

Here are some ideas of things
you could say to children to
encourage a love of writing
from some brilliant, inspiring
children's authors!

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1. Carry a notepad. As an author you're like a detective so watch the world fiercely for the things other people miss.

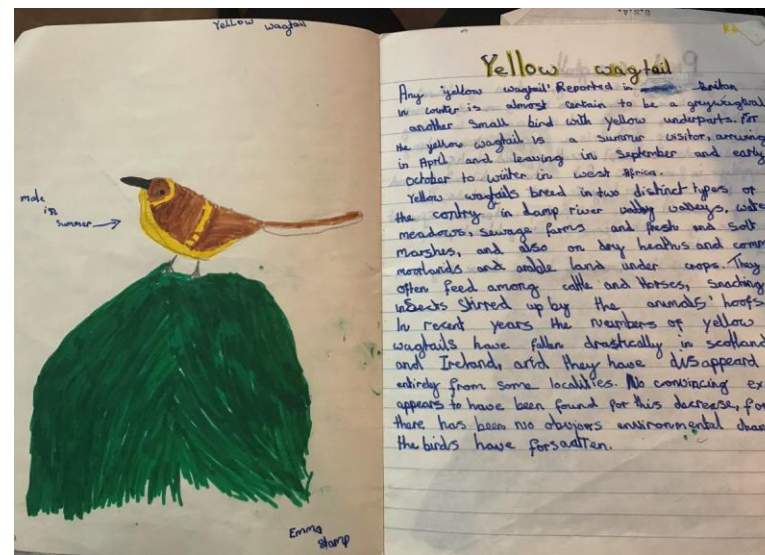
2. Let yourself daydream; that's how some of the best stories start.

3. Never give up. I had 96 rejections from literary agents before I secured my first book deal!

~ Abi Elphinstone, author of *Sky Song*

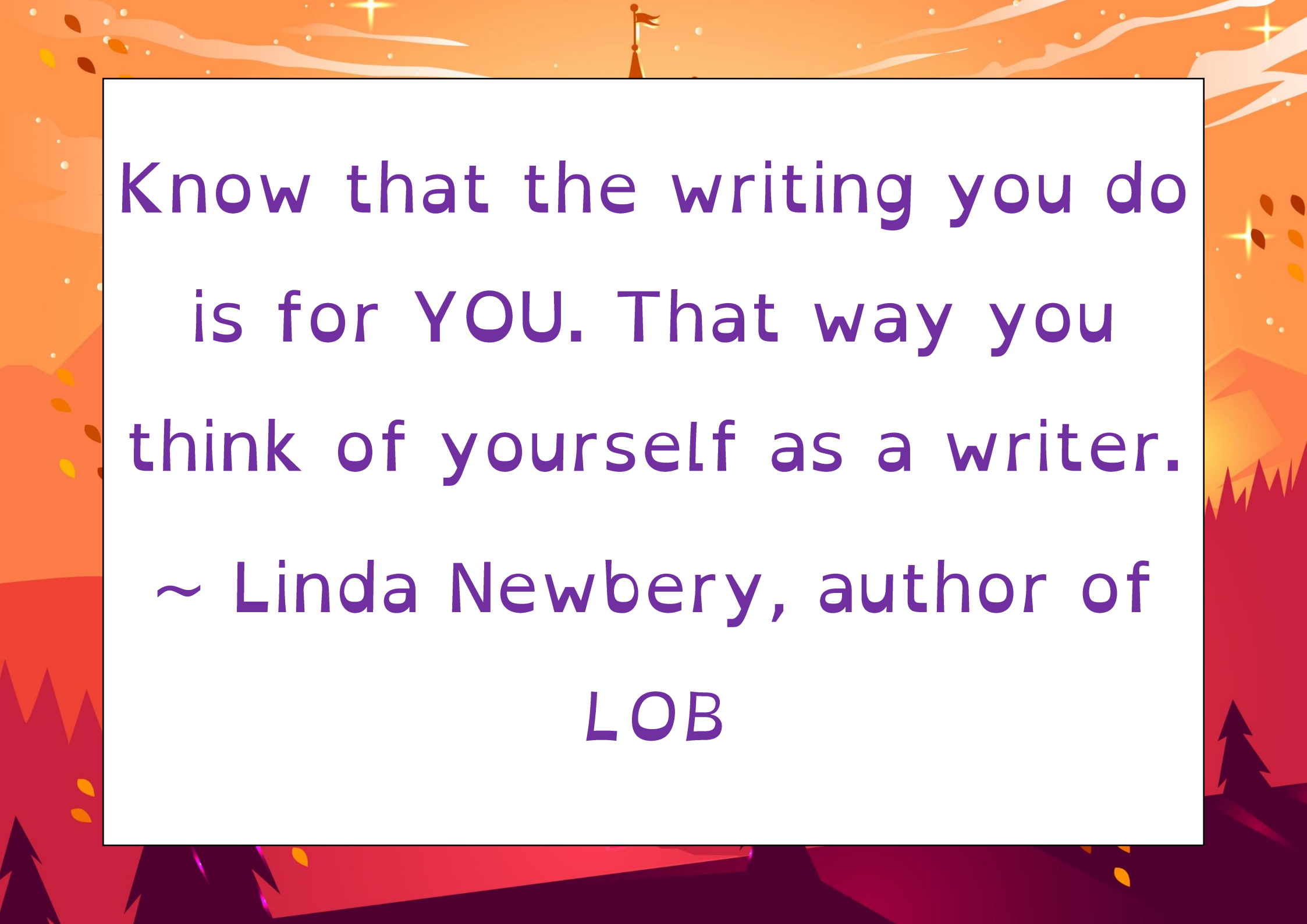
Here is an excerpt from my first book, *Birds, Birds, Birds*. This book is jammed full of birds and epic spelling mistakes (even though I was copying lots of it). As you can see, I also went under a slightly different name - eek, my secrets out!

~ Emer Stamp, author of *The (big, fat, totally bonkers) Diary of Pig*



I remember thinking the first time I was published, whatever happens now a little bit of me will always be there, a kind of immortality. Words I thought sitting in the sun years ago...

~ Sue Hardy-Dawson, poet and author of
Where Zebras Go



Know that the writing you do
is for YOU. That way you
think of yourself as a writer.

~ Linda Newbery, author of

LOB

Nobody is going to judge your writing. You can write about anything you want to and it doesn't have to be perfect. You can cross out, add in, start again – do what makes you happy.

~ Jasbinder Bilan, author of *Asha And The Spirit Bird*

Writing is the best kind of magic – you're using your bright and brilliant brain to make something new, something which didn't exist before you thought of it. How amazing! And there's no right or wrong when you're writing; if it's bringing you joy, that's all that matters.

~ Sinead O'Hart, author of *The Star-Spun Web*

1) There are many ways to be a writer!
Theatre reviewer, Food writer, Computer
Game Builder, Author, Poet!

2) Writers learn rules & break them.

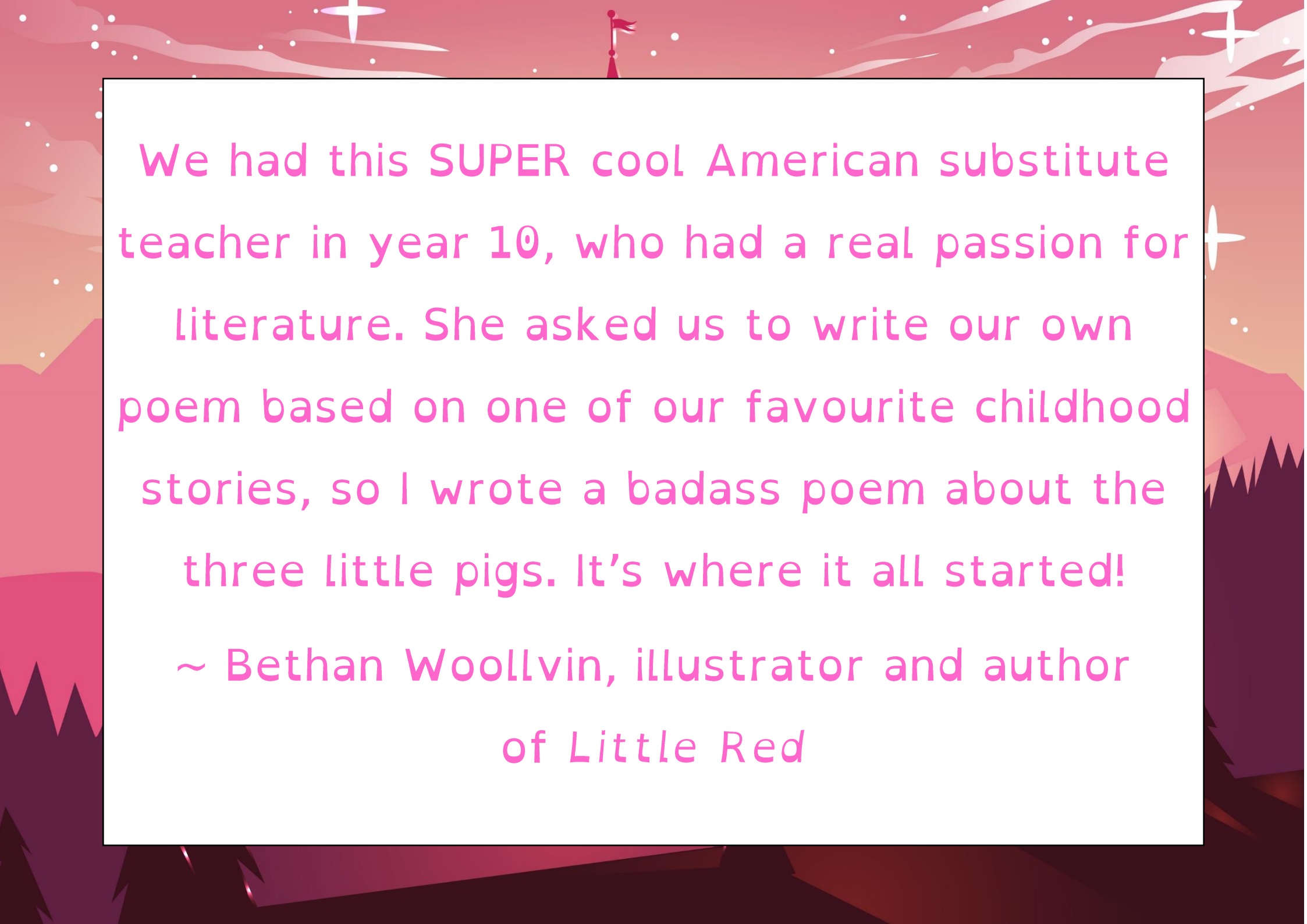
3) You can write anywhere in a cafe, a plane,
a train, park or playground.

~ Joseph Coelho, poet and author of *A Year
of Nature Poems*



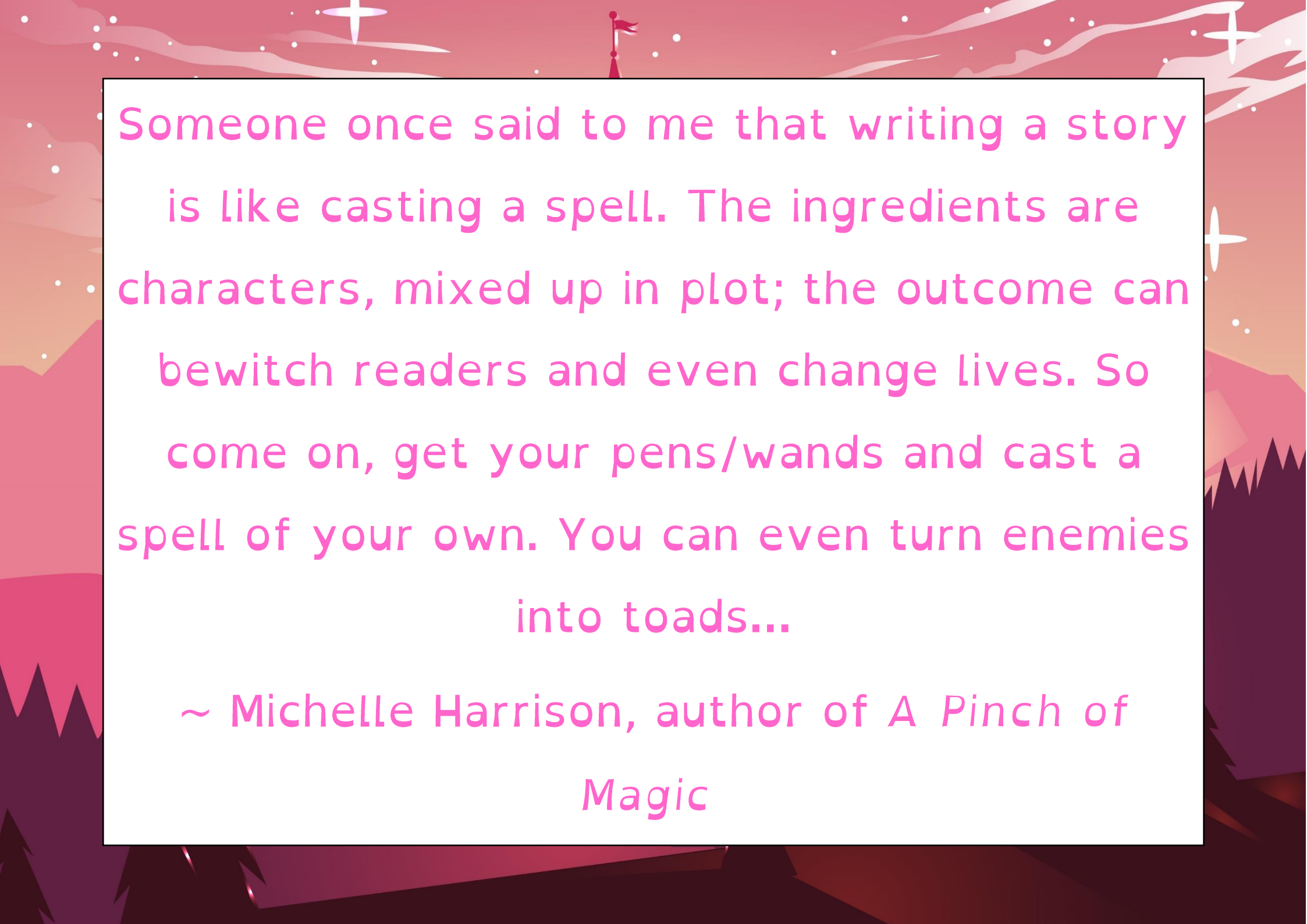
Write your own stuff. It's
cheaper than buying books!

~ Chris White, illustrator and
author of *Don't Put Dave in
the Microwave*



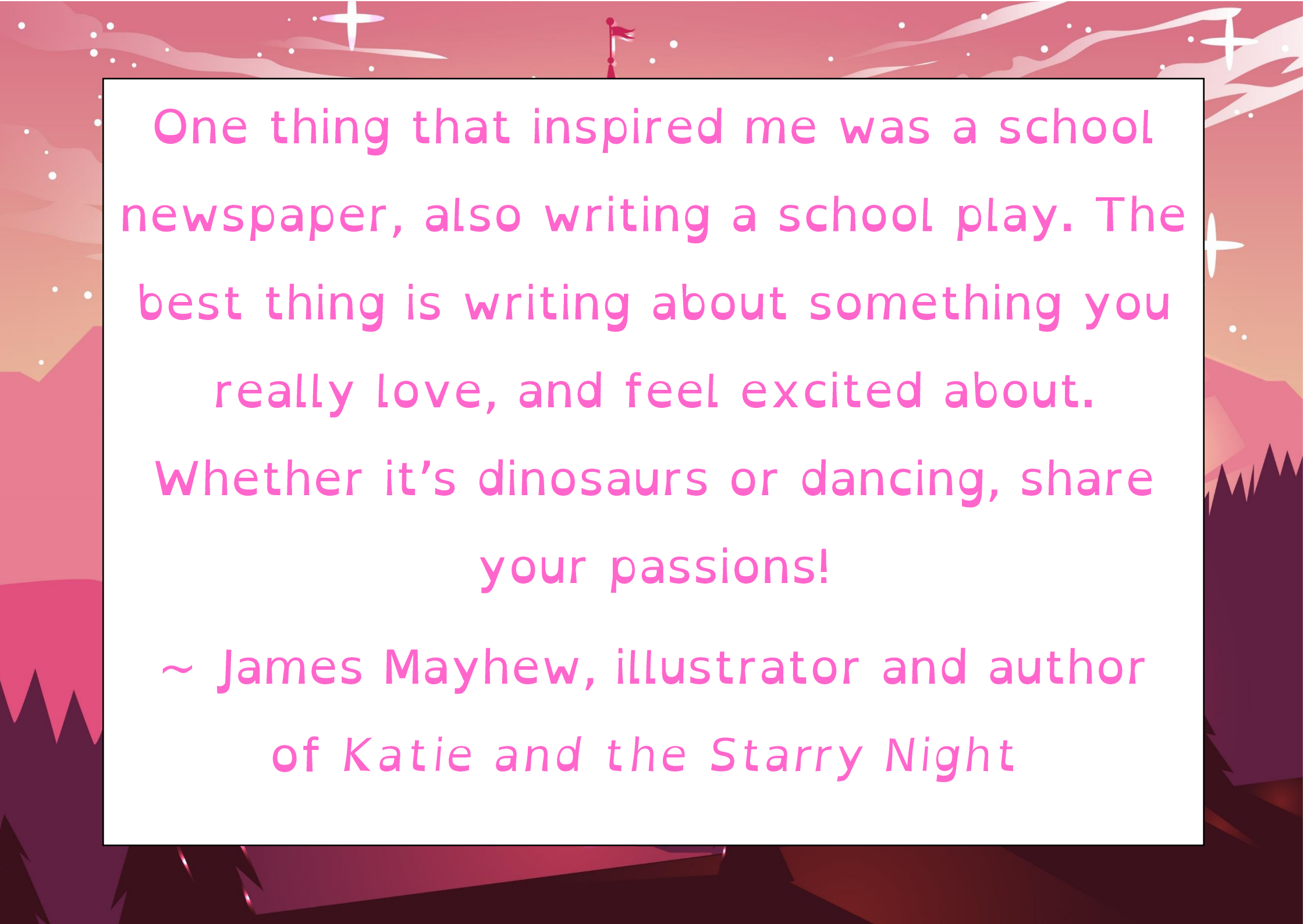
We had this SUPER cool American substitute teacher in year 10, who had a real passion for literature. She asked us to write our own poem based on one of our favourite childhood stories, so I wrote a badass poem about the three little pigs. It's where it all started!

~ Bethan Woollvin, illustrator and author
of *Little Red*



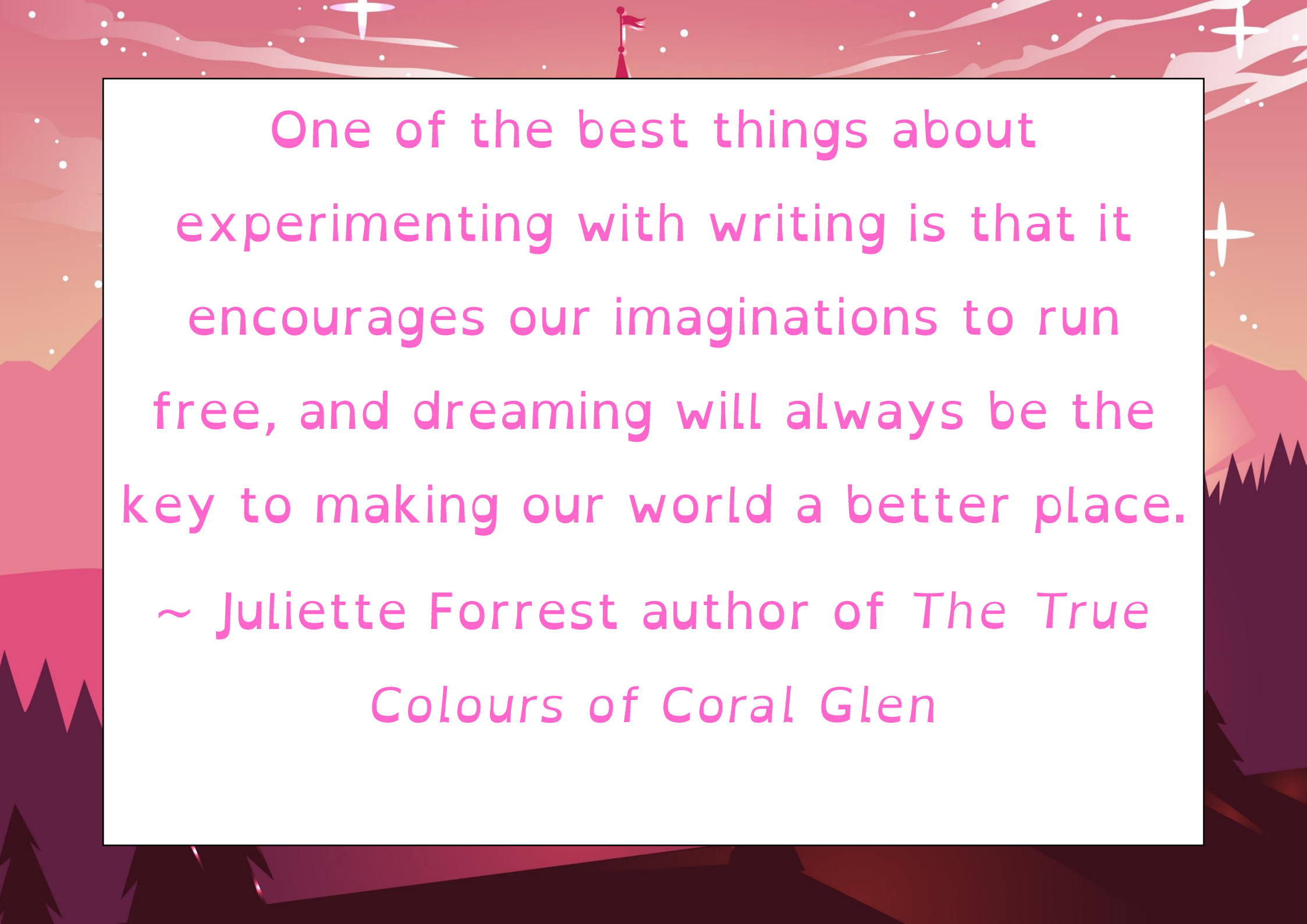
Someone once said to me that writing a story is like casting a spell. The ingredients are characters, mixed up in plot; the outcome can bewitch readers and even change lives. So come on, get your pens/wands and cast a spell of your own. You can even turn enemies into toads...

~ Michelle Harrison, author of *A Pinch of Magic*



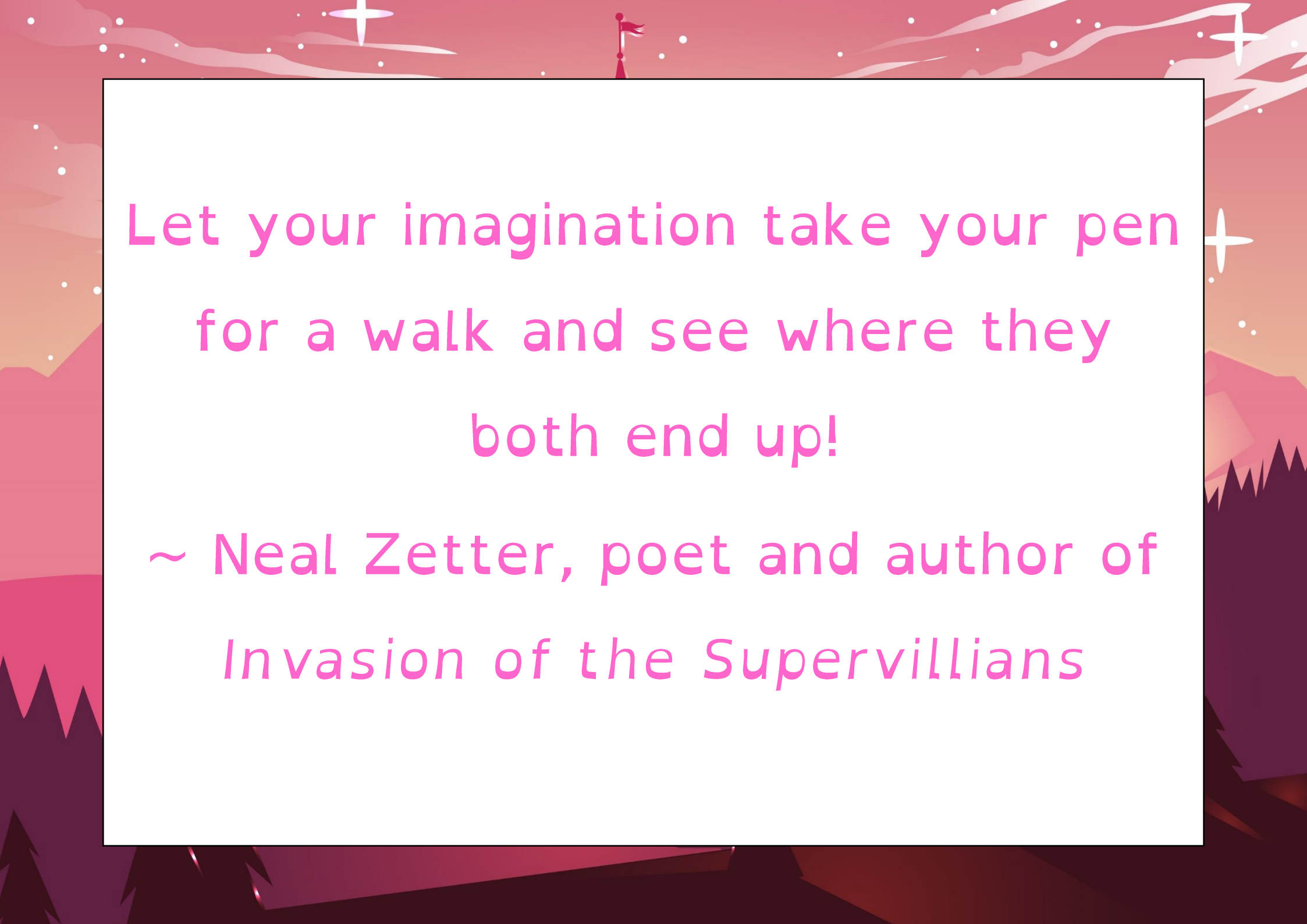
One thing that inspired me was a school newspaper, also writing a school play. The best thing is writing about something you really love, and feel excited about. Whether it's dinosaurs or dancing, share your passions!

~ James Mayhew, illustrator and author
of *Katie and the Starry Night*



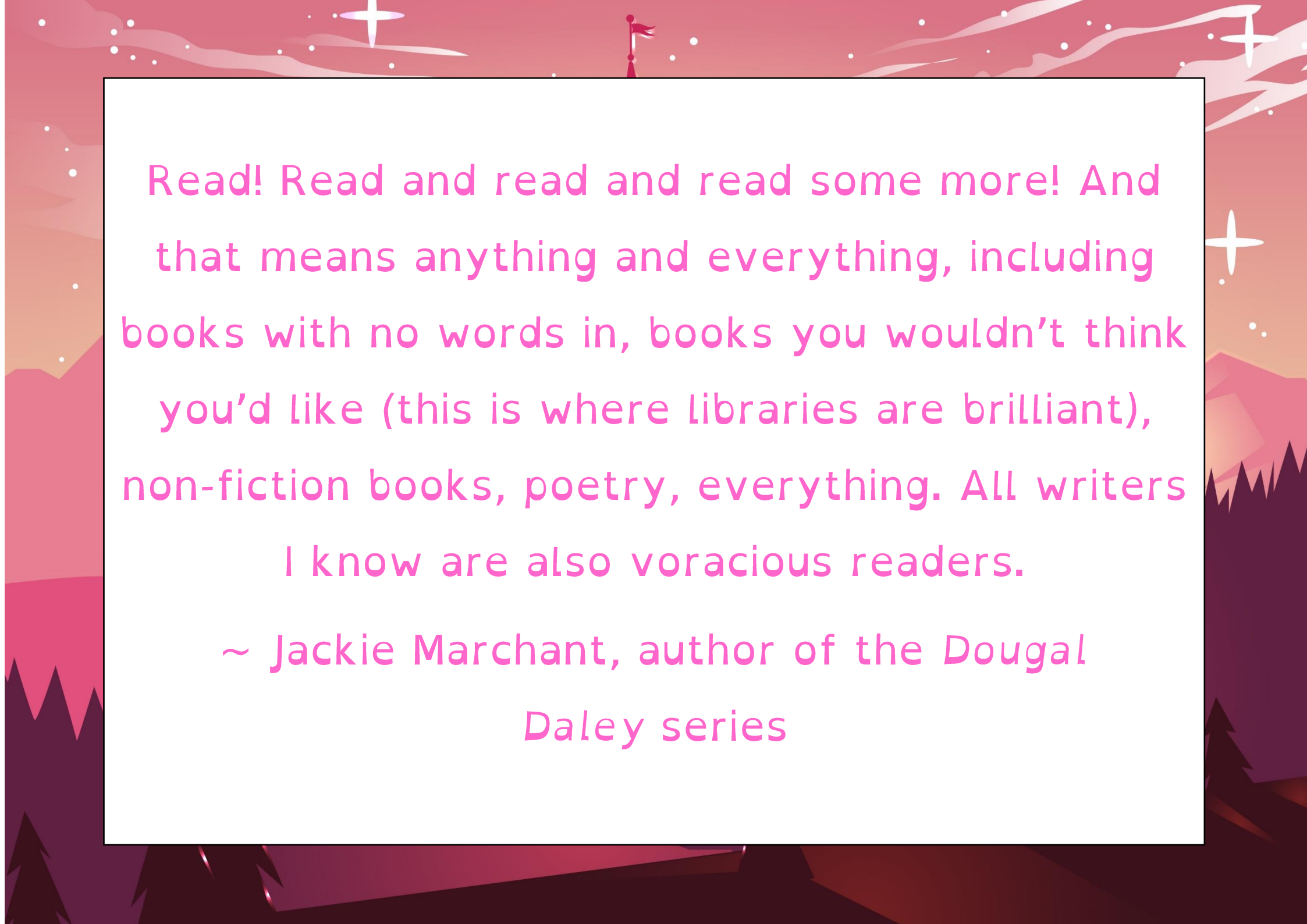
One of the best things about experimenting with writing is that it encourages our imaginations to run free, and dreaming will always be the key to making our world a better place.

~ Juliette Forrest author of *The True Colours of Coral Glen*



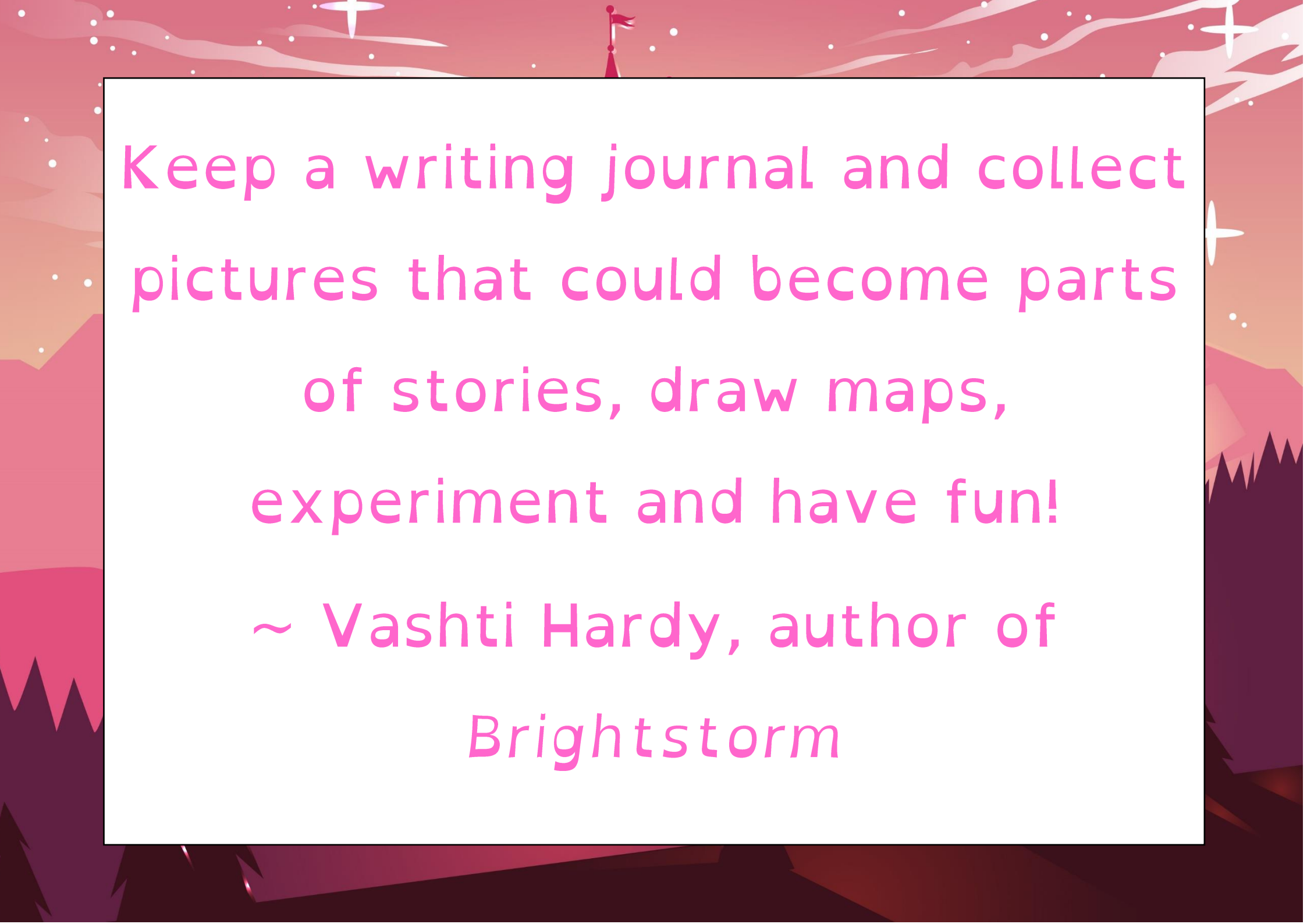
Let your imagination take your pen
for a walk and see where they
both end up!

~ Neal Zetter, poet and author of
Invasion of the Supervillians



Read! Read and read and read some more! And that means anything and everything, including books with no words in, books you wouldn't think you'd like (this is where libraries are brilliant), non-fiction books, poetry, everything. All writers I know are also voracious readers.

~ Jackie Marchant, author of the *Dougal Daley* series

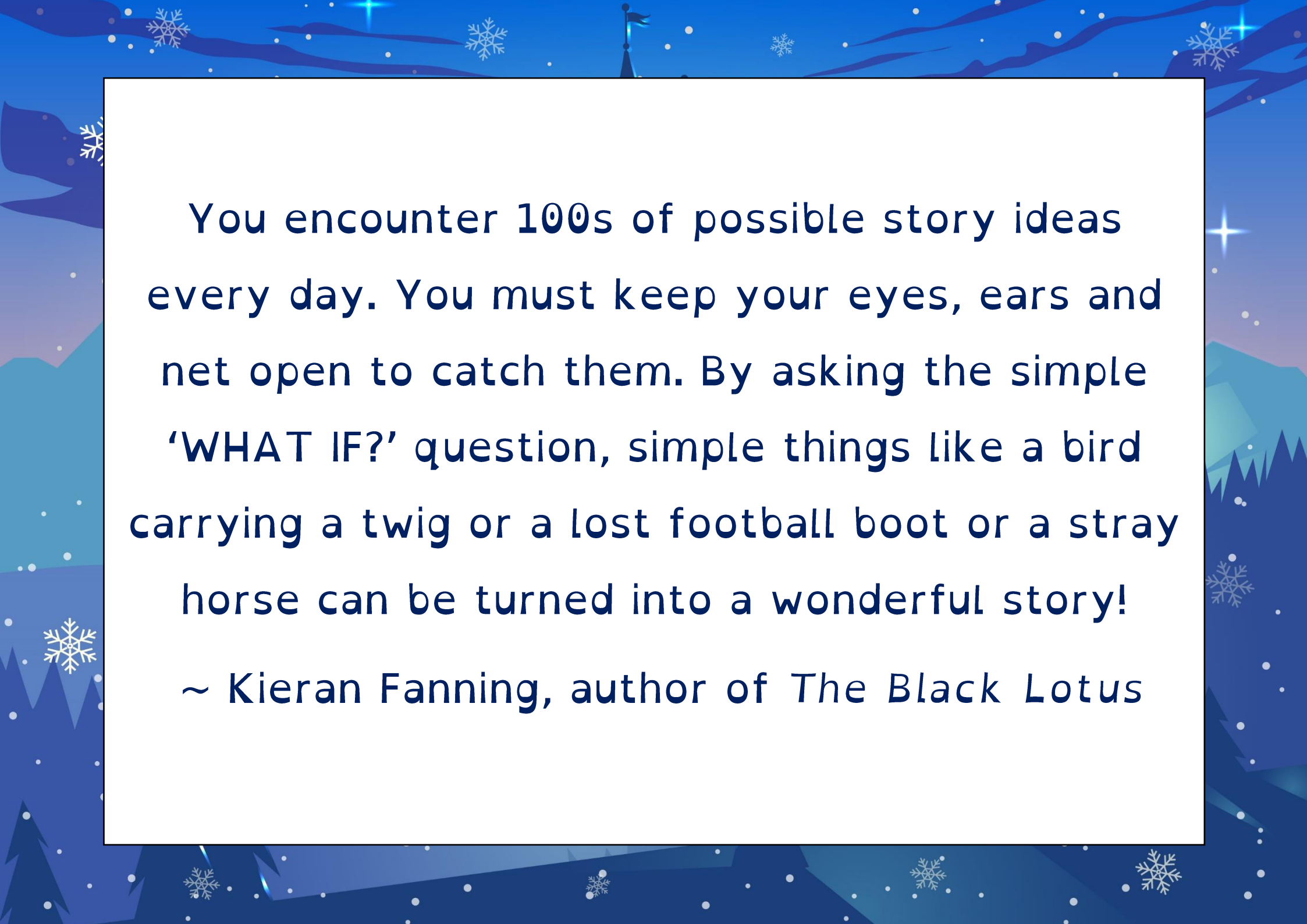


Keep a writing journal and collect
pictures that could become parts
of stories, draw maps,
experiment and have fun!

~ Vashti Hardy, author of
Brightstorm

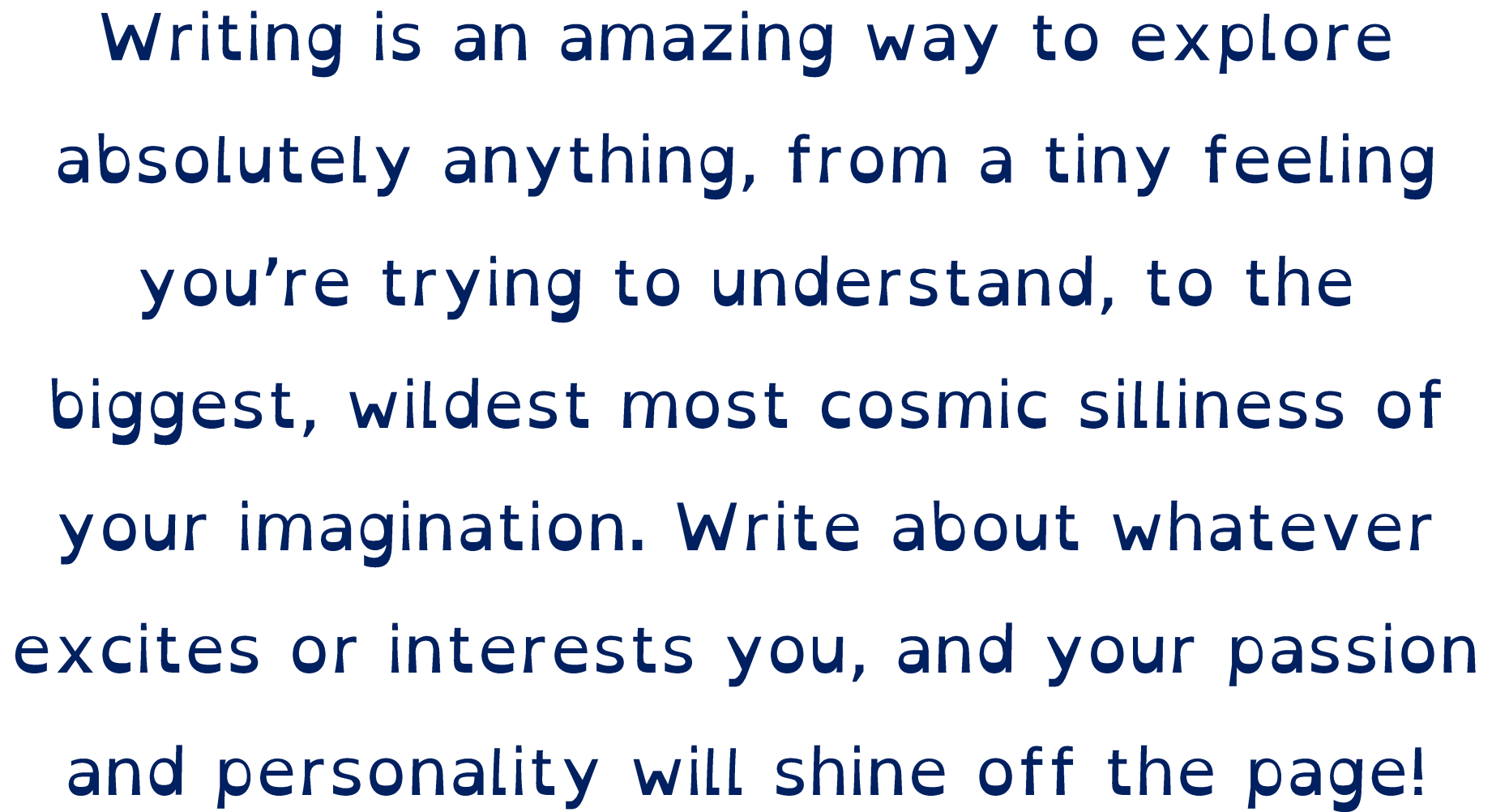
Do you like stringing words together to find out what they look like and what they sound like? Do you have rhythms dancing in your head as you drift through the day? Do people tell you that you're a dreamer? Maybe you're already a writer...

~ Brian Moses, poet and author
of *Dreamer* and *Python*



You encounter 100s of possible story ideas every day. You must keep your eyes, ears and net open to catch them. By asking the simple ‘WHAT IF?’ question, simple things like a bird carrying a twig or a lost football boot or a stray horse can be turned into a wonderful story!

~ Kieran Fanning, author of *The Black Lotus*



Writing is an amazing way to explore absolutely anything, from a tiny feeling you're trying to understand, to the biggest, wildest most cosmic silliness of your imagination. Write about whatever excites or interests you, and your passion and personality will shine off the page!

~ Darren Simpson, author of *Scavengers*