

Ideas for Questions to ask your Mississippi author/writer

Your interview can be in person, by phone, by email, by letter.

Be sure you introduce yourself and explain that you are a junior at Starkville High School engaged in a research paper about them as a Mississippi writer and that the information you find will be written into a biography and book review to be placed on the web site called *Mississippi Writers and Musicians* at

<http://www.SHS.Starkville.K12.MS.US/mswm/MSWritersAndMusicians>

(It might be easier to type "**Mississippi Writers and Musicians**" in **google.com** and have the site come up.

Be sure to thank them for the interview and their help!!!

Note: Choose the best questions for your author. Add questions of your own as you talk to the writer. You might want to ask if they will be in the Starkville or Columbus area any time in the next few months so that you could meet them in person or have them come to our class. We could also get a picture of the two of you together!!

1. Ask any biographical information that you could not find in your research searches: place of birth, birth date, parents' names, their childhood memories, high school, college, etc.
2. When did you know you wanted to be a writer?/ Was there something in particular that got you interested in writing?
3. How difficult was it to get your first book published? How did you go about it?
4. Is _____ (name of book), even though fiction, based on your life? Did you base the characters in the book _____ (name of book) on people you know or knew?
5. Who is/are your favorite author/authors?
6. What author do you think has influenced you the most?
7. Why did you decide to write about _____ as the subject of _____ (name of book)? How long did it take you to write _____? Where did you get the idea for this book?
8. What kind of student were you in high school?
9. Are you currently working on a new book? What is it called? When will it be published? Do you have a title for it yet? What is it about?.
10. Have you received any awards I don't have listed? (check your research info before asking)
11. **How has Mississippi or living in Mississippi influenced your writing?**
12. Besides writing, what else do you like to do?
13. Do you have any advice for future writers?
14. Do you have any advice for students today?

Ask them to send you a photo or two that we can use on our *Mississippi Writers and Musicians* web site.

Also, **ask any other questions you can think of from your readings** (about characters, plots, themes, etc.) **or from what the author says to you..** You might also look at other interviews done by previous students on the SHS web page/Mississippi Writers and Musicians