

DESERT ANIMAL WRITER TRAITS by Marianne Mitchell

- 1) Like **quail** chicks, follow the leaders by reading and learning from published authors.
- 2) Be a word **pack rat**, finding and collecting great words to use in your own writing.
- 3) Strike like a **rattlesnake** when a juicy idea crosses your path.
- 4) Write every day, determined as an **ant** who never gives up, even if obstacles are in the way.
- 5) Be a **rabbit**, nibbling away at mistakes in spelling and grammar.
- 6) Keep polishing and re-writing like the **cactus wren** who builds and re-builds his nest until it's just right.
- 7) Like a **mockingbird**, listen to and practice other voices to make your writing sing.
- 8) Work together like **prairie dogs**, sharing your writing and helping each other do better.
- 9) Have tough **javelina** skin so your feelings don't get hurt when your writing is critiqued or gets rejected.
- 10) And when your work is published,
yip-howl like a **coyote**,
telling all the world.



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