

# TIPS FOR ASPIRING YOUNG AUTHORS

## 1. Read

**Reading** other people's stories/books is a super way to hone your own style. **Reading** a wide range of genres helped me to understand what kind of author I wanted to be. **The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.** is a contemporary, realistic, funny series - the exact kind of books I enjoy reading myself.



## 2. Practise

Writing is just like learning to play the trumpet or improving your keepy-uppy score. **The more you do it, the better you'll get.** I started writing stories when I was about seven (that's a photo of the first book I ever wrote). Since then, I've written tons of stories, in all sorts of genres, for many different purposes. I'm in my 40s now and I can testify that, while **practise** doesn't always make **'perfect'**, it certainly makes **'better'**.



## 3. Challenge yourself

Get your friends and family to say a random genre, a name, a problem and an everyday item. Try to write a short story that incorporates those prompts. Sometimes **thinking outside of the box** can be super-rewarding.



## 4. Edit

Once you've written something you're really happy with, put it in a drawer for at least a week. When you re-read it with fresh eyes, try to make your sentences **super sparkly**, lose irrelevant details, and make sure you've given enough detail so your reader can imagine your setting (smells, sights, tastes, what things feel like, noises) and how your characters are feeling. **'Show, don't tell'** really does help here: *'Her shoulders slumped when she heard the news.'* gives a better picture than, *'The news made her sad.'*



## 5. Ask

Ask someone you trust to read your stories. Ask them what they like and what they think could be better, then work on making further improvements.



**Good luck with your writing. I look forward to seeing a book you've written on the shelves of my local bookshop in the future.**

**Jen Carney, author of *The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.* series**