



## “Dear Chairman Mao Meow NOW...”

I'd like to write a novel. Or a play. Or maybe a screenplay. I don't know what I'd like to write, I just

Creativity machine cleverly disguised as pencil

know I'm happiest when I'm writing. It takes me from my challenges and I feel at peace with the world.

What should I write about? Should I even bother?  
- Write Or Wrong?

### Dear WOW!,

Yes, I removed your question mark and added an exclamation point. You want to create something from nothing, something that never before existed, but only will as the result of your time and effort? WOW!

First of all, yes, you should write. Even if the only person your efforts ever please is you, is that not reason enough to do it? Let's take a moment to think about the "ripples" in your life by looking at two different scenarios:

- In the first scenario, you go through your day. You experience life challenges. And you have no creative outlet. Your frustrations at not living a life that fulfills you for even moments at a time ensures that you're unhappy with yourself and with others, particularly those who seem to be living a fulfilling life.

- The second scenario is very similar to the first. The only difference is that you are a writer. Are you paid for your writing or even see the possibility of it in the near future? It doesn't matter. What does matter is that you are writing. You awaken each day looking forward to the time that you'll spend on whatever project it is that strikes your fancy. And especially because you are doing it on your time and most likely you are not getting paid, you can write *exactly* what you want.

Now as for what you might write about (note that I didn't say "should"), it can literally be anything. From haiku to a Hollywood blockbuster. From rhymes to romance novels.

Of course, I wouldn't be doing you the greatest service if, when it comes to suggesting what to write about, I didn't offer the advice that anyone who has ever wondered what to write about has been told by

those wiser and more experienced than I (and yes there are a few)—write what you know.

Now while I don't know what life experiences you have—maybe you were in the navy or have a love of flowers or UFOs—here are a few things I do know:

- You'd like to tell a story of some length. Is it a fictional or non-fictional one? That's up to you. Maybe it's a mix. I don't know exactly what that means, but you're the writer, you'll figure it out.

- You're happiest writing; it brings you peace.

- You question not only what to write about, but whether to write at all.

Taking all these things into consideration, it sounds

to me like you've got the makings of a great story about a person who is frustrated in life and finds peace in finding—and following—their bliss. Again, I have no idea what this means exactly, but you're the writer, you'll figure it out.

Here are three quick tips to keep in mind as you begin writing, three things I've learned from my years of cranking out stuff; often, like this column, work that's

demanding to be completed by a certain time:

- The most challenging thing is an empty page;

- It's easier to go from something to something else than it is to go from nothing to something;

- It's not about writing, it's about rewriting.

This is *your* life, WOW! This is *your* time. The world is waiting for you to create a story that speaks to you and resonates with others. And it will resonate with others. We're all on the path from here to there. It's when we connect that magic happens. Make that connection.

WOW!

- MEOW MEOW FOR NOW!

