1. Birds
2. Freedom
3. Change
4. Joy

Birds are like ideas, they are everywhere, in everything, in all that we do. To some people, they mean freedom. Freedom to soar above the clouds. To others, they are harbingers of death, but this can simply mean a change from one state to another. Birds can also mean peace or joy. Nothing is better than the sound of chirping birds first thing in the morning. Hopping on my doorstep like popcorn, birds and our ideas about writing are one and the same.

1. Freedom
2. E.L. Doctorow’s “Headlights”
3. Can go anywhere
4. Motivation

With writing, our ideas, like birds, can take us anywhere. In the short story “Bird by Bird” by Anne Lamott, she quotes E.L. Doctorow who tells us writing is like “driving a car at night. You can see only as far as your headlights…” This tells us that writing can take us into the unknown, the deep blue sea, or anywhere our ideas can fly. However, it takes a good dose of motivation. Without motivation, our ideas are like birds on a wire, stuck with only half our brain engaged.