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Like you, I am an educator. I was a school librarian for eight years. Prior to that, I taught second grade, kindergarten and preschool. I also worked as a bookmobile librarian in a public library. As a school librarian, I encouraged students to write by starting a school-wide writing contest. Students in high school came back to tell me how much that elementary writing contest meant to them. I now market a writing contest packet based on what I learned in my years of organizing the contest for my school.

I've known I wanted to be a writer since I was in fifth grade, but I never actively pursued that dream until the year 2000, when I published my first book. Following the advice of "write what you know", I wrote a book of literature activities for the new Texas 2x2 Reading List. The success of that book led me to write three other literature activity books published by Linworth, a leading publisher in the field of professional books for librarians and teachers. The more I wrote, the more I had to write, which led to my parenting column for a local newspaper, The Van Zandt County Line.

Finally, the time came to leave my job as a librarian so that I could pursue a full-time career as a writer. I began Blue Thistle Press with the goal of marketing my children's books at schools, where I would do my best to encourage students to write. After all, writing is fun. That's what kept me writing all those years and what keeps me writing now!

I will always be an educator. My school has expanded and I no longer have that one-on-one relationship with students, but I am now able to reach more children than would ever be possible at my own elementary campus. More than anything, I want children to be open to the possibilities that exist in their own lives and to tell them that they too can follow their dreams.

I look forward to meeting you and your students when I visit your school. Thanks for all you do to encourage reading and writing!