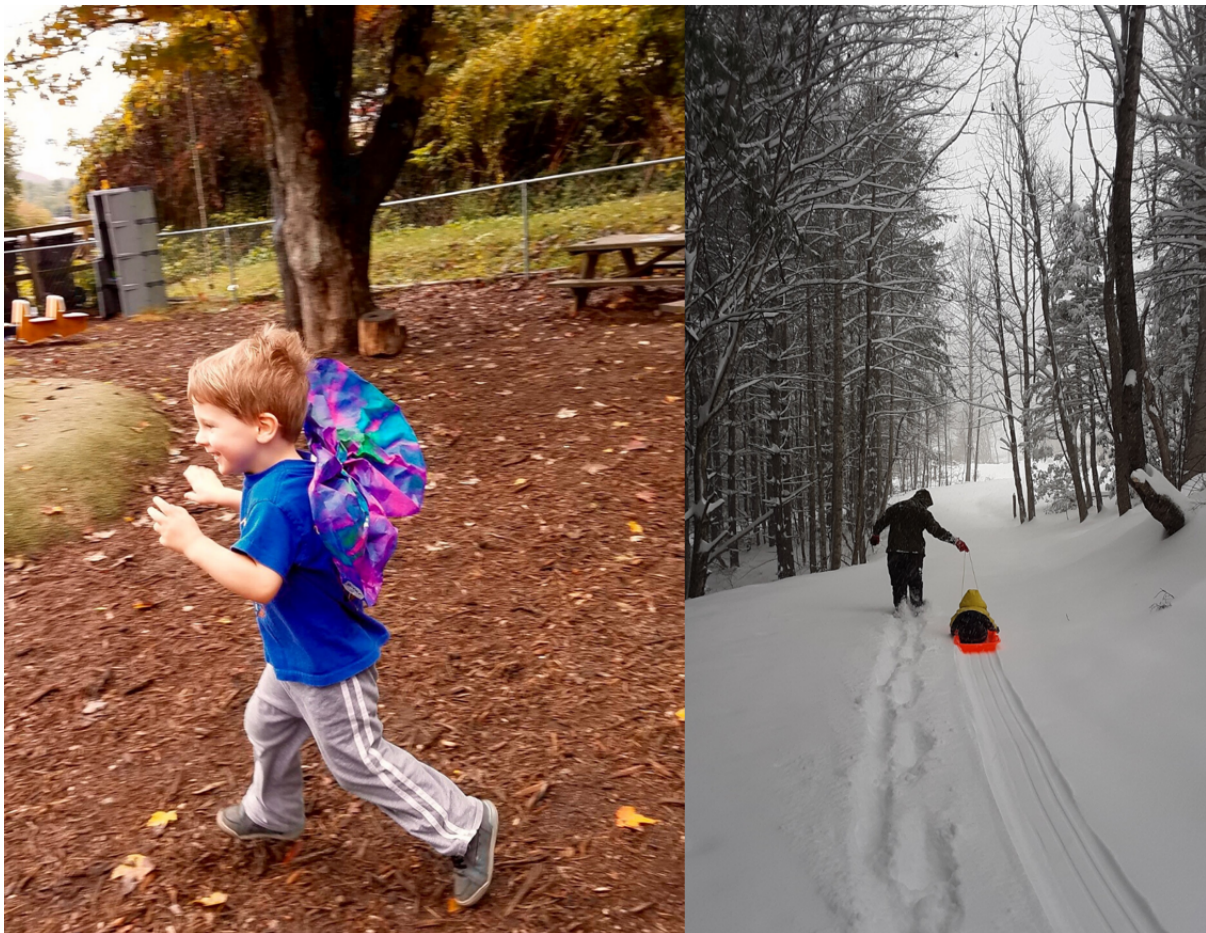


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# Katey Schultz

author & teacher

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**I love winter, but it sure was magical watching my son River learn about the life cycle of butterflies, this fall. Not too long afterwards, we had lovely snowstorm!**

Winter is my favorite season. In my thirties, I traveled often, hopping from writing gig to writing gig, delighting in the frozen, quaking beauty of hard-to-

reach places. Taking photos became an essential nutrient that balanced my writing life. As a writer, capturing a world took countless drafts and pages. But a single photo could capture a world too, with a lot less effort, and a photo also left plenty of space for wonder. My “nonfiction” photos fuelled my fiction writing about war in several ways. First, the photos and time outdoors brought me back to equilibrium after hours spent with intense war-lit material. Second, the photos gave my eyes space to wander, reminded me to stay close to mystery, and prompted contemplation--necessary acts for all artists.

What wintry habits fuel you? What images have carried you through difficult times? I'd love to hear how you “stay warm” during these darkest days, and how that warmth shows up in your writing. Drop me a note or request a brief consult to discuss your writing goals going into the New Year. I want to know what's working for you, or what isn't. ([Click here to request a free 20-minute consult](#). Four spaces are available.)

Many of you have asked what I'm writing now, with the release of *Still Come Home* behind me. I'm about two-thirds of the way through a new collection of short stories set in Appalachia. Here's a piece published in *Hypertext*, titled “[My Brothers and the Moon](#),” which was just nominated for a 2019 Pushcart Prize in Fiction!

I've also been blogging about an integrated writing life. I recently told someone that making butternut squash soup counts as writing. I meant it. To learn more about why I think that's true, and why it might also be true for you, consider reading some posts from my most recent 10-day blogging challenges. For the first challenge, #embodimentfirst, I publicly broke unnecessary habits and posted reflections via images and text. What habits? There were many, but here's one: the belief that “work comes before play.” Read the entire series [on my blog](#), or follow me [on Instagram](#) to keep up with my current 10-day challenge, #plentyoftime.

Whatever you do this month, I hope you do it with ease.

Thanks for reading,

Katey

PS It's not too late to register for the remaining, free, "Year of Experiments" webinars. [Click here](#) to sign up, and receive info on bonus #livewriting December dates and new January, February, and March webinar dates. If you've been participating all along and want to invite a friend, please forward this newsletter. All are welcome!



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