

*A Conversation with  
Patti Zelch,  
author of  
Ready, Set...Wait!*



**What do you believe is the best thing about your book?**

Since Katrina, hurricanes have become major news items. Much has been written about how people prepare and survive these dangerous storms. *Ready, Set, Wait!* presents new and exciting information about how wild animals react and prepare for hurricanes. Children of all ages will find this information fascinating.

**What inspired you to write this particular book?**



As we prepared for Hurricane Wilma, my oldest grandson asked me “What do the wild animals do during a hurricane?” I didn’t know. After much research, I found it fascinating that wildlife senses the upcoming storms long before humans. I knew immediately that this would capture the attention of children of all ages, and that it was a great topic for teachers and parents.

**When did you become interested in writing?**

My love for books and reading led me into writing as a young girl, mostly in diaries and journaling. Writing stories and wanting to share them developed as I grew older.

**What sparks your creativity?**

Believe it or not Ideas for writing just pop into my head. Usually it’s when I’m doing a mundane task like ironing or vacuuming, but often a goofy laugh, a colorful bird or a simple question will get things started.

**What is the most frequently asked question you encounter as an author and what is your answer?**

Do you draw the pictures for your books? My answer is, “No, thank goodness, you don’t want to see how I draw!”

### **Do you have any advice for parents?**

I think my teaching experience helps me understand what topics children are interested in, but, more importantly, it taught me that they want to have fun learning. I try to write my stories so they enjoy reading or hearing them. The knowledge or facts are an added bonus.

### **What is most rewarding about writing children's books?**

It's the "WOW" that comes across the faces of children when they hear my stories.



**Want to continue this conversation?** Schedule an interview!

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