

## Being a Writer

### Here are some thoughts I have about writing...

- Before I sit down to write a story I've rehearsed it in my mind. I think about writing all the time. I think about everything from the characters' actions, to the setting, to the plot. Although I may have a rough idea of what I want to write about, ideas change, situations change, I change. For example, I may write several introductions, then decide they're not introductions at all. They may or may not become part of the story.
- I work on more than one story at a time. Sometimes the words and ideas don't flow. When this happens, I remove myself from one story and focus on another. Sometimes I take a break from writing altogether. I like to approach my writings with a fresh perspective, and a fresh cup of coffee.
- What I read most certainly informs what I write. I try not to read too many books at the same time though, because I like to read the books my children read from school, and I don't want a brain overload.☺
- I get my ideas from everything imaginable, you name it. Ideas come from songs, poems, cards, conversations with my kids, adults, my dog, my memory, the list goes on. I'm constantly watching, listening, inquiring, asking and thinking.
- When I write, I ask myself questions about my story that I anticipate teachers or other adults will ask students.
- When I reread or edit my stories, I try to read it from a child's point of view. In other words, I remove myself and place my children in my shoes. By the way, I mentioned rereading, it happens so often I lose track. But to me, editing my stories is the most exciting part of writing!
- This may sound zany, but before I send my stories in for a review, I ask my children to read them aloud to me. Who better than children, to listen to my stories being read.



B. H.