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# Spilling Ink: A Young Writer's Handbook

Debbie Barr

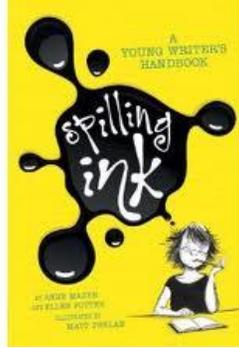
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Mazer, Anne; Potter, Ellen. *Spilling Ink: A Young Writer's Handbook*. Illustrated by Phelan, Matt. Roaring Book, 2010. ISBN 9781596435148. \$17.99. 275 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informative; Informational Books;

Subject: Fiction --Authorship --Handbooks, manuals, etc.--Juvenile literature; Authorship --Handbooks, manuals, etc.--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Many young readers today also want to be writers. They devour a good story and want to create their own. But where should they start? How do real writers do it? Anne Mazer and Ellen Potter, who both write for children, have the answers. *Spilling Ink* contains the compilation of years of experience from these two authors and incorporate the questions they get asked the most from their readers, as well as helpful tips for budding writers. Mazer and Potter cover how to start a story, how to develop characters, how to create a plot, how to revise, how to work with writing partners, and how to know when a story is done.

*Spilling Ink* does a fantastic job of breaking down the writing process in an easy way to understand. Each chapter is divided into bite-sized essays on a variety of writing topics, full of examples, anecdotes, and pictures to make the reading more interesting. Incorporated throughout are "I Dare You" challenges, writing prompts daring the reader to try out new techniques in his or her own writing. *Spilling Ink* would make a nice addition to an elementary or middle school writing unit, and would also work well in the home of a young writer.

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