

## Polly Holyoke's Tips for Young Writers

There are three pieces of advice I often give to young writers.

First of all, they need to **read** as much as they can. Every time a young person reads a book, he or she learns new words, and words are the building blocks of stories. Reading also exposes young people to fundamental aspects of writing including plot structure, characterization and setting.

Secondly, I urge young people to **write** as much as they can. They can keep journals and diaries or post articles about their passions and hobbies on blogs. Young writers can also share their stories and novels through online writing sites or have their work published in magazines and journals. There are even writing camps now for teens around the country. I wrote my first novel with my best friend in fifth grade, and I had blast doing it!

Finally, young writers need to **unplug** from all their enticing and distracting electronic gadgets like cellphones, games and computers to spend time **daydreaming** each day. Daydreaming is an undervalued skill in our society, but emptying one's mind and letting one's thoughts drift is a wonderful way to practice creativity.