



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEDIA CONTACT:

**For questions or excerpt and interview requests, please contact:**

Jennifer Campaniolo

617-424-0030 ext 232

[jcampaniolo@shambhala.com](mailto:jcampaniolo@shambhala.com)

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

### **Please rip a page out of this book! A zany, fun, no-rules guide to creative writing for kids**

April 21, 2010—Your child is curious, imaginative, and bursting with original ideas, but traditional composition writing leaves him cold. Can you blame him? You remember what it was like memorizing verb tenses and trying to coach an interesting anecdote out of a boring theme like “What I Did During Vacation Week.” *Rip the Page! Adventures in Creative Writing* by Karen Benke (Trumpeter, July 2010) is a book for 8 to 12-year-olds unlike any other writing book they’ve likely encountered before. Kids who like writing and even those who’ve never put pen to paper unless it was homework are invited to explore, share, and *Rip the Page!* out of this unique writing book.

The exercises in *Rip the Page!* aren’t designed like a school assignment or extra-credit composition. They’re meant to amuse and inspire your child, showing him or her how fun and freeing creative writing can be even when it’s not being graded. Benke, who has led creative writing workshops for children for sixteen years, knows what kinds of prompts excite her students and how to get their pens moving.

Inside *Rip the Page!* you’ll find:

- “Try This...” experiments to spark new ideas
- Word lists to help when young writers get stuck
- “Suddenly a story...” exercises to rouse the imagination
- Definition decoder to deepen writing knowledge
- Notes of advice from famous writers like Lemony Snicket, Annie Barrows, Naomi Shihab Nye, Gary Soto, Lucille Clifton, and others.

Unlike other writing guides, *Rip the Page!* encourages children to use the book any way they choose: open to the last page and work backward or begin in the middle and move forward. Put stars by favorite ideas, cross out whatever they don't like. There are no limits to the imagination or to how kids can use this book. "There's no wrong or right way to write creatively," Benke advises her readers, "just *your* way. The only thing this book needs is *your* imagination."

**Karen Benke** has inspired children in the art of creative writing for sixteen years as a freewrite facilitator, creative writing coach, and poet-teacher in the California Poets in the Schools program, where she specializes in leading creative writing workshops for children eight to twelve years-old.

***Rip the Page! Adventures in Creative Writing*** by Karen Benke  
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