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# Author: A True Story



## Synopsis

So begins the story of Helen Lester, author of Tacky the Penguin and many other popular books for children. By sharing her struggles as a child and later as a successful author, she demonstrates that hurdles are part of the process. She even gives writing tips, such as keeping a "fizzle box." Helen Lester uses her unique ability to laugh at her mistakes to create both a guide for young writers and an amusing personal story of the disappointments and triumphs of a writer's life.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (August 26, 2002)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #53,943 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

This enchanting book must be read to every class of learning disabled students, and should be in every elementary classroom as well. Ms. Lester shows, with amusement and the touching words of a small child, that writing can be fun-for anyone! Even if writing is a struggle, it can be enjoyed. This book will make students with problems know it's okay to be different, and that they can still go on to a productive, happy life. That is so important, as so many adults are scarred by the unhappy times they spent in schools, attempting to learn what was for them, almost impossible. I feel almost all students would enjoy this book. Thank you to Mrs. Lester for saying what so many needed to hear.

This is Helen Lester's true story of how she became a writer--from struggling in grade school to becoming a published author (many times). It's inspiring because it shows that writing is not

simple--even for those gifted with the pen, but that it takes time and effort and a lot of rewrites. I would recommend it to anyone trying to show a child that writing does not always come easily, but that even the toughest writing struggles can be overcome with perseverance. It also explains the illustrator's job and how good illustrations help sell stories. Helen Lester's fiction books are hysterical and this companion "biography" is a must if you are a fan of her works.

This book shows children what many professional writers know. Writing isn't easy, but it is rewarding. I adore this book and how people of all ages and skills can relate to it.

First, I want to clarify that Helen Lester's story is fantastic, and a great teaching tool for struggling young writers. This Kindle version, however, is awful, and completely unusable in one's classroom or library. The pages of the print book are poorly scanned, and instead of digitally adjusting the graininess, the story's text has simply been slapped on top. This results in low resolution illustrations and blurry text, and the crisp "retyped" text hanging over or under the outline of the poorly scanned page. Kids (and even a couple of adults) struggle to read the crisp type on top, THEN read the same text on the blurred background of the crappy scan, and then the out-of-order text on the bottom! Prior to this, I've purchased Kindle formats of children's books and really enjoyed them, but I just can't recommend this one, it's far too ugly. Lesson learned: I should have downloaded the sample first!

This is the true story of how an author came to be just that, an author. In simplistic terms that were easy for my 2nd graders, the author recounts her challenges with writing. She also talks about struggling when her books were not published. This gave my children hope that they could one day become authors and also talked to them about perseverance I really enjoyed this!

A great book that shows that authors do not automatically have successes immediately, and that they started out as ordinary kids with ideas and challenges, just like any students of today. Helen Lester writes with humor and real understanding of a writer's frustrations, the hard work that it takes, and the joy of doing what she loves. It is a very encouraging book for kids, and a fun read for anyone.

My fellow teachers and I use this book as part of our Writer's Workshop in kindergarten. It's a cute book (a little wordy) but students get the gist that writing isn't always easy, and that's okay! It's a

learning process and we will help them through it.

I love using this book for an introduction to writer's workshop in my classroom. It shows how even real author's go through tough times of not knowing how or what to write, but you push through and you will get there in the end. It also shows how writing even fake grocery lists as a 3-year-old is important and worth doing.

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