

WebQuest

**By Paula Anderson
Cardston, AB Canada**

Touching Spirit Bear
By Ben Mikaelson

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Before Reading the novel

Look at the following web site about author Ben Mikaelson and answer the following questions:

<http://www.benmikaelson.com/>

1. What unique pet does Mr. Mikaelson have?
2. What is the title of another of his novels?
3. What is one piece of advice Ben Mikaelson gives young writers? (go to Home page)
hint: it is a quote by Ben and is in italics
4. Where do Mr. Mikaelson and his wife live now?
5. Where and when was he born? www.wikipedia.org (Search Author)
6. What 2 prestigious awards has he won?
7. Name one DVD Ben offers.
8. Read and summarize one of the stories from Buffy's Corner.
9. How many different presentations does Ben offer?
10. What is the author's email address?
11. What is Ben's newest book?
12. Name the three adventures Ben has been on.
13. How many years has he been writing?
14. How much does it cost to feed Buffy in a year?
15. How long does it take him to write one book?
16. Recently Ben was featured nationally on _____ and _____.

17. How many years has Buffy been with Ben?
18. How can Ben visit us without leaving his hometown?
19. Name the location and type of presentation Ben will be doing on May 10, 2010.
20. What part of the website is animated?

1. Buffy is a 7-foot, 700-pound black bear!

2. • Tree Girl • Red Midnight • Touching Spirit Bear • Petey • Stranded • Sparrow Hawk Red • Rescue Josh McGuire

3. Writing is storytelling and all of us are authors, not just of words but of reality. You are the author of your life, so go out and live! Then never quit writing about it!"-Ben

4. Ben lives in a log cabin near Bozeman, Montana, with a 750-pound black bear that he adopted and has raised for the last twenty-five years.

5. La Paz, Bolivia 1952

6. the International Reading Association Award and the Western Writer's Golden Spur Award

7. [Becoming the Author of Your Life](#)

[Positive Teaching Methods...Working With At-Risk Students \(Adult Workshop\)](#)

[Research...Finding the "Heart of a Story"](#)

[How to Tell a Story...That Will Scare Ben's Socks and Shoes Off!](#)

8. [Bringing Baby Home](#)

[Raising a Rascal](#)

[Watch Out for That . . . Tongue!](#)

[Finally, a Bond Develops](#)

[Wild Animals Are Not Pets](#)

[Guarding Buffy](#)

[Time to Sleep, Bear](#)

9. 8

10. ben@benmikaelsen.com

11. "Ghost of Spirit Bear"

12. [North Pole Adventure](#)

[South America Adventure](#)

[Florida Keys](#)

13. **How many years have you been writing books?** I started in 1984 full time. It took me almost 6 years and 127 rejections before "[Rescue Josh McGuire](#)" was published.

14. **How much does it cost to feed Buffy in a year?** I'm not even sure I want to think about that.....But the produce he eats is all given to me free and grazing on grass is free. The grains cost about \$500-600. per year.

15. **How long does it take to write one book?** About 2 months of research. Then it takes approximately 4 months to write a rough draft, and then 6 months to rewrite. I spend more time rewriting, so in a way I should be called a rewriter instead of a writer.

16. Recently Ben was featured nationally on Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures and also on German national TV.

17. 25 years

18. Videoconferencing technology

19. Cardston, Alberta – Videoconference

20. Bear paws