THE ROAD TO WRITING

Where Is The Inspiration?

**By**

**Judy Howard**

**Where Is The Inspiration?**

Find the keys and unlock your vision.

Learn how to start your inspiration engine.

Draw a motivational road map.

Learn how to rev up your engine.

What to do about the potholes and detours.

How do I find the fuel for your creativity?

**Find The Keys …**

* Is everyone telling you, “You should write a book?”
* Do you want your children and grandchildren to know your story?
* Have you written all these journals over the years…?
* Do you have all these crazy story ideas that keep you awake at night?
* **How Do I Start My Inspiration Engine?**
* Find the time.
* Develop priorities.
* Organize your workspace.
* No distractions.
* Make rules.
* Find balance.
* Exercise
* Socialize
* Take notes

*“What? Life begins at the end of my comfort zone?”*

**Make A Map**

* What is your Goal?
  + Nano competition?
  + To make people laugh?
  + To inform and teach?
* What do you want to say?
  + Why do I want to say it?
  + What message do I want to convey?
  + Have a clear intention - Make a commitment
  + Have faith.

**Fear is the greatest enemy of a writer**

* What will people say?
  + Who are you writing for?

“You have to follow your own voice. You have to be yourself when you write. In effect, you have to announce, ‘This is me, this is what I stand for, this is what you get when you read me. I’m doing the best I can—buy me or not—but this is who I am as a writer.”  
*—****David Morrell – First Blood*** *(later to become the Rambo Series with Sylvester Stallone)*

* + Who will care about my story?
  + Do you care enough to tell your story?
  + “In truth, I never consider the audience for whom I’m writing. I just write what I want to write.” ”  
    *—****J.K. Rowling –The Harry Potter Series***
* Am I any good?

“I’ve always had complete confidence in myself. When I was nothing, I had complete confidence. There were 10 guys in my writing class at Williams College who could write better than I. They didn’t have what I have, which is guts. I was dedicated to writing, and nothing could stop me.”  
**—*John Toland – The Rising Sun***

**…And Start Your Engines!!!**

* + Write something --Don’t wait for inspiration.
  + Join a writer’s critique group.

**Rev It Up!!**

* Associate with other writers.
* Invest in your writing.
  + - Attend workshops and conferences
* Take my other seminars.
* Helpful websites
  + - Writers Digest.com
    - K. M. Weiland.com
* Organizations and clubs
  + - California Writers Club
    - Sisters In Crime
    - Createspace.com

**Detours And Potholes**

* Redefine your goals.
  + - What do you want to write?
    - Why do you want to write?
* Educate yourself.
* Associate with other writers.
* Move from Fear to trust.
* Squeeze your eyes shut, hold your nose, and jump in!!

**Just Do It!**

* Focus on the process
* Do it because it scares you.
* Writing is healing -- for the writer and the reader.
* With your words, you can change the world.

*“Don’t quit. It’s very easy to quit during the first 10 years. Nobody cares whether you write or not, and it’s very hard to write when nobody cares one way or the other. You can’t get fired if you don’t write, and most of the time you don’t get rewarded if you do. But don’t quit.”***--*Andre Dubus --House of Sand and Fog, Townie***

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