

SUE'S TOP TIPS

- Write every day – even if it's only five minutes. Write as fast as you can.
- Keep a notebook – carry it with you wherever you go.
- Put something in the notebook regularly
- Go through it and extract useful stuff
- Keep a list of ideas and subjects to write about so you can make the most of any time you have.
- 1% effort every day = 100% in just over 3 months
- Use the senses in whatever you write – give your reader the full experience
- Be prepared to re-write ...and re-write ...and re-write
- Trust your own judgement – if you like a piece of work stick with it
- Read work aloud to yourself – you'll spot the dodgy bits
- Keep a box or folder for interesting newspaper or magazine articles that inspire stories or poems.
- Finish what you start
- Don't take rejection personally – keep trying
- Don't show your work to anyone until you feel happy to do so.
- Read as much as you can
- Go to workshops, book signings, talks
- Recycle your ideas
- Keep good records of work submitted to magazines/competitions

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