

Write What Inspires You! Newsletter

April/May 2010
Volume 3, Issue 4

Donna M. McDine
Children's Author



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Welcome to the April/May 2010 issue Write What Inspires You!

In last few months I have re-evaluated my time constraints and as many of you have noticed I have scaled back the monthly newsletter to bi-monthly.

The new structure:

February/March

April/May

June/July

August/September

October/November

December/January

I hope the first quarter of 2010 has been kind to you with publishing successes along the way. With the onset of spring it always provides me with a sense of renewal or not until the allergy season passes by. I normally don't suffer from allergies, but this year I am. I don't need to go into details of the symptoms, especially for those of you have been long time sufferers. I do have to say it slows down my work pace considerably.

With Mother's Day right around the corner, I've dedicated this issue to all the mothers in our lives. For without them, we'd be nowhere. Without further ado I present to you the April/May features author interviews with Christina Katz and Suzanne Lieurance, Carolyn Howard-Johnson's announcement of poetry book, and Reflections or Dreams submission by Mayra Calvani. Don't miss the additional goodies: Dynamic Media Release Service, The Golden Pathway blog book reviews, 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: dmcidine@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:

"Your thoughts and only your thoughts will determine your success and failure in life. Harness your thoughts and you will obtain confidence and endurance to reach your goals."
Jon Bard - Children's Book Insider

AUTHOR INTERVIEW - CHRISTINA KATZ



Over the last couple of years I have had the wonderful opportunity to host Christina Katz several times. I'm thrilled to welcome back Christina again and she shares with us her latest accomplishment.

Christina will be checking-in throughout the day, so be sure to leave her a comment and/or question. She looks forward to interacting with our visitors!

An Interview with Christina Katz About Author Mama ~ April 2010

Why would you do an e-book after two traditionally published books?

Like most traditionally published authors, who blog, teach and speak, I have a backlog of quality content to draw on and some of it, though not all of it, will lend itself to the e-book format. So I plan to write several e-books over time and Author Mama is the first. I have old sketchbooks full of ideas I've had over the years, which will lend themselves well to e-formats. Equal opportunity access to e-publishing technology offers all of us writers a lot more creative leeway than we have traditionally had, which can lead to exciting and fun possibilities.

Besides being in e-book format, how is Author Mama different from Writer Mama and Get Known Before the Book Deal?

Author Mama is the story behind how I landed my book deal for Writer Mama and then wrote the book. I wanted to describe in play-by-play form what writing a non-fiction book is like for the benefit of moms considering the possibility with the lessons I learned along the way. One of my students who is on the verge of querying agents with a nonfiction book proposal says that Author Mama "goes there." In other words, it deals squarely with the rollercoaster ride that most first-time authors experience. The format of my traditionally published books is not as driven by my personal experience, even though it informs them both. In Author Mama, I include all of the books that I recommend first-time authors read before, during, and after the book deal, so they can become as informed and empowered as possible.

Who are the intended readers for Author Mama?

Well, my two traditionally published books don't target the same exact audience and neither does Author Mama. When I wrote Author Mama, I had my Writer Mama readers in mind,

but of those readers, I was specifically focused on anyone seriously considering writing a book someday. Not every writer mama wants to write a book someday. Some are perfectly happy writing and publishing articles. So Author Mama is a slice (a writing book), of a slice (for moms), of a slice (who are considering becoming an author some day), and therefore too small of an audience for a traditional publisher. But many of my students and fans have this question and would like to answer it for themselves. Author Mama is for them.

Did you have any hesitations about self-publishing?

Considering how much content I have sitting around languishing on my hard drives, I am sorry that it's taken me this long. The person I had the hardest time convincing was myself. I've had some hang-ups about e-books that I've had to get over in order to move forward. As long as my work continues to serve the best interests of my readers, why wouldn't I self-publish? I certainly have a lot more to offer than I would just letting it sit around collecting virtual dust. At this point in time, I feel like it would be foolish not to e-publish, even as I continue to write traditional books.

Are publishers anxious about traditional authors self-publishing? Doesn't this undermine their business?

I think, when it comes to self-publishing the opportunity always exists to take the enlightened view or the fearful view. I have heard people in publishing make comments that authors self-publishing is terrible news, which is absurd. The fearful attitude is, "Oh no, if that author can self-publish, then we lose." The enlightened view is that when the people you partner with are more successful it's good for you too because it raises all boats. Besides, when all the folks involved in a partnership are empowered and come together because they want to be there, that's good for the relationship. It's important to have good boundaries and communication in business and know the difference between what's yours, what's not yours, and what is joint ownership. When you keep these things in mind, and communicate clearly, there is really nothing to fear but fear itself.

How do you keep people from "stealing" your e-book?

I can't stop people from stealing my e-book. I am completely powerless over that aspect of e-publishing, as most of us are. However, my target audience is not teenage boys and young men, who are supposedly the folks who do most of the pirating, according to the experts who study these trends. So I'm not going to lose any sleep over it. Also I don't plan on giving my e-books away to avoid the impression that they are "freebies," whereas with a traditional book I always do a lot of giveaways to get the content out into circulation. E-books are a lot easier to circulate. I can send one to you in seconds. So at this time, I don't see the point in giving them away and encouraging others to share them without permission. I'd prefer to sell them to a smaller, more exclusive audience, who will see the value and, hopefully, respect my copyright.

What are three major points you hope aspiring writers learn from reading Author Mama?

That landing a traditional book deal and delivering a well-written book is possible but not

easy by any means.

That someone else has survived the rollercoaster of emotions that come part and parcel with a first traditional book deal and you can too.

That some writers actually give up along the way and don't succeed at delivering their first book but this won't happen to the writers who read Author Mama because forewarned is forearmed.

Is this book only for nonfiction writers or can fiction writers benefit from it too

Author Mama is specifically about my nonfiction book writing process, which is different from the process for other genres like fiction or memoir. However, a lot of my readers, who write in other genres, have said over the years that they find a lot of takeaways in my nonfiction experience. Also, I fully expect Author Mama to convince a few readers to try writing a nonfiction book, who might have only considered themselves other types of writers or not even writers at all.

Can I order a print copy of Author Mama?

When the book comes out in the final version in May, I will make it available for purchase in print-on-demand format, as well as all the other e-formats. During April, while it's in beta, Author Mama is available in PDF format, which means you can print it out and put it in a binder yourself, if you prefer a hard copy. I've invited the first readers to participate in the process, so I've included a feedback form with the e-book but participation is voluntary. However to sweeten the deal, I will provide those who share feedback on the beta version with the final version for free, after it's updated in PDF form.

How can I order this e-book for someone as a gift?

Sure you can. When you place your order, simply submit their e-mail address in the notes section and I will e-mail the copy to them instead of to you.

Thanks for your questions about Author Mama. If you'd like to learn more, please visit <http://christinakatz.com/>.

About Christina Katz, The Author Mama

Christina Katz has been teaching writers to cultivate thriving careers for the past decade. Many of her students start by writing short articles and work hard and long until they eventually succeed in landing traditional book deals. Christina is the author of *Get Known Before the Book Deal*, *Use Your Personal Strengths to Grow an Author Platform* and *Writer Mama*, *How to Raise A Writing Career Alongside Your Kids*, both from *Writer's Digest Books*.

In addition to writing books and articles, Christina publishes a weekly e-zine, *The Prosperous Writer*, hosts *The Northwest Author Series*, travels to writing conferences and literary events, and coaches a hundred writers a year. She holds an MFA in writing from

Columbia College Chicago and a BA from Dartmouth College. She lives in an idyllic cottage in Wilsonville, Oregon with her husband, daughter and far too many pets.

Keep up with Christina, if you can, at <http://www.christinakatz.com/>.

AUTHOR INTERVIEW - SUZANNE LIEURANCE

Suzanne Lieurance is a children's author, full time freelance writer, and the Working Writer's Coach. I'm a member of her [Children's Writers' Coaching Club](#) and her [Write More, Sell More, Make More Money Than Ever in 2010 Coaching Program](#).



Membership in these two programs has had a BIG impact on my freelance writing career, so recently I asked Suzanne to answer a few questions about her coaching and this new program. If you're struggling with your own freelance writing career, one of Suzanne's coaching programs might be just the thing to help you take your career to the next level!

Donna: What Made You Decide to Become the Working Writer's Coach?

Suzanne: For many years I was a classroom teacher. I just love to teach and it comes naturally to me to want to help others. I seem to be good at explaining things simply. I guess that's one reason I'm also drawn to writing for children. I love to take complicated subjects and make them simple for children (as well as adults) to understand and appreciate. Anyway, while I love to teach, I didn't love being confined to a classroom all day, every day during the school year. So about 12 years ago, I decided to quit teaching and become a full time freelance writer. After a few years of successful freelancing, people started to ask me for tips and advice for their own freelance writing careers. And that led to me becoming the Working Writer's Coach.

Donna: You have a new comprehensive coaching program for anyone who wants to become a freelance writer. It's called the Write More, Sell More, Make More Money Than Ever in 2010 Coaching Program. I just love it! Can you tell people what this program is all about?

Suzanne: Sure, Donna. As you know, this is a new program that allows me to help more writers while still having time for my own writing each day. After all, I'm still a fulltime freelance writer and children's author myself! And I know what it's like when you're just starting a freelance writing career--or you've been at it for a couple of years without much

success. You can feel frustrated and overwhelmed. Plus, it's just SOOOO easy to get distracted and, before you know it, your writing career has been pushed aside. My new ongoing program was designed to help beginning writers learn the basics to get their freelance writing careers started. The program also helps more experienced writers take their careers to the next level.

Donna: Do members get individual coaching through the Write More, Sell More, Make More Money Than Ever in 2010 Coaching Program?

Suzanne: That's a great question, Donna. Much of the coaching through this program is done on a group basis. However, any member is able to get individual coaching any time he/she feels a need for it. For example, many members of this program need individual help getting their major writing/career goals created for the year. I help them do this through a series of individual, personal emails (just to them, not to other members of the group), along with some short audio recordings where I talk to them about their goals, based on the information they've sent me via emails.

Every week, members also have the opportunity to ask me any question they have about writing or the business of writing. They just email their question to me. Over the weekend, I record an audio where I answer all the questions I've received that week. On Monday morning, members of the program have access to the recording in the Audio Center at the Morning Nudge Club, a sort of "online clubhouse" for all members of the program. The Morning Nudge Club also features a Resource Center with all sorts of professional templates, tools, articles, and other resources for writers. And, all members of the program also receive The Morning Nudge, a short email from me every weekday morning, with additional tips and resources to help them with their writing and their writing careers.

Donna: I just love The Morning Nudge and The Morning Nudge Club. But tell people what else you do to help writers in this new Write More, Sell More Coaching Program.

Suzanne: Well, after writers have created their major writing/career goals for the year, I help them learn to get a weekly marketing plan in place. A marketing plan is essential if they expect to earn a substantial income as a freelance writer! I also help them put together the other basics they need to have if they want to be taken seriously as a professional freelance writer--items like a professional resume and bio, publication credits, information for their websites or blogs that will be used to promote their freelance writing, etc.

Donna: This is such a great program. I'm sure people want to find out how to sign up for it. Where do they go?

Suzanne: That's easy. They just go to <http://www.morningnudge.com/> and click on the enrollment/payment form. Once they complete the form, they'll receive several emails from me with instructions for getting started with the program so they have access to all the resources in The Morning Nudge Club. Plus, they'll start receiving The Morning Nudge right away as well.

Donna: Anything exciting coming up for members of this new coaching program?

Suzanne: Ahh..I'm glad you asked that, Donna. Starting in May, we'll have a LIVE group coaching teleclass every month. Each class will cover some element of freelance writing and the business of writing! Stay tuned!

Donna: Sounds exciting. I can't wait! Thanks, Suzanne!

Visit Suzanne at:

<http://www.suzannelieurance.com>

<http://www.workingwriterscoach.com>

AUTHOR ANNOUNCEMENT - CAROLYN HOWARD-JOHNSON



Being a mother is very different now than it was when I was a child. Now, because of the boomer generation, more and more mothers are also grandmothers, great grandmothers, even great, great grandmothers. We're often part of the sandwich generation meaning we're taking care of our own children and also our mothers and fathers, often ailing. Many of us are juggling two careers (or more!) if we've chosen to work outside the home as well as take care of that home ourselves. We partner more with husbands or partners who are sharing responsibilities that once were only under the purview of the mom - of - the - house.

But moms are still the same in many ways. We are still often the fixers, the worriers, the most caring of caretakers. This is a year when moms may need more tender care than they've been given in the past.

The trouble is, the traditional ways don't seem quite right this year.

Flowers seem very frivolous for households on a budget. I've always felt sad when I must throw away wilted blooms. Candy sure is yummy, but it is not the perfect choice for many who are diabetic, hypoglycemic or working on slimming their hips. The beautiful cards at CVS often don't say the right thing or don't reflect our mothers' personalities. After all, we're not all that sentimental, syrupy kind of mom the pastel cards seem; we may resort to humor which then doesn't reflect our feelings.

The answer is a book of poetry. One that reflects many aspects of motherhood and all the relationships surrounding it. Mom won't expect all the poems to fit your relationship with her; instead she'll get to reflect on motherhood in general and choose the passages that have special meaning for her. Those may reflect ways she relates to her own mother, reflect the ways she relates to you, or maybe even open a subject you should have talked

about with her long ago.

Magdalena Ball and I have written such a chapbook of poetry for mothers with photos by May L. Lattanzio. The title comes from one of my wistful poems, "She Wore Emerald Then . . ." We hope you'll consider ordering it for your mother from Amazon. They'll ship fast and you can give it alone or slip it into a the box filled with a pashmina scarf, a pair of silver - tone earrings, and appreciation from thou!

Find it at www.budurl.com/MotherChapbook.

Here is one of the poems from it:

Wishing to Be a Child Again

She goes too long

in the telling of a story.

Gutters between her brows

make her angry

even when she's not.

If I had know then

I would not have looked so hard,

have listened for the sweet

notes, ignored how on and on she went

I would have loved what I had.

Happy Writing and Promoting,

Carolyn Howard - Johnson

REFLECTIONS OR DREAMS BY MAYRA CALVANI



To Write Or Not To Write, That Is The Question

Writer's block.

Do the words make you wince?

If you belong to that blessed, miraculous group of people who can write anywhere, anytime, who are able to switch themselves on into a writing mood like a light-switch, then your answer will be No. But if you're like me, and belong to that cursed, demonic group who kill themselves writing that first sentence, these words will make you grimace with a heartache that plunges deeper than the Cayman Trough.

But what *is* writer's block, and why do many writers--good ones--suffer from it? Some think the reason is old plain laziness or lack of discipline, but I disagree. The reason is more complex. I can't help remembering my creative writing professor back in college—a published author of many mystery novels who suddenly stopped writing for eight long years simply because he “froze at the computer and couldn't put a word down.”

Only God knows the dark mechanics that kept my professor from writing for such a long time, so I can only speak for myself.

So here it goes. What is writer's block? Following the famous editorial advice, instead of “telling” you, I will “show” you.

Picture in your mind a beautiful winter morning, snow falling from the window, the office toasty warm, the house empty and quite. It's just me and writer's block:

9:30 I sit at the computer, ready to write that piece of literature that will bring me fame and riches (okay, no need to be greedy, I'll settle for riches).

9:31 I decide I better answer my emails first, get them out of my mind (yeah, right).

10:00 I'm thirsty. I better make myself some tea. Writers drink hot beverages, don't they?

10:05 I'm back at the computer. I take a sip of my tea and suddenly remember all the things I should be doing instead of writing: wash the rabbit hutches, purchase moist wipes for my husband's glasses, do the laundry, vacuum the bedrooms, feed the fish... somehow there's no end to this list.

10:25 I stare at the blank monitor. I loathe myself.

10:30 I'm hungry. I'll have an early lunch (someone should conduct a study about frustrated writers and overeating).

10:50 I glare at the sign on my desk "A Writer Is Someone Who Writes Everyday," and try to set it to flames with my mind power.

11:00 I put Vivaldi on the stereo (studies have shown baroque music "expands" the mind).

You get the picture. This is writer's block. This is what happens when I break the habit of writing everyday and disconnect myself from my current project. I don't know about you, but when I don't write, the consequences are catastrophic. I hate the world. I snap at people (my husband is my favourite victim). I feel trapped in a box, unable to breathe. If I were the sort of person who went to pubs, I would surely start a brawl.

But what causes writer's block?

Almost always, it is fear. Plain and simple. F-E-A-R.

Fear of not being good enough.

Fear of not being able to write that perfect sentence that will impress the reader. No wonder it blocks! How can you write freely and impress people at the same time?

So in order to lift the block, you need to get rid of that fear. It is easier said than done, I know, but I will give you a few practical tips that will help you overcome it, based on probably the best book on writing in the market today, Julia Cameron's *The Right to Write*. If these tips worked for me, they can work for you, too.

1. Keep a journal and write 3 pages of anything that comes to your mind each morning. Strictly stream-of-consciousness stuff. Don't worry, no one will read this (if you're paranoid like me, hide the journal). The idea is to drain your brain of all the clutter so that when you sit at the computer to do the actual writing, you'll be able to do it with a clear head. You don't feel like writing this morning? Your writing sucks? You feel fat? You hate your neighbour? Write it down. By the way, if you feel like clobbering someone to death with a medieval flail, add that too. Write down your dreams, your plans, your fears. The idea is to keep writing non-stop until you have fill those 3 pages. I write in my journal almost everyday. I'm addicted to it, almost to the point of being superstitious. Remember to do it in the morning. If you write in your journal at night you'll probably go over what you did during the day and this will defeat the purpose. The idea is to positively affect your day by writing those pages in the morning. By training your mind to do this each morning, you will not only make writing more approachable, but also more disciplined.

2. Don't edit as you write. If you can't keep your neurotic, perfectionist urges under control, then at least keep them to an absolute minimum. Editing as you write is like editing

a movie and filming it at the same time. It can become pathological. Editing, re-editing, searching for that flawless sentence that will create that immaculate paragraph. Well, do you want to know something? It won't happen. No matter how many times you try to improve it, there will be always room for improvement. Ultimately, if you want to finish that first draft, you'll have to trust yourself and simply let it go. Remember that a first draft is just that, a first draft. Once you've finished that first draft then you can polish and change and edit all you want.

3. Set yourself a small quota everyday. You don't have to finish a whole chapter in one sitting. Just write 2 pages, or 1, or even just a paragraph. The important thing here is to meet that daily quota. It's amazing how thinking like this can affect your brain. It's like with exercise. If you tell yourself, "Oh no, I have to exercise for one whole hour," this will block you. But if you think, "I'll only exercise 20 or 30 minutes," the work becomes more approachable and you'll stick with it. The key here is to create the habit a little step at a time. The best thing about meeting this daily quota is that it allows you to feel "guilt-free" for the rest of the day, making it possible for you to spend happier times with your family and do other things. In other words, if you stick to your writing schedule, you'll be able to enjoy life.

4. Have the right sense of direction. This is probably one of Cameron's most powerful advice. Don't think that you have to think something up, that you have to create something. Instead, think that the words, plots, characters are already there suspended in some other dimension, and all you have to do is listen intently and write the words down as if taking dictation. Thinking like this will immediately lift a heavy load off your shoulders. It will make you feel free of responsibility and allow your writing to flow easier.

5. Find a support group. Artistic souls need artistic soul mates. If there isn't any support group you like, start your own, like I did. As I write this article, I'm sitting at a café with 3 writer friends. We meet every Friday morning from 10 to 12. These meetings are incredibly productive, maybe for the simple reason that I HAVE to write. I mean, face it, not writing alone at home is bad, but not writing in front of your writer friends would be a disgrace. Who wants to be a loser? Also, sometimes writers need to get out of their homes and experience a change of scene. Writing at a café makes writing fun. There's a baby howling a table away, and at the same time I can clearly hear the loud voice of a Spanish lady several feet from me, telling her friend that she wished her husband would hide his briefcase in the cellar... Hide his briefcase in the cellar? Strange... But I reel myself back in. I don't want to become like one of my writing partners, who periodically listens to people's conversations to get ideas for her stories. I'm not that desperate yet.

6. Give your brain high quality foods: Read great books about all types of subjects, both in fiction and nonfiction. I read astronomy, cosmology, history, comparative religion, physics, metaphysics. Listen to music. Music can trigger powerful inspiration. But please, not heavy metal! Put your favourite composer on the stereo, close your eyes, and just let your mind drift. Doing this alone is a form of meditation. I can assure you scenes of future books will appear in your mind, characters will talk, ideas for your present project will present themselves. Visit museums, flower shops, go to the theatre, take walks and observe nature. All these things will enrich your life and your mind, automatically giving your writing more energy and depth.

Don't be afraid. Just write. Just WRITE. Describe the movie in your head and put the words down. In the meantime I'll try to apply these wise words to myself, and not give the evil eye to the "A Writer Is Someone Who Writes Everyday" sign on my desk.

THE GOLDEN PATHWAY BLOG BOOK REVIEWS SCHEDULE

Travel back into time through intriguing black history children books. I invite you on this journey through my weekly book review feature at

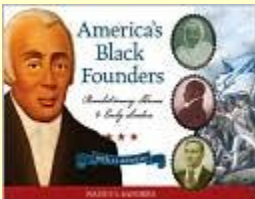
<http://www.thegoldenpathway.blogspot.com/>

Stop by for a spell and leave a comment if you are so inclined on your children book recommendations. I look forward to your visit:



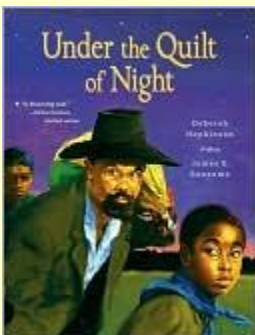
Friday, April 23rd:

If You Lived When There Was Slavery in America by Anne Kamma and illustrated by Pamela Johnson



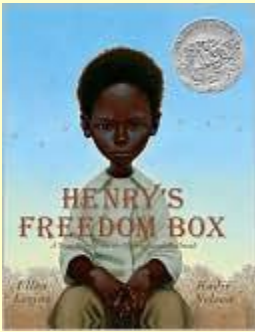
Friday, April 30th:

America's Black Founders ~ Revolutionary Heroes and Early Leaders by Nancy I. Sanders



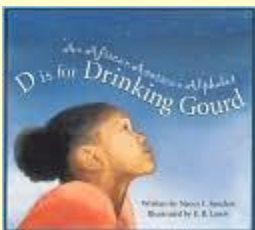
Friday, May 7th:

Under the Night Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson and illustrated by James E. Ransome



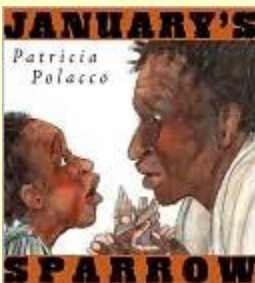
Friday, May 14th:

Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine and Illustrated by Kadir Nelson



Friday, May 21st:

D is for Drinking Gourd ~ An African American Alphabet by Nancy I. Sanders and Illustrated by E.B. Lewis



Friday, May 28th:

January's Sparrow by Patricia Polacco

Thank you for your interest.

<http://www.thegoldenpathway.blogspot.com>

**Dynamic Media
Release Services**

<http://donnamcdine.com/dynamicmediareleases.html>



Let Donna
Take The
Pressure Off

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>



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.

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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 ~
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