How do you know you are a writer? Canadian junior author, Sierra Ret, shares a story from her writing life. How do I know I’m a writer? That was one of the many questions I was asking myself one freezing afternoon, but to be honest it wasn’t the most pressing. Truthfully, I was far more concerned with how I was going to collect today’s yield of tree sap without falling flat on my face. It was supposed to be spring—the calendar said so. March 20th, first day of spring in the northern hemisphere.

I cannot read a non-fiction book without a highlighter. (On the Kindle, I use the built-in highlighter function). I prefer yellow, though I have been known to use pink in a pinch. I highlight anything that resonates with me in some way. The better the book, the more I highlight. We know the reason people want to read good fiction: to be entertained and to escape reality, if only for a short while. But with nonfiction, instead of looking for a way to escape, readers are searching for better ways to cope with their difficulties. Related: How to Outline a Nonfiction Book. By the end of the journey, although they won’t be destroying Orcs or battling demons, you can show them how to live a better life, make more money, or scale up their skills to create that dream job of living as an entrepreneur.