



MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

WRITER TIPS

"In Writing, There's No Such Thing as a 'Bad' Idea."

A client of mine asked this month how to know if her book idea was "good" or "bad." Well, to begin with, you can ask trusted friends or an advisor what they think of the idea. If people seem excited, you are probably onto something good. But really, it's less about good and bad ideas and more about whether this is the book you WANT to write. If it's the right book for you, you'll know it once you start writing. If you lose interest in the idea or you stall out halfway through or it starts to feel far-fetched, it's not a good idea to continue. It's obviously not the book you want to write, at least not now. Does that mean the idea was not solid? Not necessarily. You could give that idea to another writer who might do great things with it. But if you are not connecting with the story, it's not right for YOU! Ideas come and go for writers. If one idea doesn't work, move on to the next one. It's never a failure to start a project and discover it's not the story you want to write, it's part of the writing process. A chef doesn't keep every recipe he invents. Only the best ones. So if your idea isn't working, set it aside. You may be surprised to find yourself called back to that idea when the time is right. Or you may wind up using a portion of your idea in a future story. There's no such thing as a wasted writing attempt. We learn every time we write.