

Mel Edwards FAQs:

Q: When did you write your first poem?

A: I was about five years old and I collected sea shells, most having been gifts from my aunt who'd traveled to Bermuda. The poem was classic kid quality, but I still remember it:
Shells are delicate.

Shells are nice.

Shells are very pretty things.

Yes. Oh, yes. Shells are very nice.

LOL! I'm glad my poetry improved over the years.

Q: Where do you writing ideas come from?

A: Every author thinks differently, so what calls my attention may not grab anyone else, but images from a variety of print media and real life often make me ask questions, "What is going on here? What if...?" and so on. Basically, everywhere. The ideas never stop zipping by. However, you need a net, imagine the ones people use to catch butterflies. If you don't catch one and hang on to it, those suckers keep on zoomin' by or worse yest, they buzz past again and again, until you reach up and grab one of the little buggers. If you wait too long that incessant buzzing won't inspire you do create anything. You'll squish it instead.

Q: Why Votre Vray?

A: Why not. Seriously, I took French in middle and high school and my mom's family were French-Canadian, so when I begin to search for fresh global ideas, my first inkling is to use what I know. French words pop into my head all the time even though I can't say I really speak the language. When I wanted to express finding my path in life through narrative story and creativity, my first inclination was the term "vrai." I knew most Americans wouldn't be able to spell it, so I went with Votre Vray.

Q: What other projects are you working on besides Votre Vray?

A: That's a great question. Votre Vray, I hope, will be perpetual. Right now I'm writing a non-fiction book related to education and business with a friend of mine, a memoir about my life through movement, a collection of poems about women (inspired by Votre Vray stories), and expanding my storytelling recordings. I balance it all with being an occasional artist-in-residence, giving workshops on writing, and writing and reading something new every day.

Q: Every day?

A: Yes. I think through writing. I refresh and get motivation through reading.

Q: What is your normal schedule?

A: If I'm writing, I'm either at an office -- either in my house, or a private room on the road, sometimes at the public library in a study room. After bunny duty, I try to get my Artist Pages (as developed by Julia Cameron) completed, then I jam on a writing project until lunchtime. I write long-hand, and type after lunch. In the afternoon, I usually read, then share my day's work with my husband when he comes home. (Reading aloud to him lets me also see all my typos and errors in logic.) The evenings are family time because balance is what life is all about and what I missed as a full-time teacher.

Q: How does someone get hold of you to do a public speaking engagement, workshop or residency?

A: The fastest, most reliable way is to e-mail me: meledwardsconnect@yahoo.com

[end of Q/A]