

THE AUTHORS SHOW – Children

Author: Olga M. Fyne 9/17/18

Why I Write-My Writing Journey

I think it is safe to say that my writing journey began from the day I was conceived in my mother's womb. It might sound strange or even arcane, but I can't really say how it all began except that I believe I was born with this innate tendency, even though I did not know that I had it until it began to unfold and reveal itself.

It all began in the third grade of my elementary school when as children; my classmates and I were asked to write on various topics. Once my teacher discussed the topic and left us to write, I believe I'd taken off into an imaginary atmosphere of make-belief or perhaps an alternate reality because my mind began to fly into the stratosphere of wonder and my ideas and thoughts began to flow even if I had no experience whatsoever about the topic. I would write myself into a "Wonder Land" of ideas and ended up having too much to write instead of not having enough. I couldn't understand it then, and I still cannot understand it now how it all came about.

On several occasions when I wrote an essay, my teacher would often walk from my classroom to the neighboring teacher and showed her my writing. She seldom said anything to me about it, but her remarks and comments spoke volumes about what she thought of my writing or the things she probably said about it. This followed me through my elementary to middle school years and I often found myself writing poems, rhymes and songs even though I had not the slightest clue why I wrote them or where the ideas suddenly emerged from. Over the years, my family and I moved from various houses to another and I often came across pieces of writings which I did and could not even recall writing, if I did not place my signature on them.

As a former public school teacher, I've found great joy and pleasure in writing rhymes, poems, and songs and taught them to my students; to which they responded with zest, gaiety and excitement. I've always found that my students responded to these more readily in getting

their attention, than to any amount of attempted disciplinary yelling and screaming. In addition, these helped to sharpen their listening skills, enhance phonemic awareness and foster in them a lasting love for reading.

The thought of becoming a published writer had not dawned on me until the latter part of my teaching career. I found that teaching became increasingly difficult, because I felt that my desire to see children excel more was not being satisfied due to bureaucratic pressure and the constant need to substitute teaching for paperwork or things totally unrelated to my job. The thought of changing careers suddenly overtook me and I sought to explore the possibility of publishing books because of the great response I received from my students and even colleagues who relied on me to help them in writing, as I used my writing gifts as teaching techniques. It was then that I published my first three books: My Shadow is a Copycat,(most loved title by both adults and children) Jerry and Sherry and Squirrel Race.

I've continued to write since then and have so far published eleven adult and Children's books in all, with two soon to be published titles: There's a Boogeyman under my Bed and Dancing with Delilah. I have had moderate success, which has been quite encouraging. I can truly say, writing for me continues to be an enjoyable, energizing and rewarding experience.

As a writer I have a very ambitious wish list.

- I want to be patronized by a traditional publisher.
- I want to become a best-selling author.
- I'm very hopeful that my writing will help to promote me in my career as a keynote speaker; workshop and conference facilitator
- I want my books to be the most loved books by not only children but adults as well.
- Most of all, I want my books to be so interesting that my writing will undoubtedly make the world a better place.

As I continue to write, I also find great pleasure in avid reading. This helps me gather insightful ideas and helps to improve and enhance my writing skills and style. It also keeps my mind sharp, enhances my worldview and keeps me informed. I truly believe; if you're too busy to read, you're not yet ready to write. Some of my favorite authors are: David Jeremiah, Tony Evans, David Ireland and C.S.Lewis.

I would like to leave a few words of advice to aspiring authors, even if you have a single thought about writing.

- Practice reading every day even if it's just a single paragraph.
- Becoming an instant millionaire from writing is as nebulous as landing on the Milky Way. If profiting from your writing is such an arduous task, think of how much harder it is to become rich overnight from writing.
- Expect mishaps along the way and please don't trust everyone who tells you they can help to promote your books for monetary gain.
- Spend time researching and come up with ways to promote and sell your own books, you will probably fair better that way.

Besides the advice I have given, here are some additional things which I have learned:

- Always accept criticisms with grace because they can help you grow and improve.
- Treat them like clothing in a department store by buying only what fits your writing and content. You can probably use the ones that don't fit at another time or not at all. In any case, be certain that criticism and advice fits your craft.
- Rejection is a part of the process. Simply because you're rejected by publishers, doesn't mean you're not a good writer. It simply means your work doesn't fit someone else's requirements but might be just right for someone else in the future, if you persevere.

- Never get so discouraged by rejection that you no longer want to write. If you read the stories of many successful writers or people who finally succeed at anything, they will tell you how many times they have failed or were rejected prior.
- Thomas Edison made 1000 failed attempts at the light bulb before he finally succeeded.

Finally, Og Mandino said: Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough.