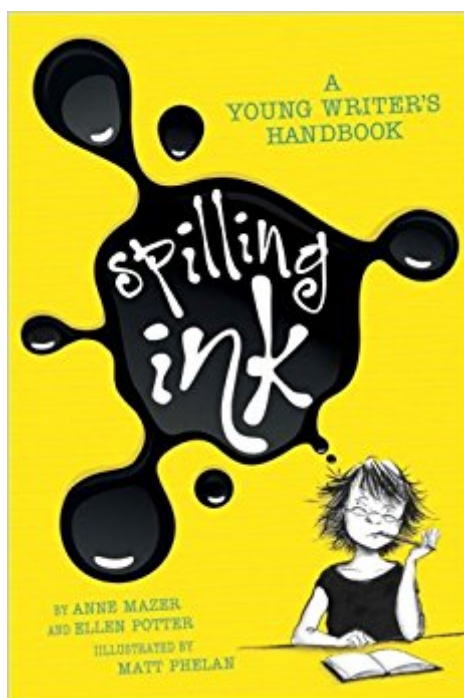


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# Spilling Ink: A Young Writer's Handbook



## Synopsis

LEARN HOW TO WRITE LIKE THE EXPERTS, FROM THE EXPERTS. In *Spilling Ink: A Young Writer's Handbook*, you'll find practical advice in a perfect package for young aspiring writers. After receiving letters from fans asking for writing advice, accomplished authors Anne Mazer and Ellen Potter joined together to create this guidebook for young writers. The authors mix inspirational anecdotes with practical guidance on how to find a voice, develop characters and plot, make revisions, and overcome writer's block. Fun writing prompts will help young writers jump-start their own projects, and encouragement throughout will keep them at work.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #41,368 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Language Arts > Composition & Creative Writing

## Customer Reviews

Two fine writers put their heads together and come up with an equally fine guide to their craft for beginners. Avoiding traditional chapters, the coauthors address issues by turns in short personal takes. Mazer speaks to beginnings, for example, while Potter tackles endings; and both have diverting things to say about everything that happens in between, whether it's the narrative voice or (eek) writer's block. Always agreeable, practical, and commonsensical in their approach, the two are also refreshingly permissive (it's fine to break rules!), though they add the caveat that rule breakage should come from a knowledge of said rules and a good reason for breaking them. Their text is enlivened with sidebar features, personal anecdotes, and suggestions to readers for exercising their new skills (happily these aren't called "Exercises" but, instead, "Dare You"). Such devices, along with the authors' unfailing good humor, will go a long way to convincing their audience that writing can actually be fun! A notion that is nicely underscored by Phelan's engaging and always appealing illustrations. Grades 5-9. --Michael Cart --This text

refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

• **Cogent and invaluable.** • **Publishers Weekly** • The best of recent volumes on the subject. • **Kirkus Reviews** • Two fine writers put their heads together and come up with an equally fine guide to their craft for beginners. • **Booklist** • For years I have been thinking about writing a HOW TO book for kids who want to write. Now I don't have to. Anne and Ellen have crafted such a wonderful, funny, wise book about how to craft a wonderful, funny, wise book that when eager young writers send me a letter seeking my advice I can now simply say, "Read this!" My hat is off to this dynamic duo. • **Bruce Coville**, author of *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher* • The singular, intense yet funny voice of *SPILLING INK* shares advice--how to convince your characters they are alive, avoid noisy dialog tags, wear sunglasses to feel like a spy--with much lively wisdom, and nary a hint of adult condescension. An outstanding book. • **Nancy Springer**, author of *The Enola Holmes Mystery* series

Outstanding!!!! Inspiring!!!! I'm one of those late in life bloomers who never wrote a book, only entries in my journal. For the past two or three years I've had a dream of writing a children's book. Recently I came across *Spilling Ink* at the library. Once I started reading it, I knew I had to have a copy of my own to refer to and to write in. I like it much more than any of the "adult" how to write books I've read. I especially love the part of interviewing my character. It got my adrenaline pumping. I am looking forward to spending some time "chatting" with my main character. I recommend this book to anyone who is dreaming of being an author, no matter what age. It's not intimidating and is chock full of ideas and creative suggestions. It is an easy read yet very informative. Kudos to Anne Mazer and Ellen Potter.

This was recommended to me by a teacher friend. I am a former teacher and current homeschooling mom schooling children in several grades from kindergarten through middle school. I am using this book with my 4th and 7th graders. It is perfect. The practical, personal advice is written in a funny, easy-to-read format. The "I Dare You" ideas are getting my kids writing - without tears and arguments. I have to admit it's motivating me, too. We are loving the writing process! I highly recommend *Spilling Ink* for all educational settings and elementary through middle schoolers.

Purchased this for my budding author. My 13 yr old son, loves to write stories yet is trying to figure out how to put the story together. Found this to help him gather and organize his writing. Easy to

read, and informative.

I am just finishing this book (I am reading through it very slowly) and thought I would share. "Spilling Ink: A Young Writer's Handbook" by Ellen Potter and Anne Mazer. My son, age 9, (who hates to write) read it toward the end of spring and he really liked it. After he read it I bought him a little notebook to write his story ideas in and every once in a while I'll see him run and grab it, jot something down, then return to what he was doing. I love it! We are going to read it altogether this school year and then I'm going to have them writing their own stories throughout the year. Reading this book makes me want to run to the computer and start writing something! I will try to refrain from gushing over this book, but if you have a child who loves to read, has a great imagination, loves to write, or (like my children) hate to write and need that extra motivation, then you should take a look into this book. It really takes writing from something someone else does (writers who write amazing books, I could never do that though) and breaks it apart into something very doable and even fun. I know as a homeschool mom I am always looking for good teaching tools and I love it when others share their amazing finds. This book has me excited for school to start so we can start reading it and begin writing their stories!

I purchased this book for my 8 year old granddaughter that loves to write stories. I love encouraging the girls to follow their interests. Her mom said she is using the book and loves it!

My 6 year old daughter just loves this book. She's a very strong reader, but her writing wasn't on par with her reading level. What a difference this book has made; even her teacher noticed. She loves it, and I love it. I can't believe what wonderful things she's writing now!

I bought a copy of this book for my classroom library. One of my students loved it so much I ended up giving it to her. Still haven't had time to read all of it but I like the casual approach to writing.

Gift for budding author granddaughter. She says it's fun.

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