A Conversation with Sherry North,
author of
Champ's Story: Dogs Get Cancer Too!

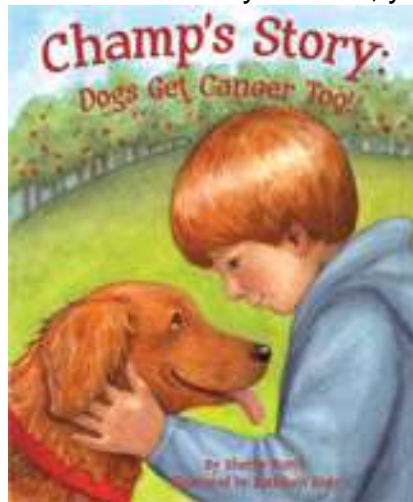**What was your incentive to write this particular book?**
I wanted to create a book to empower children who are coping with cancer, either personally or via a loved one. Although cancer can make people feel helpless, there are certain things that remain in your control.

When did you become interested in writing?
I wrote my first "book" in second grade – the cover was made of red construction paper. After college, I pursued writing as a journalist. After several years of writing "just the facts" I rediscovered my love of fiction.

What is the most frequently asked question you encounter as an author and what is your answer?
People often ask me how they can become a children's author. The answer is to take writing classes and attend workshops and be very open to the feedback you receive. No matter how well you write, you can always learn to make   your stories stronger. Joining an organization like the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators is an excellent way to meet other authors and editors.

What sparks your creativity?
Nothing ignites my creative spark like a little time doing… nothing. Seriously. Long walks or lounging in my hammock give me time to think. I often get my best ideas when I'm on vacation.

What was most challenging about writing *Champ's Story*?
The biggest challenge in writing about cancer was to create a fun, enjoyable story that doesn't make light of the very serious subject matter. I found it rewarding to watch the main character go from feeling sad and guilty to taking charge of his dog's recovery.

Are you a dog person or a cat person?
I always thought I was a cat person until my husband insisted that we get a dog. Now I am a total convert!

Want to continue this conversation? Schedule an interview!
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