

Amy Giesler

Miss Giesler

Reading/Writing Autobiography

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### My Life as a Reader Who Writes

I cannot imagine a time in my life when I couldn't read or write. Reading and writing has always been a central part of who I am and how I express myself. Beginning when I was very small, I was always reading words and trying to make sense of them. My first reading memory is the word "stress." I remember seeing it on the side of a bottle, and I asked my mom what "stress" meant. She replied, "It's what kids do to their parents." My four year old self was so confused trying to puzzle out what magic stuff that kids did to their parents was contained in that bottle. Later, I would be disappointed to find out that it wasn't anything magical at all; it was just lotion. But the important lesson I learned was that words have the power to shape how we see things.

Even as a small child, I've loved to write. I always wrote stories on old paper that Mom brought home from school. My earliest stories were usually about my dolls or Barbies, or being a princess. I loved writing stories and illustrating them. As I went to Kindergarten and 1st grade, I learned that writing stories was fun and that I enjoyed getting feedback from my peers and my teachers. The best prize that I ever got was a huge sticker of a squirrel from Mrs. Norberg. I still have the story in one of my 1st grade notebooks, and it makes me smile to re-read it.

I've always viewed reading and writing as a positive experience overall.