

CO-WRITING WITH FAMILY

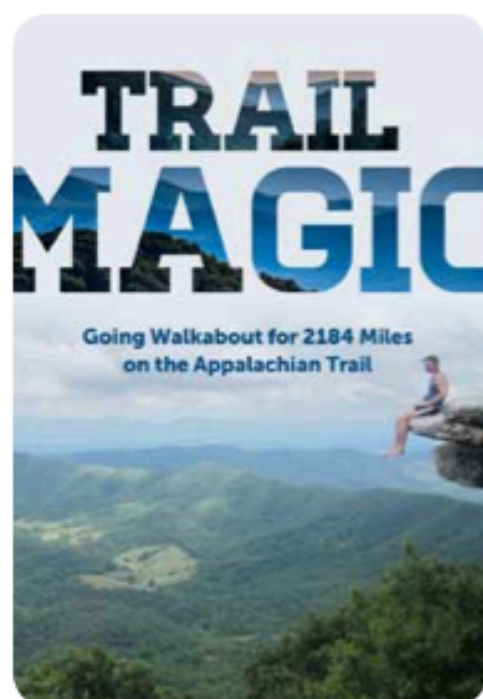
Well known Australian author, Hazel Edwards, offer some tips for writing with your family.

“Adventure memoirs are a good way to encourage local writing and co-writing with family helps. Hints can be applied to writing about any aspect of family life. ‘Trail Magic’ are the kindnesses offered to strangers”.

Co-writing with family is different from co-authoring with a colleague, because you still have to live together afterwards.

‘Is writing your family trade?’ Until then I hadn’t thought of co-writing in that way. It was just a time management and family workstyle. But it also gives our extended family reason to travel & celebrate together.

I’ve co-written two ‘adventure’ books with my son. The two grandsons are yawn-testers and have inspired some stories.



1. Agree on who does what, before you start. E.g. Trevelyan did ALL the THRU walking of the 5 month 2184 miles of the Appalachian Trail which became the ‘Trail Magic’ book. This was the research. I helped with the writing and business side. He wore out two pairs of boots.
2. Allow for differences in attitudes to deadlines or ways of working.
3. Have some family fun where you do NOT mention ‘The BOOK’.
4. Decide on sequence of author names on cover. Put most relevant author first so readers can find it easily, or go alphabetical. We included Quest as Trevelyan’s real middle name because it fitted the adventure book subject.
5. Agree on title and cover.
6. Work from the same version of the ms. Or use Drop box.
7. Possible to co-write even if in different time zones. E.g. Trevelyan lives in Darwin.
8. Invite all family to book launch to celebrate.
9. Knowing you will write about it afterwards, enables you to live more intensively and to share family memories.
10. Son’s viewpoint

When I was growing up, Mum had a home office, so authors and illustrators visited all the time. We had their signed artwork on the walls. But her memoir about the 2001 Antarctic expedition stuck in the polar ice with the chopper crash, inspired me to write my first book ‘Cycling Solo; Ireland to Istanbul’. I realized you could travel and write honestly about what went wrong or the funny stuff. And others liked reading that. But I always put off finishing my writing. I prefer the walking or cycling. That’s why we call it co-authoring. Mum finishes projects.

For more information go to the following links on Hazel’s webpage.

http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/aspiring_writers.html

http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/trail_magic.html

<http://www.hazeledwards.com/shop/category/adventure-writing>