegar today to provide a glimpse behind the scenes of research in the fight against breast cancer. Her unique perspective will enlighten you and may just give you inspiration to support this worthwhile cause.

Reflections on Breast Cancer Research

By Susan Chehrenegar

During the week of October 5, 2009, word came from Stockholm, Sweden that three scientists would share the 2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine. That trio of researchers had made a noteworthy contribution to the growing body of scientific knowledge, as it relates to the human chromosome.

This blog post hopes to draw attention to the fact that recognition of three chromosome experts came at the start of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The writer of this blog post had her first close hand look at breast cancer research while conducting an investigation of chemically induced chromosome damage.

In late 1974, as this writer peered into a microscope and looked for signs of chromosome damage, the woman who sat across from her was helping to add to the still small pool of information about human breast cancers. Since then, the analytical efforts of that laboratory co-worker have provided medical science with information on the frequency with which chromosome damage can be found in the cells of breast cancer patients.

By 1977, this writer had moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. There she worked in a research department where one group of investigators was working with a special type of cell structure. That structure, called a "spheroid" sought to copy the collection of cells in the human breast. The researchers who worked with those spheroids wanted to learn how different chemicals and nutrients could have an effect on various cells within a typical human breast.

Just after this writer married and became a mother, she began working in an amniocentesis lab. While functioning in the role of cytotechnician, this writer did not manage to have any contact with scientists who were conducting breast cancer research. She did though enjoy frequent contact with such scientists in the final decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

During a large part of that decade, this writer was responsible for growing certain types of breast cancer cells. Some of those cell lines had originated with cells from whole breast tissue. Other cell lines had been started with a limited amount of tissue, tissue from a

breast duct. At one point, this writer worked closely with a scientist in the biochemistry department at a biotechnology company.

That scientist was trying to develop a new and better way to diagnose breast cancer. She was hoping to discover a protein—something like the PSA used to test for prostate cancer. This writer worked on development of a way to grow breast cancer cells in serum free medium. It was hoped that this tool could aid the identification of a particular protein.

The effort sited in the above paragraph underlined the difficulties that face any scientist who chooses to pursue some type of breast cancer research. When the chosen breast cancer cells were grown in serum free media, the researchers found that the serum substitute contained a sizable amount of an unwanted protein. This writer sought out and provided the biochemistry department with a method for removing that protein from the media, once it had furnished growing cells with their needed nutrients.

After reading the above recollections, readers of this blog should better understand just how much patience must be displayed by the scientist who truly wants to hasten the advancement of breast cancer research. Hopefully, the world will one day hear that a Nobel Prize has been awarded to a scientist who has made a significant contribution to the fight against breast cancer.

Chehrenegar spent 30 years doing biomedical research. Now retired and a freelance writer she writes for her local paper, the Internet, and children's magazines. Her latest to be released in a soon-to-be published anthology, a book titled THROUGH THE EYES OF LOVE.

Visit author, Susan Chehrenegar at: <http://chehrenegar.blogspot.com>

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## PROCLAIM YOUR SUCCESS!

Karen Cioffi:

- I'd love to mention I'm on Sylvan Dell Publishing's Website Blogroll. My site link: <http://karenandrobyn.blogspot.com/2009/10/sylvan-dell-publishing-website-blogroll.html>

Terrie Hope

- Guest Author, Jean Reagan, author of *Always My Brother*, a picture book on death and the loss of a sibling. Ms. Reagan will be contributing a post for the blog about journaling your grief. Visit November 7<sup>th</sup> at <http://terri-forehand.blogspot.com>

Donna M. McDine

- 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition ~ top 100 of Children's/Young Adult Fiction Category - "The Hockey Agony"
- 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition ~ top 100 of Children's/Young Adult Fiction Category - "Images of the Past" (excerpt)
- "Trouble in the Park," accepted by Robin Falls Magazine for December 2009

- "Ten Ways to Survive the First Year of Middle School," accepted by Musing Our Children: Pages & Pen Newsletter - Fall 2009

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## TESTIMONIALS

Terrie Hope ~ "Your newsletter is always filled with great information. Thank you."  
<http://heartfeltwords4kids.blogspot.com> / <http://terri-forehand.blogspot.com>

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# 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](mailto: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.donnamcdine.blogspot.com/> helpful please consider nominating it for the "101 Best Websites for Writers." Send an email to [writersdig@fwpubs.com](mailto:writersdig@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.

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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](mailto:dmcdine@optonline.net) / 845-359-6646  
<http://www.donnamcdine.com/dynamicmediareleases.html>

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### 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>

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Phone: 800-670-4416

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DO YOU  
REMEMBER  
THE MAGIC  
OF YOUR  
FIRST BOOK?

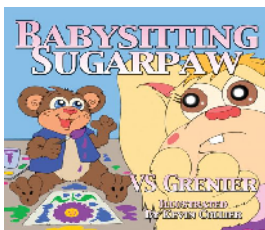
VS Grenier has joined forces with First Book to help children find the love of reading and writing. Here is what Bonnie Johnson from First Book had to say about me joining their cause.

"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>

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If you missed the 2009 Muse Online Writers Conference be sure to check back in November for registration to 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>

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## 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:

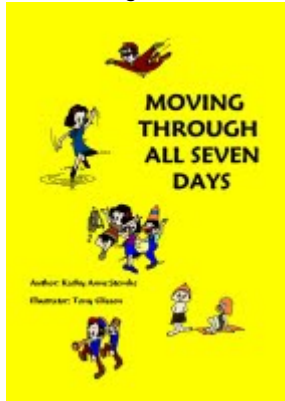
<http://educationtipster.blogspot.com/>

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.

Don't forget to check out Kathy's book Moving Through all Seven Days



Available on lulu:

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

Additional locations where Kathy shares her expertise:

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

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/user/237923/kathy\\_stemke\\_dancekam.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/user/237923/kathy_stemke_dancekam.html)

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

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## Karina L. Fabian

Fiction, Faith and Fun!

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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.

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>

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