

# SMART PIGGIES' NEWSLETTER



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## Children, Adults, and Movie Stars

Children, adults, and movie stars have asked me this question, "Where do I get my ideas?" My answer is always the same. The best source for writing a story is never far away . . . you are it! Begin to pay attention to your life, especially your emotions. Discover what makes you happy or sad,

what makes you angry, what makes you laugh or cry. You will find an idea in your daily experiences. Be sure to make a quick note of your discovery or draw a simple doodle. If you

do this, the next time you sit down to write you will find many gems of inspiration.



## Singing Pig

I once had a friend who kept a pet pig in a house in his backyard. I enjoyed scratching the pig's itchy back with a stick. One day I happened to be singing when I was with the pig, and, much to my surprise, the pig opened its snout and began to sing along with me! Of course she sang in her own language with low grunts, snorts and high squeals and this made me scratch her back even more!

The pig's singing inspired me, so I composed a song about her on the spot.

After that we always sang together! The little song I made up for her became a note I saved which led me to write the story for our newest book, *Piggy Pie Po*.

## Who Likes Books?

When people ask me what my hobbies are, what I enjoy doing the most for fun and relaxation, several activities spring to mind. Always the very first on my list is reading books. I love to read books! Reading is my lifelong passion. I have found that whatever it is that interests me in life, there are books available from

**Author's Tip -- If you want to write books, read them -- all the time. The more you read, the better you will write.**

From cooking to gazing at stars there are fascinating adventures waiting for me to experience.

## Jessica at 7 Weeks

At present I'm reading several books on how to raise a puppy. Jessica (a Jack Russell Terrier) will soon join our family.



I have raised several puppies, but there are always new things to learn and remember. Right now, my favorite

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puppy training book is *The Art of Raising a Puppy*, by the Monks of New Skete.

## A Dog That Runs in Rough Water

We live on an island atop a thirty foot cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Our two goats, Lilly Goat and Kneestar, have a home with an ocean view as do we. On occasion, someone with a fishing pole and a dog will wander by beneath the cliff. Yesterday I heard the loud barking of a dog. Our goats were bleating, obviously worried.



Photo courtesy of the Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center, NMFS

Concerned for their safety, as some dogs will harm goats, I hurried down to make sure the dog below the cliff was on leash. When I arrived I did not see a barking dog, but a barking Hawaiian Monk Seal. The seal looked up and saw me. It barked again, then worked its way back into the swelling ocean waves and swam away. It is rare to see this animal on our shores, in fact it is one of the most endangered of all the seal species. This is the first sighting

we have ever had. The Hawaiians call the Monk Seal **Ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua**, or “dog that runs in rough water.” The seal looked healthy and swam easily through the strong ocean waves.

## Have You Heard the Wonderful News?

We now have a brand new blog that can be found at:

[www.audreywoodauthor.com](http://www.audreywoodauthor.com)

Be sure to tell your friends and stop by weekly for new stories and a special

February Giveaway of an autographed poster of *The Napping House*! If you receive this newsletter you're already enrolled to win. Stay tuned

as a picture of the winner will be posted in next month's Newsletter...



Thank you for being a Clubhouse Friend,