

**Ann Whitford Paul's
INSPIRATIONS FOR
DISCOURAGING DAYS**



"There's no such thing as a born writer. It's a skill you've got to learn. You've got to write X number of words before you can write anything that can be published, but nobody is able to tell you how many words that is. You will know when you get there, but you don't know how long it will take." Larry Brown

"Be regular and orderly in your life, so that you may be violent and original in your work." Gustave Flaubert

"Is there any prettier sight in the world than the sight of someone sticking their neck out?" Ursula Nordstrom

"Only the rarest kind of best in anything can be good enough for the young." Walter de la Mare

"A writer is a person for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people." Thomas Mann

"Listen carefully to first criticisms made of your work. Note just what it is about your work that the critics don't like—then cultivate it. That's the only part of your work that's individual and worth keeping." Jean Cocteau

"You wouldn't expect to pick up a violin, never having played and appear the next day at Carnegie Hall as a soloist. Writing is not so different. It takes practice and learning." Jean Karl

"The first line of a poem is a hawk which won't let go of its prey." Gabriel Preil

"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going." unknown

"The only people who never fail are those who never try." Ilka Chase

"Rejections are business letters, not personal letters." Jane Smiley

"When you choose a creative life, you never grow old. It's forever young and forever growing." Salome Jens

"Fine writers should split hairs together, and sit side by side, like friendly apes, to pick the fleas from each other's prose." Logan Pearsall Smith

"That last thing one discovers in writing a book is what to put first." Blaise Pascal

"All things are difficult before they are easy." Unknown

"I decided, 'I am going to write out of myself.' Once I made the decision, all inhibition was gone. It was like accepting my accent." Irina Spanidou