



Blogpost

Writing Tips

🕒 January 17, 2018 👤 [Bruce Coville](#)

How Can I Become A Better Writer?

First, read a lot. Filling your brain with good stuff is an important part of the job.

Second, write a lot. Keep a journal—it's one of the best tools a writer has. Also, write down ideas when they come to you. The human brain is cranky. If you want an idea, your mind will probably refuse to give it to you. But if you are doing something else, sometimes ideas just come floating by. The trick is to save ideas when they come to you.

If you get a great idea today, it will probably be gone before you get around to writing about it—unless you write it down.

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Search for a specific title or phrase using quotes: "Aliens ate my". Without quotes, search will look for each word independently: aliens, ate, my ...

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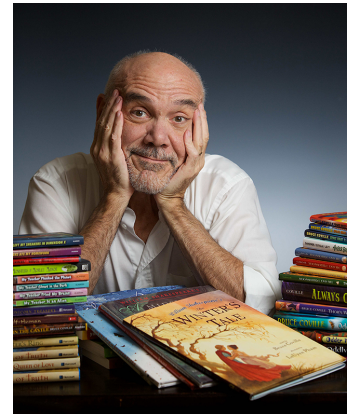
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Third, and most important of all—never give up. You must believe in yourself, even when no one else does. People will think you are crazy. They will think you are conceited. You will get discouraged. You will think it is hopeless. You will think you are never going to get your work published. And if you give up, that will be true. You must believe in yourself, and Never Give Up.

I know that sounds discouraging, but if it talks you out of wanting to be a writer, then you probably wouldn't have made it anyway. I know many people who are better writers than I am who will never be published, because they couldn't stand getting rejected while they were trying to break in.

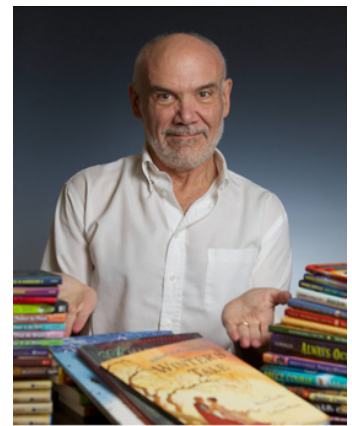
Talent is only part of what it takes to be a writer. Luck and courage and mostly just plain old sticking to it are just as important.



Bruce and His Books

photo by Chuck Wainwright

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about a school
visit!**



If you are interested in having me speak to your students, parents, faculty or librarian's groups, please let me know in the Message section here!

Here are a couple of other little tricks you can start using today.

When you're trying to make a scene come alive, use more than one of the senses. By that I mean don't just tell me what a place looks like; tell me what it smells like and what it sounds like.

To help make your characters more memorable, give them some little trait that is unusual, something to help them stick in the reader's mind.

Read your writing out loud. This will help you when you are revising.

Oh, and in case I forgot to mention it—never give up.

Good luck. Happy reading—and writing!

— Bruce Coville

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Make sure to indicate who the autograph(s) should be addressed to. e.g. "Please sign The Last Hunt to: Julie and Monster's Ring to: Mark."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Conille".

Fan Art Contributors

It delights me when readers are inspired to create their own art based on my stories. If you'd like to send some art to be displayed on this

page, you can email
it to:

[bruce@brucecoville
.com](mailto:bruce@brucecoville.com)

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Short Version

I've been writing stories for kids for over 40 years. In that time I've published over 100 books, including *My Teacher is an Alien*, *Into the Land of Unicorns*, and *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher*. [Read more...](#)

Best Sellers

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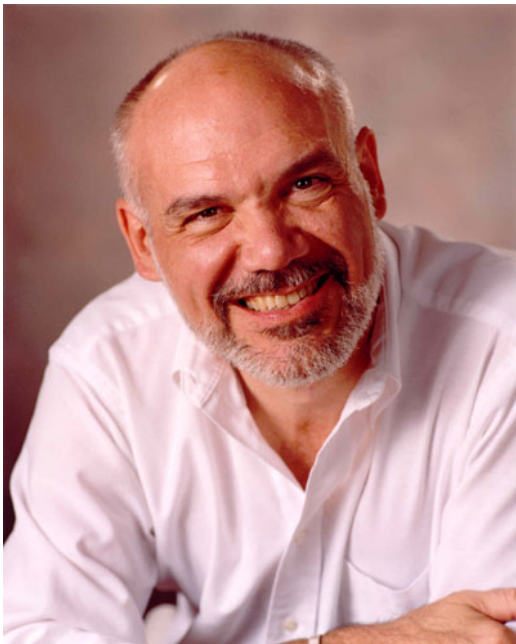
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Bruce Coville

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