

The  
Wow

# e-newsletter

by Ken and Dahlynn McKowen

Principles

Volume 4 No. 12 December 2008

www.PublishingSyndicate.com



## Pondering the Year

Needless to say, 2008 has been a year of challenges and also a year of opportunities. The latter is important to us because if you live life as we do, we always see the glass half full. The economy hit us hard: book sales were off by 75% this year (as were our royalty checks), newspapers nixed their freelance budgets (which nearly halted our freelance work), and gas prices nearly broke us (with 70,000 miles traveled this year, half of it was by car), we had our share of challenges. But to use another cliché, since the world offered us lemons, we made proverbial lemonade instead. As such, we're keeping this month's newsletter short and sweet so we can focus the waning days of 2008 on launching our innovative Freelance Travel Writer program via our new web business [www.PlacesToDiscover.com](http://www.PlacesToDiscover.com). Keep your eyes open for the official announcement!

Pondering the events of the past year can be perplexing, daunting or even exciting. How about pondering what 2009 holds for you, both personally and also in your writing goals. Where do you want to be at this time next year? How are you going to make it happen? This is a great writing prompt; list ten of your own ponderisms and then send them to us! We'll post a selection in our next newsletter. And thanks to Nancy Withers—one of our devoted and active PS subscribers—who recently e-mailed the listing below to us. She found it on the Internet, so the author remains anonymous. Enjoy!

- Why do you have to put your two cents in, but it's only a penny for your thoughts? Where does that extra penny go to?
- Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?
- Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

*Continue on page two*

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Published by *Publishing Syndicate*  
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## Pondering the Year

*Continued from page one*

- If Wiley E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME stuff, why didn't he just buy dinner?
- What disease did cured ham actually have?
- How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up every two hours?
- If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
- Why are you in a movie, but you're on television?



**"Daddy, if the gift is from Santa...why is it made in China?!"**

- Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.
- Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

*Continue on page three*

When Dahlynn's son Shawn was ten years old, he had his own ponderism: why did gifts from Santa have "Made in China" labels on them? Ken replied that labor was cheaper in China, which appealed him and made us giggle!

We asked our resident cartoonist Jonny Hawkins to create a special cartoon, thus the reason that when Jonny signed the cartoon, he added Shawn's name. Jonny can create cartoons for you, too! E-mail him at [jonnyhawkins2nz@yahoo.com](mailto:jonnyhawkins2nz@yahoo.com).

## Pondering the Year

*Continued from page two*

- Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?
- If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?
- Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!
- Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?
- If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?
- If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
- Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?



## For Short Story Writers Who Want to be Published

Our very popular *Wow Principles #1: Seven Steps to Wow Publishers into Purchasing Your Nonfiction Stories* has been recently updated to take into account publishing house changes. Since its release, hundreds upon hundreds of writers have purchased the e-book, and the success stories we have received about publication dreams coming true have been inspirational!

Did you know that most anthologies will pay \$100 to \$200 and even more your story? For only \$7.95, this e-book will help you construct a great first-person story, one that will wow anthology publishers! What are you waiting for! Order your copy today at [www.PublishingSyndicate.com](http://www.PublishingSyndicate.com)!

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**HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF!**

## *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

[www.ChickenSoup.com](http://www.ChickenSoup.com)

TITLE CHANGES: Two Chicken Soup titles have changed.  
Their premises are still the same, so please take note.

*College Campus Chronicles*: **Deadline: Dec. 31, 2008 HURRY!**

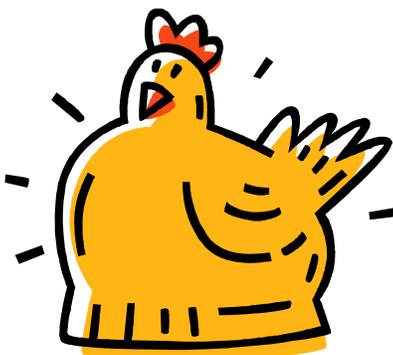
*Extraordinary Teens*: **Deadline: December 31, 2008 HURRY!**

*Learning From Our Cats*: **Deadline: January 31, 2009**

*Learning From Our Dogs*: **Deadline: January 31, 2009**

*Tough Economic Times*: **Deadline: March 31, 2009**

*In Harm's Way--Honoring Our Military* (original title: *Our Best and Brightest: Soldiers and Veterans*): **Deadline: March 31, 2009**



## *Dieting and Fitness*: **Deadline: June 30, 2009**

*Not Really Retired*: **Deadline: June 30, 2009**

*Endurance Sports (Run, Cycle, Swim)*: **Deadline: June 30, 2009**

*A Book of Miracles*: **Deadline: June 30, 2009**

*All in the Family* (original title: *Dysfunctional Families*): **Deadline: June 30, 2009**

*Teachers*: **Deadline: June 30, 2009**

*Thanks, Mom*: **Deadline: June 30, 2009** **AND** *Thanks, Dad*: **Deadline: June 30, 2009**



## *A Cup of Comfort*

[www.CupofComfort.com](http://www.CupofComfort.com)

*Dog Lovers II*: **Deadline: December 15, 2008 HURRY!**

*Grieving Heart*: **Deadline: February 1, 2009**

*For Fathers*: **Deadline: March 1, 2009**

**Go for it! Get published!**