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MEDIA RELEASE

## Step Into the Life of a Published Children's Author

Have you ever dreamed of writing a best-selling children's book? Ever fantasize about what it's like to live the life of a published children's author? Do you sometimes wonder if you have the necessary passion and creativity to write for a living? You've heard that writing is difficult, especially writing for children, but you still dream of your name at the top of the best-seller lists. If this is you, then take heart, you are no different than the thousands of children's authors that are published every year.

How do they do it—how do children's authors develop story ideas and keep getting published? How do they pull themselves out of writer's block and find the 'magical inspiration'? Kathleen Duey, author of *American Diaries* suggests: "Art happens when you get yourself out of the way. Each writer, simply by writing will learn to turn on the faucet and get out of the way. Whatever your process is, discover it, then honor it."

For some writers the brilliant ideas just hit them while driving or while doing laundry, for others the magic is forced and trained to occur in front of the computer. In [The ABC's of Writing for Children: 114 Children's Authors and Illustrators Talk About the Art, the Business, the Craft & the Life of Writing Children's Literature](#) you'll see that what works for one author may not work for the next. You'll learn many 'do's and don'ts' for creating children's books from mega best-selling authors such as Chris Crutcher, Karen Cushman, Sid Fleischman, Richard Peck, R.L. Stine, Rosemary Wells and Jane Yolen. Read as author's share their experiences with the nitty gritty process of writing, rejection, research, the best and worst advice they've ever received, the mistakes, and the successes.

Even if you're not planning a career in this field, learning how authors and illustrators work can lend new insights and appreciation to their art. The same ideas and inspirations that help authors and illustrators of children's books may encourage students, teachers, librarians and other creative artists in their literary efforts.

No matter what your aspirations are, whether you want to enrich your reading, teach others to read and write more deeply, or nurture your own creative process, learning what works for others may, in fact, work for you.

[The ABC's of Writing for Children: 114 Children's Authors and Illustrators Talk About the Art, the Business, the Craft & the Life of Writing Children's Literature](#) by Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff (Quill Driver Books, \$16.95) is available at brick and mortar bookstores and online bookstores or by calling the publisher at 1-800-497-4909.

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