

WRITING TIPS THAT WORK FOR ME



I want to give you 5 writing tips that have helped me lot.

(1) **TIME TRAVEL**, like I do.

That's me, posing for the camera. I didn't usually look that tidy, and I usually had my head in a book. I get lots of ideas for my books by remembering my childhood.

Look through your old photos. Visit your old neighborhood. Close your eyes and remember smells, tastes, sounds, holidays, secret places, funny days, happy days, scary days from your own life.

(2) **DON'T THINK!**

When you are writing, no matter what it is, try to shut down that part of your brain that makes you think bad thoughts about your writing.

(3) BE IMPERFECT.

You are supposed to be, as you work on your rough drafts. Be ready to change things, throw away, start over. That's what real writers do.

(4) FOOL YOURSELF.

Tell yourself: "All I have to do is write one teeny sentence right now, or just one paragraph. That's all. Then I can take a break." You'll be surprised how just revving up the motor in your brain can get you in the mood to write.

Or let's say you have nothing to write about. Not one idea in your head. Write anyway. Write about anything, just to get the motor running. Write about not having any ideas. Write about what you wish you could really write about (if you were the teacher giving the assignment.) You will surprise yourself when the ideas start coming.

(5) KEEP A DOODLE-DIARY.

"Doodle" to me means writing about anything in any way you want. A diary can be different things to different people. Your diary can be in a secret, or not-so-secret book. It can even be on video.