Directions: **Read the poem several times and as you read, highlight some of your favorite lines.**

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| **So you want to be a writer?** |  |
| by [Charles Bukowski](http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/394) | |
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| if it doesn't come bursting out of you  in spite of everything,  don't do it.  unless it comes unasked out of your  heart and your mind and your mouth  and your gut,  don't do it.  if you have to sit for hours  staring at your computer screen  or hunched over your  typewriter  searching for words,  don't do it.  if you're doing it for money or  fame,  don't do it.  if you have to sit there and  rewrite it again and again,  don't do it.  if it's hard work just thinking about doing it,  don't do it.  if you're trying to write like somebody  else,  forget about it.  if you have to wait for it to roar out of  you,  then wait patiently.  if it never does roar out of you,  do something else.  if you first have to read it to your wife  or your girlfriend or your boyfriend  or your parents or to anybody at all,  you're not ready.  don't be like so many writers,  don't be like so many thousands of  people who call themselves writers,  don't be dull and boring and  pretentious, don't be consumed with self-  love.  the libraries of the world have  yawned themselves to  sleep  over your kind.  don't add to that.  don't do it.  unless it comes out of  your soul like a rocket,  unless being still would  drive you to madness  don't do it.  unless the sun inside you is  burning your gut,  don't do it.  when it is truly time,  and if you have been chosen,  it will do it by  itself and it will keep on doing it  until you die or it dies in you.  there is no other way.  and there never was. |  |

More Directions: **Read the poem one more time, and STAR your favorite line. In the blank space below, explain why it is your favorite line and why…**