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# Rip The Page!: Adventures In Creative Writing



## Synopsis

Here are the ideas, experiments, and inspiration to unfold your imagination and get your writing to flow off the page! This is the everything-you-need guide to spark new poems and unstick old stories, including lists of big, small, gross-out, and favorite words; adventurous and zany prompts to leap from; dares and double dares to help you mash up truths and lies into outrageous paragraphs; and letters of encouragement written directly to you from famous authors, including: Annie Barrows, Naomi Shihab Nye, Lemony Snicket, C. M. Mayo, Elizabeth Singer Hunt, Moira Egan, Gary Soto, Lucille Clifton, Avi, Betsy Franco, Carol Edgarian, Karen Cushman, Patricia Polacco, Prartho Sereno, Lewis Buzbee, and C. B. Follett. This is your journal for inward-bound adventures—use it to write, brainstorm, explore, imagine—and even rip!

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Roost Books; 7.2.2010 edition (July 27, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590308123

ISBN-13: 978-1590308127

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 80 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #104,091 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Language Arts > Composition & Creative Writing

## Customer Reviews

“Rip the Page! is an invitation and a feast. Every page springs the imagination into freedom, eagerness, curiosity, the spirit of experimentation, and the power to express the abundant possibilities of both words and world.”—Jane Hirshfield, poet and author of *Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry*

“Alive with ideas, playful, encouraging, and full of heart, *Rip the Page!* will help you uncover stories of inner treasure and express them in a fresh new way.”—Susan Wooldridge, author of *Foolsgold: Making Something from Nothing*

“*Rip the Page!* is fun, sassy, and zany. It’s a great resource for writers of all ages—and for teachers of creative writing—who want to put the zing back in their writing.”—Julia Alvarez, author of *Return to Sender*

“*Rip the Page!* inspires creativity to flow, sparkle, whoosh, and claim a child’s imagination.”—Karen Benke uses

playful, inviting, inspiring language to form 'hooks' to snag the interest and 'reel in' the imagination of children to write. Great for an individual writer on their own, and wonderful as a guideline for teachers or home-school parents to inspire young hearts.

•San Francisco Book Review

“This collection of exercises and ideas inspires young writers with interesting prompts, friendly encouragement, and suggestions. Realizing that beginning writers often have potential for creativity, yet freeze when faced with the formidable task of constructing a composition, Benke introduces liveliness and fun to the risky process of recording one’s thoughts. Working to show kids that not all writing is dry, formal, or plagued by the pressure of getting a good grade, Benke stirs the imaginations of kids, never limiting them.

•ForeWord Reviews

“As a writer, I love the way this author brings fun to the experience of writing. Too many kids are scared of writing or bored with the whole exercise. I found many of the exercises to be fun and engaging: the kind that my kids found silly and different. And because they were, they didn’t feel like work. This book will do a wonderful job of adding a key element of fun to what can be a challenging part of your homeschooling day.

•Practical Homeschooling

“An inspiring, irreverent, and highly accessible book of ideas for writing. This is a riotous celebration of language and the exhilarating joy of words. Great Fun! Recommended for homeschoolers wanting a creative way into language and parents with a household of bored, creative children looking for an outlet on a rainy day.

•Juno (UK)

Karen Benke has inspired children and even a few adults in the art of creative writing for over twenty years as a Poet in the Schools, writing coach, and visiting author. She specializes in leading on-the-spot creative writing workshops and has been known to get even the most reluctant writer to reach for a pen. Her poetry has appeared in many anthologies and national literary journals (Ploughshares, Rattle, Hawaii Pacific Review, Poetry Daily) and her books have been featured in FamilyFun magazine, The San Francisco Book Review, Kids’ Book Review (Australia) and elsewhere. The recipient of two teaching grants from Poets & Writers and residencies from Djerassi Resident Artists Program and Hedgebrook, she runs The Writers Nest and lives north of the Golden Gate Bridge with her teenage son, magic cat Clive, and rescue dog Rasco Roon. Visit her virtually at [www.karenbenke.com](http://www.karenbenke.com).

I have discovered a grand book for coaxing the muses out of hiding. It is titled "Rip the Page" and can be found on [www.karenbenke.com](http://www.karenbenke.com). That is where yours truly found it. I am so glad that I decided to buy this amazing book. It is amazing because it can coax all sorts of muses out from their hiding places. Silly

ones, sad ones, happy ones, serious ones. and all the other sort of muses one can dream up. This book was designed for children, but I feel those who write for children can also benefit from what is found within its pages. Thank you Ms. Benke for creating and publishing this amazing assortment of muse creators. (Here is something I wrote that was inspired by the activity located on page four. I can write with the soul that is summer. I can write with the blood of my people. I can write with the light of a firefly. I can write with the sent of lavender. I can write with the dust of broken shells. I can write with the memory of childhood. I can write with the bones of fish. I can write with the sea of life.

Be sure to keep a pad of Post-its with you as you read this book. You'll want to mark page after page of these playful exercises. Author Benke encourages creative writers to: -be "curious about everything around you for a few minutes" each day (p. 24). This segues into a wonderful, meditation-like exercise in transforming the "awful, terrible, no-good" of the world with a breath. -wonder "how things began" by writing a "favorite number, letter, punctuation mark...on a page and...imagining what it looks like, what or who it used to be, where it likes to hide, fly, build sand castles....maybe even how it moves and what it has to climb to get a better view of the sea or sky. You can also include what your number, letter punctuation mark isn't, never was, never will be." (p.26) This is a fun twist on an exercise I've used with my students on personification of abstract nouns. -create a simple "list" poem with a dozen or so ideas to start with (p.111). The exercises can be used to start the creative process or take it to a finished piece. Benke's delightful book is sparkling with fresh ideas and fun ways to use them.

I taught a short Creative Writing class this semester, and I used that as an excuse to order this fun book that's been on my wishlist for ages. It was definitely helpful in planning my lessons for the kids, but I had a lot of fun with it as well. I plan to keep on playing with the prompts and games found within its pages. Sometimes, I have to quit writing what I'm supposed to be writing and let my brain play freely. I would highly recommend this book if you are a kid who loves to write, a kid who thinks you don't love to write, a grown-up who still has fun with words, a grown up who thinks he is too old to have fun with words, or really if you are just about anyone.

I have given this as a gift twice to youth of varying ages. One was for a teenager who is an aspiring writer. She raved about enough to recommend it for the other person I told her about. That other person is a young boy who struggled with writing and actually needed encouragement in an interest and problem with writing. His mother who has a degree in English Lit was excited for how he

responded to the use of the book. As a professional writer I am thrilled to have a resource to encourage writing skills in a fun way for youth and maybe adults too. That is my next test for it.

Got this for my 8 year old son who has trouble getting started writing. Sometimes he's into the book and other times he's not. I like the book but maybe he's a just a little too young for it.

This book gets kids writing. My two resistant writers age 9 and 12 both love the assignments.

Yes, I agree, this is a great book, but it is for young writers only. Not a great resource for adult writers looking for prompts and pushes in their own writing.

I bought this book seeing the other reviews. The book is great and has kindled a love for writing in my middle schooler. It's fun and he likes being creative with the book and has become a sort of diary for him

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