

Writing, for a Writer

"No one is asking, let alone demanding, that you write. The world is not waiting with bated breath for your article. Whether or not you get a single word on paper, the sun will rise, the earth will spin, the universe will expand. Writing is forever and always a choice - your choice." ~Beth Mende Conny

That's an interesting quote by Ms. Conny, and it's true, too. Nothing in the world will change if I write or don't write. Writing really is a choice, but it's a most interesting choice ...

I've talked to a lot of writers about why they write and the reasons are as varied as the number of writers I asked. Some write because it's their job -- that's what they're paid to do. Some write because it's a hobby and something they enjoy doing. Some write because it's a challenge, maybe by a writing community or a teacher in school. Some, because they're in love and want to express their innermost feelings. Others, because it's a driving compulsion, a mental lava flow, if you will, [I'm assuming this is the category the prolific Steven King falls into]. And some write because they're uncomfortable with the words banging around aimlessly down inside of them. They have to write, to let the words out.

The one response that was almost universal was that most of the serious 'writers' write for the sheer love of writing -- I think all writers want to be good, and so unique, as to be able to write one thought, one idea, one poem, one story -- just *one* thing -- in such a new and wonderful way that they'll always be remembered for it. I am reminded me of what Anais Nin once wrote:

"The role of a writer is not to say what we all can say, but what we are unable to say."

As for me, I write because I love writing. It doesn't matter whether it's poetry for adults, children, short stories, essays, memoirs or a blog. I write because it's an addiction of sorts, and I *have* to get the words and ideas up and out of my soul. I write to leave something of me behind, something good (I hope), something so new and unique and different that my children's children's children will read it and smile and say, "That was my grandmother who wrote that -- she was quite a colorful character ... how I wish I had known her ..."