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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

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Cincinnati's Public Library Workshops Start February 23

Princess Diaries Author Teams up with the American Library Association's YALSA to Sponsor Teen Journal Writing Workshops Across the Country

MEG CABOT URGES TEENS TO KEEP JOURNALS, WARNING ABOUT THE DANGERS OF POSTING PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE

February 12, 2008 – Cincinnati: “Girls Going Wild on the Web,” blare the headlines. Online exhibitionism is an enormous issue with teens, but bestselling teen author Meg Cabot and the American Library Association have the solution.



These days almost every teenager seems to have their own MySpace or Facebook page, revealing some of the most private details about their lives for all to read. While these can be great, says Ms. Cabot, the author of *The Princess Diaries*, teens should be cautious about what they put out into cyberspace. Once things are on the Internet, you cannot take them back.

To help teens sort through their thoughts *before* making them public, a series of journal writing workshops organized by Ms. Cabot will be held at libraries across the country including the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. From February 23 through March 29, teens (ages 12-18) are invited to “Get Their Creative Juices Flowing @ the Library” with the *Princess Diaries!* Workshops will be held in the Main Library’s TeenSpot on Monday (March 24 at 3:30 p.m.) and at several branch libraries on Saturdays in Sharonville (February 23 at 2:00 p.m.), Bond Hill (March 1 at 2:00 p.m.), Oakley (March 22 at 3:00 p.m.), and Westwood (March 29 at 2:00 p.m.). During the workshops teens can make their own journal and receive a bookmark with Meg Cabot’s Journal Writing Tips. At the end of each program, there will be a drawing for an autographed copy of a Meg Cabot book!

“I definitely think there is a case of T.M.I. — Too Much Information — being put out there,” says Cabot. “Schools are beginning to crack down on cyber bullying and holding students responsible for what they say about their classmates on their MySpace and Facebook pages and blogs. Teens need to know that some things should just be kept private. That’s the beauty of a journal or a diary. You really can never regret what you wrote, because nobody else sees it.”

Cabot should know. Throughout her teens, she recorded all her angst in diaries. She kept them and now uses them as fodder for her books. However, she still won’t let anybody read them because, as she says, they are far too embarrassing. Besides being a safe place where you can write your innermost thoughts, journals are also one of the best ways for budding writers to improve their craft. “Practice, practice, practice” applies to writing just as much as it does to playing the piano and strengthening your tennis serve. Cabot credits her years of keeping a diary for helping her become a bestselling writer.

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Cabot has teamed up with the American Library Association's YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) to organize "Journal Writing Workshops" for libraries across the country. For these workshops, Cabot has created a list of fun and easy tips to help teens get started. Number 1 on her list: "Always Hide Your Journal"! YALSA has developed a recommended reading list of books for teens whose plot incorporates diaries or journal writing.

Paula Brehm-Heeger, YALSA's president and Manager of the TeenSpot at the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, noted, "For 50 years YALSA has been finding unique ways to connect teens to books. Books that feature journal or diary writing often have special appeal to young adults, especially those who seek to make meaning of their teen years through their own writing."

Journal Writing Workshops for Teens

- Saturday, February 23 - 2:00 p.m.
Sharonville Branch Library
10980 Thornview Dr.
(513) 369-6049
- Saturday, March 1 - 2:00 p.m.
Bond Hill Branch Library
1740 Langdon Farm Rd.
(513) 369-4445
- Saturday, March 22 - 3:00 p.m.
Oakley Branch Library
4033 Gilmore Ave.
(513) 369-6038
- Monday, March 24 - 3:30 p.m.
Main Library, Teenspot
800 Vine St.
(513) 369-7887
- Saturday, March 29 – 2:00 p.m.
Westwood Branch Library
3345 Epworth Ave.
(513) 369-4474

**Call the branch to register for the workshop
or for more information.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Meg Cabot was born on February 1, 1967, during the Chinese astrological year of the Fire Horse, a notoriously unlucky sign. Fortunately she grew up in Bloomington, Indiana, where few people were aware of the stigma of being a fire horse -- at least until Meg became a teenager, when she flunked freshman Algebra twice, then decided to cut her own bangs. After six years as an undergrad at Indiana University, Meg moved to New York City (in the middle of a sanitation worker strike) to pursue a career as an illustrator, at which she failed miserably, forcing her to turn to her favorite hobby—writing novels—for emotional succor. She worked various jobs to pay the rent, including a decade-long stint as the assistant manager of a 700-bed freshmen dormitory at NYU, a position she still occasionally misses.

She is now the author of nearly 50 books for both adults and teens, selling fifteen million copies worldwide, many of which have been #1 New York Times bestsellers, most notably *The Princess Diaries* series, which is currently being published in over 38 countries, and was made into two hit movies by Disney. In addition, Meg wrote the *Mediator* and *1-800-Where-R-You?* series (on which the television series, "Missing," was based), two All-American Girl books, *Teen Idol*, *Avalon High*, *How to Be Popular*, *Pants on Fire*, *Jinx*, a series of novels written entirely in email format (*Boy Next Door*, *Boy Meets Girl*, and *Every Boy's Got One*), a mystery series (*Size 12 Is Not Fat/ Size 14 Is Not Fat Either/Big Boned*), and a chick-lit series called *Queen of Babble*.

Meg is now writing a new middle grade series called *Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls*, as well as an edgy new YA series, *Airhead*, both of which debut in Spring of 2008. Her new paranormal series, *Abandon*, debuts in the summer of 2009.

Meg currently divides her time between Key West, Indiana, and New York City with a primary cat (one-eyed Henrietta), various back-up cats, and her husband, who doesn't know he married a fire horse. Please don't tell him.

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