

NOVEMBER 2016 BEHIND THE CURTAIN JOURNAL ENTRY

HOW TO STOP WISHING AND START WRITING

BY CHILDREN'S AUTHOR JENNIFER PHILLIPS

I'm doing a public workshop this month at a local library titled *How to Stop Wishing and Start Writing*. I've presented this before at a **writer's** conference and want to keep delivering it when I can. Do you want to write but feel stuck? Or know someone in this predicament?

Here are a few points I cover in the workshop:

- What does success look like for you? There are so many different kinds of writing and writers. So many motivations for writing and definitions of feeling successful. What will make you smile and feel happy? Why do you want to write?
- **What's** tripping you up? There are always lots of barriers and distractions. **That's** life. What is at the heart of your particular situation? Time, skill, confidence, family support ... there typically are creative solutions around all of these.

I ask these questions, but I also have learned we may not know the answers right away. Or we think we know but then realize something else is more important as we dig further in.

That's where the most important step comes in: just do it. I know it sounds like a Nike commercial and I could use the same lesson more when it comes to exercising.

My point is that you really **don't** need a lot to start the basics of writing. No fancy equipment, fancy office, fancy class, fancy whatever. You need pencil or pen and some paper. I do it all the time. And I know many writers with the same method. Scribble, sketch, make notes, brainstorm ideas, play with words, pay attention to life around you. Sneak it in whenever and wherever you can.

Once you start doing this, **you're** a writer.

If you feel stuck and need a thinking partner to jumpstart your writing, email me and **we'll** brainstorm together.

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