

Write Your Own Story

September 17, 2020

TIPS & Tricks:

One of a writer's best learning tools is reading the work of successful authors. Writers who have amazed and delighted readers include Truman Capote, first published at fourteen. He is credited with inventing the non-fiction novel *In Cold Blood*, the account of the murder of a farm family in Kansas, followed up with his interviews with the killer. Ernest Hemingway (*For Whom The Bell Tolls*, *The Sun Also Rises*, etc.) got his start writing for the Kansas City Star newspaper. Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* is still popular seventy years after publication. Current authors with lots to share include Malcolm Gladwell's non-fiction books, any one of Jane Smiley's novels, and Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*.

TOPICS:

- 1) **MEMOIR** – Your parents or grandparents had many a story to tell about the Great Depression, or the blizzard of '39 that kept them house-bound 'forever.' Perhaps they lived in fear of contracting polio in the 1950s before the Salk vaccine was developed. Write what you remember of their personal triumph over adversity. Include some details about what was going on in the world at that time to give your story context.
- 2) **FICTION** - Jeremy finds a wallet as he takes a shortcut through the alley. There's no money in it, but there is ID. His first impulse is to return it, but then he sees a news story – the one who owned the wallet was robbed and left for dead. If he turns it in the cops may think he had something to do with the crime. Write what happens next.

3) YOUR CHOICE:

