

**Hayley Rose**  
**Author Interview Questions**

***What inspired you to write your first book, *Fifo – “When I Grow Up”*?***

I had just come home from a family reunion in Chicago where I had spent time with my two little cousins. It was fun watching them learn to walk and talk, and I caught myself thinking, they have their whole lives ahead of them. Wonder what they’ll be when they grow up. Well one thing lead to another and I decided to write them a story with that very question in mind.

***Your character, *Fifo The Bear*, is great. How do you come up with him up?***

I wanted a main character that everyone could identify with. I thought a bear would be loveable, cuddly and comforting, and who wouldn’t love a fuzzy brown bear named Fifo? Which brings me to the name Fifo. Fifo actually stands for, first in first out. It’s an accounting term, and I was working in an accounting firm while writing *Fifo – “When I Grow Up”*. I thought, *Fifo The Bear*, was a cute and catchy name that rolled right off the tongue. Hence, *Fifo The Bear* was born.

***How did you come up with the idea for *Fifo – “States”*?***

*Fifo – “50 States”* came from my love of travel. So far I have been to 42 states. Each state is unique and has something special to offer, and one day I hope to visit all 50 states. Of course, the book is all written in rhyme and educational. After reading *Fifo – “50 States”* you will know each state’s capital, bird, tree, flower, motto, abbreviation, state shape and other fun things to do there. I am sure you will want to visit all 50 as well.

***Describe your typical day.***

I get up around 9:00 a.m., take a shower, brush my teeth and grab a much needed cup of coffee. I usually skip breakfast. I know, very bad! I roll into the office around 10:30ish, address emails and check myspace. It’s a great networking tool. I will usually touch base with my publisher or booking agent then too, setting up book events and interviews. I still work for a business management firm specializing in concert touring. So, I tend to the artists needs for the next 8 hours with a lunch break in between. Most nights I catch dinner out with friends and arrive home around 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. I feel the most creative at night so that is when I will usually sit down and write. I will also work on networking, marketing and promotion ideas.

***What are your hobbies when you're not writing?***

I love to travel. I recently spent a week at a castle in France. Except for the bugs, it was amazing. I am also interested in learning a new language. We’ll see what happens with that.

***Describe yourself in 5 words.***

Creative, loyal, spontaneous, easygoing, funny.

***Who is your favorite author/writer?***

Me. lol.

***Where do you get your ideas to write books?***

My ideas usually come from a part of my life. Something I’ve experienced in the past, or love to do. I then try to tie that in with something educational.

***Did you like school, and what was your favorite subject?***

My favorite subjects were history and music. I liked school for the most part, but It started a little too early for me.

***Why did you want to become a writer?***

I have always loved to write. It's such a great outlet. It's a great way to keep track of where you've been, where you want to go, and what you're feeling. It's a great release and/or a great escape. Anyone can write. I grew up with great parents and lots of encouragement. I wanted to be able to give some of that upbringing back to future generations in a positive way.

***What advice would you give to want-to-be-authors?***

Write often. Rewrite. Keep a pen and pad with you always. You never know when and where your next idea will come from. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

***What did it feel like when you found out you were going to be published for the first time?***

Ecstatic! It was a bit overwhelming and surreal. It's been a fabulous adventure so far.

***Who was your favorite author when you were a child?***

Dr. Seuss! I love how he wrote in silly rhymes. It's the reason I write in rhyme today.

***What future plans do you have in store for Fifo The Bear?***

Fifo has big, big plans! After Fifo – “50 States” the series will continue with England and then other European countries. Eventually Fifo will travel the world. Fifo also plans to release an album of children's songs, along with an etiquette board game and a TV series.

***Where and when do you write?***

Everywhere and anytime. Whenever I feel inspired I write. Sometimes I even get up in the middle of the night and start writing. I try to always have a pen by my side as you never know when the mood might strike you.

***Do you make sure you have written a certain amount each day?***

No, I never try and force it. You have to find what works best for you.

***What's the worst summer job you've ever had?***

Cleaning out horse stables. Smelly and not much fun after a big rain.

***What is your favorite breakfast cereal?***

For Fifo, it's oatmeal. He never misses a meal and stays really healthy. I'm a bit opposite, when I actually have breakfast cereal I like Frosted Flakes or granola with dried cranberries. Basically anything sweet.