

TAYLOR'S TIPS for a productive writing career...



Dear Fellow Writer,

Halloween. A time of ghosts and goblins and **TRICK OR TREAT!** Do you remember going out as a kid with your pillowcase or plastic pumpkin, knocking on doors, holding out your goodie holder, sing-songing the same thing over and over again....*Trick or Treat*. Something would drop into your goodie bag, and sometimes you weren't quite sure what it was. You knew the lady at the end of the street always handed out the best candy....big Snicker bars or boxes of Jujubes. Some of the houses gave out wrapped baked goods like cupcakes (which always got smooshed) or Rice Krispie squares. You went up and down the blocks a house at a time, holding out your bag, singing *Trick or Treat* over and over. Finally, you trudged home, your sack over your shoulder or your plastic pumpkin overflowing.

You raced in the front door, threw off your costume or cape, and found a corner by yourself in the living room and plopped down on the floor. You dumped out your pillowcase or pumpkin and an array of candy and goodies flowed over the carpet. So much to choose from! But there...an apple. Yuck. You don't like tart apples. And there...wrapped, hard candy. You don't like sour balls. But there...your favorite...Three Musketeers....and a box of Candy Raisins...and some Peppermint Patties. Yes! You formed three piles on the carpet in front of you: favorites, so-so's, and yuckies.

TRICK OR TREAT! You didn't know what you were going to get when you left the house, but you went to enough houses on enough streets to end up with a wide assortment of candy, some good, some not so good. So what are you doing with your writing? Are you hitting the streets by submitting to numerous places for publication opportunities? Are you playing it safe by only going to the "sure-thing" houses that always give you the best responses or do you stick your neck out and try someplace new? Sure, you're bound to get some that say, "No, not for us." Those are the yuckies in the pile. But there are some that might say, "Hmmm, we just ran this type of piece, but can you send us something else? We'd like to see more of your work." Those are the so-so's that give you hope for a future sale. Then there are the submissions that bring in this response, "We love this piece. We're going to run it in our December issue and pay you \$xxx for it. Can you send us more?" Those are the favorites, right?

So get your work out there....don't be afraid. You never know when someone's going to pop into your inbox with a *TREAT* of a message.

Happy writing and blessings on your work.

What's Happening...

Mount Hermon wants me back. I've been invited back as teaching faculty again at the wonderful, fabulous, all-inclusive Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference. I'm excited about returning and look forward to meeting many of you face-to-face and teaching some wonderful workshops to help us all to become better writers. Join me at the best conference on the West Coast. Complete info for the 2010 conference online November 1st. Dates: Headstart Mentoring Clinic, March 24-26, 2010; Christian Writers Conference, March 26-30, 2010. Click here for more information: <http://mounthermon.org/adult/professionals/writers-conference>

Follow your dreams...
B.J.

Follow me on Facebook. I'm listed as B.j.Taylor (little j).
Twitter: www.twitter.com/bjtaylortweets, my screen name is @bjtaylortweets.

Author of :
“The Complete Guide to Writers Groups That Work”
Available on Amazon.com or <http://www.buybooksontheweb.com/product.aspx?ISBN=0-7414-4099-7>

*Check out my website at www.bjtayloronline.com.

P.S. Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends. If they'd like to be added to my list, they can email me at bj.taylor@verizon.net. You can also opt out of Taylor's Tips at any time. Just send me an email with “remove” in the subject line.