## **From Facts to Fiction**

Presentation for Teachers

By Author Judy Young

This e-handout has activities you may want to try with your students.

*I would love to hear what activities you do with my books in your classroom, too!*

Just email me: judyyoungbooks@gmail.com.

**About Judy Young**

Judy Young is the author of over twenty children’s poetry, nonfiction and fiction books including her first children’s novel, *Promise.* Her books are used extensively in classrooms across the country and have received numerous awards and recognition. One of her most honored was hearing LaVar Burton read  *A Pet for Miss Wright* on Reading Rainbow Story Time Video for National Reading Month.

After receiving her BA and MA in Speech and Language Pathology, Judy was employed in the public schools for 20 years, working with students in the area of language arts. She frequently used poetry writing to help elementary school children improve their writing skills in both special language classes and in the regular classroom. Judy feels "the genre of poetry is the perfect place to teach a variety of writing conventions. Its shorter form enables students to be immediately successful, and the concepts learned during poetry writing can easily be generalized to prose." In 2004, Judy left the schools to fulfill her dream of writing full time, but continues to have a direct impact on the education of children by speaking at schools and professional educational conferences.

Judy currently resides in the Bear River Range near Mink Creek, ID, where she writes full time. Her husband, Ross B. Young, is a professional artist.

For more information about Judy, her books, her Author Visits to Schools and Teacher Workshops go to **www.judyyoungpoetry.com**

Teacher Guidesfor Judy’s books can be downloaded at www.SleepingBearPress.com

**1. Getting Story Ideas From Nonfiction:**

a. Story Seeds: an interesting fact, not general topic

b. Questions:

*What If?* will get stories started.

*How Would?* will help story evolve.

2. **First Lines:** Have students read first lines. Thenk, write five or six different first sentences for their story.

a. Set a tone or theme. *The Lucky Star*

b. Introduce character and/or setting. *A Pet for Miss Wright, Minnow and Rose, Tuki and Moka, Promise*

3. **Beginnings, Middles and Ends**

## 4. **Creating Similes:** Using similes is a great way to bring description into your students writing without having strings of adjectives.

## 5. **Show Don’t Tell:** Writers use “imagery” to show, rather than tell. Imagery is when you draw a picture with your words in a reader’s mind, something your reader can see, imagine, hear, smell or touch. Adverbs *tell* the reader. Description, similes and metaphors *show.*

**Writer’s Block?**

Are you stuck? Can’t think of what to write next? Just ask yourself a question! The answer could be what you write next. There are hundreds of questions you can ask yourself. Below are just a few. Read what you already have written and ask another question about what you already wrote. *“Writer’s Block”* will soon disappear!

Who

is my story about?

else is in my story

What

is my character like?

does my character do?

Where

does my story take place?

does my character go?

When

does my story take place?

How

does my character act?

Why

does or doesn’t my character act a certain way?

does or doesn’t my character do something?

What if …?

How would…?

**Books by Judy Young**

***Digger and Daisy Plant a Garden*** (Sleeping Bear Press, 2016)

***Digger and Daisy Star in a Play*** (Sleeping Bear Press, 2015)

***Promise*** (Sleeping Bear Press, 2015)

***Sleepy Snoozy Cozy Coozy*** (Sleeping Bear Press, 2015)

* *2015 Creative Child Magazine Seal of Excellence Award*

***Digger and Daisy Go to the City*** (Sleeping Bear Press, 2015)

***Digger and Daisy Go to the Doctor***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2014)

***American Adventures: Troubled Times***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2014)

***Digger and Daisy Go on a Picnic***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2014)

***Digger and Daisy Go to the Zoo***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2013)

***Tuki and Moka, A Tale of Two Tamarins***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2013)

* *2015 Storytelling World Honor Book*
* ***2014 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People*** *by the Children’s Book Council (CBC) and the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)*

***American Adventures: Westward Journeys***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2013)

***Little Missouri***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2012)

***A Pet for Miss Wright***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2011)

* *2015 Read by LaVar Burton for Reading Rainbow Storytime Video for National Reading Month*
* *2014 Missouri Show Me Readers Award Finalist*
* *2012 Paterson Prize Honor Book*
* *2012 Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Crystal Kite Award Finalist*
* *2012 International Reading Association and Children’s Book Council Child’s Choice Award List*
* *2012 Kansas National Educational Association Reading Circle List*
* *2012 Louisiana Reading Association Child Choice Award Finalist*
* *2011 Parents’ Choice Approved Book Award*

***A Book for Black-Eyed Susan***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2011)

* *2013/2014 Missouri Show Me Readers Award Finalist*
* *2012 Women Writing the West WILLA Award Finalist*
* *2012 Storytelling World Honor Award*
* *2012 Kansas National Educational Association Reading Circle List*
* *2011 National Parenting Publications Awards Gold Winner*
* *2011 Society of School Librarians International Honor Award*
* *2011 Chicago Parents Magazine Best Book List*

***The Missouri Reader***(Sleeping Bear Press, April 2010)

# **The Hidden Bestiary of Marvelous, Mysterious and (maybe even) Magical Creatures** (Sleeping Bear Press, 2009)

* *2011/2012 Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award Finalist*

***Minnow and Rose***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2009)

* *2012 New York Charlotte Award Suggested Reading List*
* *2011-2012 Missouri Show Me Readers Award Finalist*
* *2010/2011 Pennsylvania Keystone to Reading Award Finalist*
* *2010/2011 Alabama Camillia Book Award Finalist*
* *2010/2011 Delaware Diamonds Book Award Finalist*
* *2010 Storytelling World Award Winner for Preadolescent Listeners*

# **The Lucky Star** (Sleeping Bear Press, 2008)

* *2010/2011 Missouri Show Me Readers Award Finalist*
* *2009 Storytelling World Honor Award for Pre-Adolescent Listeners*
* *2008 Top Five Book selected by Rutgers University's EconKids Project*

***H is for Hook, A Fishing Alphabet***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2008)

***Show Me the Number, A Missouri Number Book*** (Sleeping Bear Press, 2007)

# **Lazy Days of Summer** (Sleeping Bear Press, 2007)

***R is for Rhyme, A Poetry Alphabet***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2006)

* *2008 Mom's Choice Award Gold Recipient and Educators' Choice*
* *2006 National Parenting Publication Association Honor Award for Ages 9+*
* *2006 Missouri Writers' Guild Best Juvenile Book Award*
* *2007 Performed by the Tanner Creative Dance Program and Children’s Dance Theatre for the University of Utah's 58th Annual Performance*
* *2006/2007 Featured book of Albuquerque Public Schools’ Words and Images ARTS Program*

***S is for Show Me, A Missouri Alphabet***(Sleeping Bear Press, 2001)

* *2008 Missouri Center for the Book Selection Representing Missouri at the National Book Fest in Washington, DC*

**To order autographed and personalized books go to** [**www.judyyoungpoetry.com**](http://www.judyyoungpoetry.com)