

General Topic - Something precious to me		
Specific Topic - Cats (not dogs)		
↓	<u>WHY #1</u>	↓
I love that they do not see me as the boss. They think we are equals.		
↓	Develop Why #1 WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN HOW (Circle the question word(s) you will use to go deeper.)	↓
How do you know they don't think you're the boss? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do not pick a cat up. They come to you. Cats don't come when you call. They grace you with their presence when they so choose. Cats don't obey. They openly defy you just to see what you will do about it. 		
↓	<u>WHY #2</u> Focus on the richest idea in your development	↓
Why do I like it that my cats see me as an equal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I do not want to be responsible for any more people. 		
↓	Develop Why #2 WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN HOW (Circle the question word(s) you will use to go deeper.)	↓
Who are you responsible for? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am responsible for helping my students learn. I am responsible for checking in on my mom, getting her groceries, making sure her house stays fairly clean and her yard trim, her nails are cut, her prescriptions picked. I am responsible for shopping and cleaning and laundry and paying bills and scheduling repairs and planning holidays and vacations for my family. I am responsible for being there to listen to and wisely advise my family when they need me. 		
↓	<u>WHY #3</u> Focus on the richest idea in your development	↓
Why do I not want to be responsible for any more people? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am at the tipping point. I can't handle any more responsibility. 		
↓	Develop Why #3 WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN HOW (Circle the question word(s) you will use to go deeper.)	↓
What does it feel like to beat the tipping point? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes I want to run away or hide, so I can be alone. I will be really sad when I am not needed any more, when my mother is no longer alive, when my kids are grown and gone, when I have retired from teaching, but I look forward to those odd Saturdays when my husband has taken my son hunting, my daughter is in Ann Arbor visiting a friend, my sister has come into town and is staying with my mom, and there are no papers to grade. 		
↓	<u>WHY #4</u> Focus on the richest idea in your development	↓
Why do you like to be alone? Then when I am alone, I get to do what I want and go where I want and see who I want.		
↓	Develop that Why WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN HOW (Circle the question word(s) you will use to go deeper.)	↓
What do you like to do? Where do you like to go? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like to go for a long walk. I like ride my bike up to the cider mill on the trail. I like to sit on the porch in the evening once I have worn myself out and watch the wind blow through the pine trees in the backyard. And this is when I am most grateful for my cats. 		
↓	<u>WHY #5</u> Focus on the richest idea in your development	↓
Why are you grateful for your cats then? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because I am alone but not alone. 		
↓	Develop that Why WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN HOW (Circle the question word(s) you will use to go deeper.)	↓

Fitzgerald

How can you be alone but not alone?

- When I am gone on my bike ride, the cats don't miss me or need me to get home at a certain time to feed them or let them out.
- But when I ride into the drive way it never fails that they are there in the window watching me ride up. They are then on the step into the kitchen when I walk in from the garage, not jumping up for pets or asking me to play, but just happy to see me.
- When I get a cup of tea and go sit out onto the porch, they are there already.
- One might sit on the ledge making slowly closing his eyes and smiling when I look at him in that way they have of saying I love you.
- As I sit back on the chaise lounge, the other will come curl up next me, one paw on my leg and his chin on his paw.
- He starts to purr, and his purrs make me feel like I am purring.
- They came to be with me just because they wanted to.
- We are all just happy and quiet.
- And there are no "have to"s.

Instructions

1. Starting with the specific topic and ask yourself why.
 2. Now develop that why by asking questions to get detail (who, what, where, how, when) .
 3. Find the richest word or idea in the development and ask "Why?" to go deeper.
 4. Repeat
- Do not ask about something that the level did not focus on.
 - Purposefully try to deepen your ideas; do not settle for a quick, simple answer or go sideways, because then you won't really have found the ideas you need to write.
 - You will know when you have hit the root of the topic, the real why at the bottom of it all.