



SF Said says:

Anyone can be a writer! Writers are really just readers who take one more step, and write stories they want to read themselves. That's how I've written all my books, from *Varjak Paw* to *Tyger*, and you can do it too.

So here's my first tip. **FORGET ABOUT WRITING!** Think of yourself as a reader, and ask yourself: if you could have any story to read, what would it be? Whatever the answer, write it down in the space below. That's the story I think you should write.

Next, write a first draft of your story. Just jump in and tell yourself a story that excites you! Don't think about it too much; don't worry about getting it wrong. Just put words down on the page.

When you finish your draft, put it away for as long as you can. Then read it through, but pretend you didn't write it. Ask yourself: how could it be better? Then do another draft, doing everything you can to improve it, until it's the best version of the story you can imagine – the one you'd most want to read yourself.

Whatever happens, don't give up. Keep writing, and keep reading! Because every writer is a reader – and every reader can be a writer!

