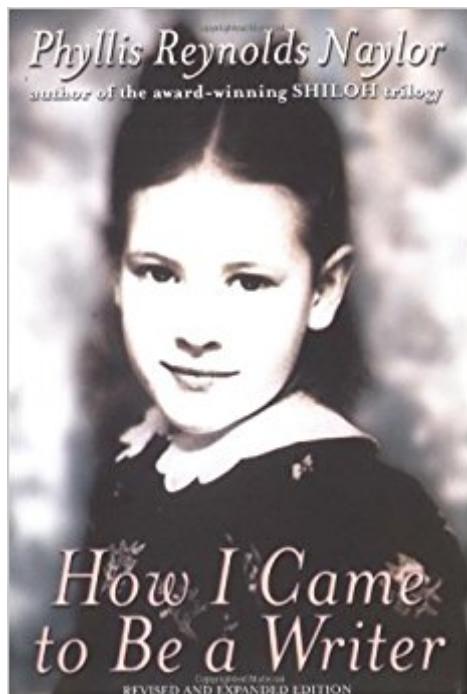


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# How I Came To Be A Writer



## **Synopsis**

Newbery Medalist Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's one hundred and more books are true to life, funny, and, most of all, well written -- you'd think that she doesn't have to work at writing at all. But that's not true. *How I Came to Be a Writer* is the story of one author's beginnings -- successes and failures, reviews and rejection slips -- things that mark the stages of a writer's life. Illustrated with photographs, and including samples of her earlier writing, this book will show you the inner workings of the writing process, from the spark of an idea to a book's actual publication. This classic writer's memoir has been revised and updated to include material on the writing of the Newbery-winning *Shiloh* and its two sequels.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 4 Up-Naylor takes readers on an often humorous journey as she describes her pursuit of her life's work. As she says herself, this book will not teach anyone how to become a writer. Rather, it gives insights into how difficult the process can be, how failures and successes are handled, and why individuals keep trying even when rejection slips keep piling up. Many samples of her writing at different stages in her career are included. The black-and-white photographs and illustrations are of average quality, but they add visual dimension to the text and insights into her characters. This enjoyable and easy-to-read revised edition includes information on the "Shiloh" trilogy that was published after the original edition of this book (Aladdin, 1987). Students will find enough material here for reports, and the clear and lively writing may persuade them to seek out more of Naylor's many fine books.-Linda Wadleigh, Oconee County Middle School, Watkinsville, GA

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Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's books are true to life, funny, and, most of all, well written -- you'd think that she doesn't have to work at writing at all. She makes it seem easy, But it isn't. Writing was not her first choice of a career, and even though creating stories might have been simple, getting them published was not. It took a long time -- and many rejection slips -- before she had a story accepted. But even that taught her more about her craft. *How I Came to be a Writer* is Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's story about her stories, from her first work in kindergarten to her most recent books. Illustrated with photographs, and including samples of her earlier writing, this book will show you the inner workings of the writing process, from the spark of an idea to a book's actual publication. Among Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's more than 80 books for children and adults are *Eddie, Incorporated* and *The Solomon System* (both available as Aladdin paperbacks). --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An easy read with good information for many aspiring writers. I am adding ten more words, ten more words, words to fulfill this stupid requirement.

As a fan of the Alice series, I wasn't too impressed by this book. I guess I should have expected, judging by the title, that this would be more of a writing guide than an autobiography. The book itself is kid-friendly, but suitable for all ages. It's very easy to relate to her stories, particularly the ones at the beginning of the book, but then it all falls into writing advice, and those that aren't really interested in writing will quickly lose interest. The book is a great blend of genres, from a how-to guide to humor, with Naylor's own excerpts of childhood writing. Again, going back to my main point, I am an Alice reader. I've read some of her other books, but it's the Alice series that is synonymous with her name, and at the time of publication of \*this\* book, there was only one Alice book, so that was sorely disappointing. For the die-hard fan and for everyone who wants to be a writer. Everyone else, go read her more recent books :)Rating: 2.5/5

As soon as I finished reading this book, I wanted to tell everyone how wonderful it was. I told myself, "I'm going to write a review for this book on .com!" Perhaps I found it exceptionally wonderful because I hope to be a published author some day myself. In her book, however, Naylor writes, "This book will not tell you how to write." Maybe not, but reading about HOW she became a writer is very helpful. There are many examples from her earlier writings and examples of editors' feedback. I

found both to be helpful. Phyllis Reynolds Naylor has a wonderful story to tell, and she does it well!! She inspired me to write for five hours once I finished her book. I strongly recommend it!! Lori in New York

HOW I CAME TO BE A WRITER, is a biography with some writing instruction, and one writer's personal publication story woven in. Naylor, the Newbery-winning author of SHILOH and many other popular books, here writes about her early efforts, rejections, and successes. Naylor explains that her mother came from Iowa and her father's parents moved from Mississippi to live in Maryland. Having roots in both the Midwest and the Deep South made her family a little different, and she discusses this contrast in cultures. Her family and their backgrounds also helped to shape Naylor's thinking and inspire the settings of her stories. Naylor was born in Anderson, Indiana, in 1933. Times were hard everywhere in the US as this was the Great Depression, but Naylor's parents always made certain that books were a part of their lives. Her parents read to her and her siblings every night, and books were the toys and props the children used when they played. As a child, Naylor never imagined that she would grow up to be a writer, mostly because she enjoyed writing too much! She imagined that occupations were serious things, not something that one loved to do. She wrote stories and stapled together homemade books throughout her childhood with no thought that she would ever write for a living. At age 16, Naylor published her first story. She then assumed writing would be a breeze, but she discovered through rejection and failure that a writer's life was far from easy. Learning to write well and get paid for it would be every bit as hard as learning any other occupation. In this book, Reynolds Naylor includes pictures of herself and her family, plus pictures of her book covers. She tells how the ideas for her books come to her, including how she organizes the vast amount of materials she uses in researching her books. For example, she got the idea for SHILOH from a very real little dog. I think you'll enjoy reading about her experiences in choosing her life's occupation and developing her skills. Reynolds Naylor has written a wide range of books and stories, and you can sample them in this book. HOW I CAME TO BE A WRITER will give you a very real picture of how a person --- maybe you! --- can become a writer and create the books we all love to read. --- Reviewed by Tamara Penny

This book is very interesting if you like biographies, and is perfect for all ages. She talks about her childhood of writing and making up stories. She says that at first she didn't understand how to read and she thought all of the kids were just making up a story that went with a picture. She also talks about eating her sister's chocolate bunny and having to wear awful boy's clothes! She later on

discussed the steps she took to become the marvelous writer she is. When I read this book, I found out that she wrote a series of humorous books on "Alice". The "Alice" books are now among my favorite. I would suggest this book to anyone who loves to read and write.

Excellent book for children who are interested in writing. An autobiography of Phyllis Naylor, author of books for preteens, that tells how she came to be an author.

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