

# Kid Magazine WRITERS

## I'M PUBLISHED!

### WHAT WILL IT BE TODAY

BY DONNA M. MCDINE

(PUBLISHED AUGUST 2007)

I'm a graduate of the Institute of Children's Literature and my first published article, "What's Not A Fish, But Is Called A Fish," appeared in the July 2007 issue of *Stories for Children Magazine*.

While taking the ICL Course, Writing for Children and Teenagers, assignment #4 gave you the challenge to choose any nonfiction topic and write a 500-1,000 word article. While I was in the process of reading the course work and taking the time to jot down different ideas that came to me, I took a break from the assignment to spend some quality time with my two daughters. They both have developed a fondness of the Discovery Channel and Animal Planet over the years and we sat down to see what was on the schedules for that evening.

To my daughter's disappointment we just missed a segment on ocean life, specifically jellyfish. The girls started asking questions about jellyfish, such as: Why are they called jellyfish? How big do they get? Is their sting always poisonous? The list goes on and on. As they were asking their questions I realized that I no longer had to search for a nonfiction topic, it was dropped right into my lap at the most unexpected moment.

I eagerly made note of all their questions and made plans to go to the library the next day for my research. I discussed my plans with the girls and they became excited that they were to be included in the research process. The girls waited impatiently each month for my next assignment to begin and to receive my completed assignments back from my instructor. They have been a wonderful support system and inspiration in achieving my writing aspirations.

Once I received this particular assignment back with comments from my instructor, I made the suggested changes and submitted it first to *Cricket Magazine*, which rejected it. But as every writer says, persistence is the key to publication. I then submitted it to *Stories for Children Magazine* for consideration, it met with success, and they very happily accepted it.

Writing has opened up a completely new world to me and lets me soar into the depths of my soul that I never knew existed. I have learned that it is very important to keep your mind open for your next inspiration. You never know where and when it will strike.

---

For further information regarding Donna M. McDine, visit her at [her website](#) or [her blog](#).

---

And Donna also wanted to share this:

### CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

Have you always wanted to get involved in school visits, either locally or nationally to promote reading and writing, but haven't been sure how to go about it? Look no further! An exciting program by Musing Our Children has been created to promote Reading and Writing Appreciation Week.

As parents, teachers, and writers we need to band together and offer our young muses the advantages and understanding that reading and writing has to offer. The more people involved the better our chance in reaching a wider circle of children.

We are asking writers, editors, storytellers, and illustrators who would like to volunteer to set an appointment at any time within October 15-19, 2007 and visit either an elementary school and read to a classroom, or visit the older elementary classes or even high schools and talk to them about what it means to be a writer.

Although Appreciation Week is once a year, our goal with this site is to keep you updated on tips and ideas along with readers thoughts and suggestions on how we can band together to: **HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS OF READING AND WRITING.**

Next month, we'll hear more from Donna about her experience with Musing Our Children. For further information about Musing Our Children and Reading and Writing Appreciation Week, please visit [their website](#).

---