

Write Your Best

April 2009 Newsletter

Cindy Barrilleaux

Dear Friend,

You have received this newsletter because a while ago you expressed an interest in writing. Hope you find it useful!

Do you have questions about writing or publishing? Send them to me at cindy@writeyourbest.com and I'll answer them in the next newsletter.

Writing What Really Matters to You

When you get discouraged with the difficulties of writing, remember that they are the stuff of movies. If your dream is to write, and you're writing something that really matters to you, then you are the hero of every heroic film. Last night, I watched "The Music Within," a movie about Richard Pimentel, the Vietnam war veteran responsible for the passage of the American's with Disabilities Act. From beginning to end, he had to overcome all sorts of terrible problems, fighting the temptation to give up in the face of disappointment, failure, injury. He was able to persevere because he had discovered what mattered to him, and he followed it, no matter how hard. In the end, he changed the lives of disabled people and their families all over the world. You, too, can change the lives of people who read your writing. All you have to do is believe in your dream. Then be willing to fail, pick yourself up again, and keep going. And you can keep your difficulties in perspective by a diet of good movies about heroes.

Lighten Up!

Every year the Dark and Stormy Night Competition is held to determine the "most heinous felonies committed on the English language by high school students." The winners for this year are below. You'll laugh while you wince.

1. Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two sides gently compressed by a Thigh Master.
2. His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.
3. He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at

Quotes for Writers

"I don't know which way to turn. I cannot decide what to write next. That which I desire to write does not seem to be what the editors want. I am full of stories and zeal and fire, yet I am inhibited by doubt, by fear that my feeling for life is false."

--Zane Grey, after many rejections of his stories. He went on to write 90 books.



"To have painted a painting does not empty the vessel out of which the paintings come. On the contrary, it is the talent which is not in use that is lost or atrophies, and to bestow one of our creations is the surest way to invoke the next. ...giving the first creation away makes the second one possible. Bestowal creates the empty place into which new energy may flow. The alternative is petrification, writer's block, the flow of life backed up."

--May Sarton, *Journal of a Solitude*

Recommended Book for Writers



A Writer's Paris: A Guided Journey for the Creative Soul, by Eric Maisel

The small, enticing book will put you in the mood to find a picturesque cafe or park and write volumes. Maisel, who regularly goes to Paris to write, often taking other writers, believes that it is a sure way to get yourself to write regularly. Each chapter is both a guide

a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.

4. She grew on him like she was a colony of Ecoli and he was room-temperature Canadian Ham.
5. She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before it throws up.
6. Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
7. He was as tall as a six-foot-three-inch tree.
8. The revelation that his marriage of 30 years had disintegrated because of his wife's infidelity came as a rude shock, like a surcharge at a formerly surcharge-free ATM.
9. The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.
10. McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty bag filled with vegetable soup.
11. From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you're on vacation in another city and Jeopardy comes on at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30.
12. Her hair glistened in the rain like a nose hair after a sneeze.
13. The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.
14. Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.
15. They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth.
16. John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.
17. He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant and she was the East River.
18. Even in his last years, Grandpappy had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been left out so long, it had rusted shut.
19. Shots rang out, as shots are wont to do.
20. The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.
21. The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.
22. He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.
23. The ballerina rose gracefully en pointe and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.
24. It was an American tradition, like fathers chasing kids around with power tools.
25. He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.
26. Her eyes were like limpid pools, only they had forgotten to put in any pH cleanser.
27. She walked into my office like a centipede with 98 missing legs.
28. It hurt the way your tongue hurts after you accidentally staple it to the wall.

Happy Writing!

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If you know someone who is writing or wants to write, and

to writing and a guide to Paris. By the time you're finished, you may be dreaming of writing in a far off place.

Recommended Website

www.manageyourwriting.com



Kenneth W. Davis is one of my favorite writing teachers. This site is his daily blog on ways to improve your writing, plus a free e-book and recommended websites for managing your writing. The blurb at the top of his site says, "In fact, writing is a process that can be managed, like any other business process. If you can manage people, money, or time--then you can manage your writing." Visit this website often.

Congratulations to Sally Palaian!



Sally's book, *Spent: Break the Buying Obsession and Discover Your True Worth*, has just been published by Hazelden Press. If you or someone you love has ever struggled with overspending or chronically depriving yourself, buy this book. Sally's an expert on the subject, and her book is informative and user friendly.

More Resources for Writers

To see more Recommended Books and Websites for Writers, visit the Resources/Links page on my website: www.writeyourbest.com/resources

Is Writing Coaching for You?

If you want to get started writing, and wonder if writing coaching can help, check out my [Introductory Special Offer](#). It's an inexpensive, low-risk way to take a test drive.

think they'd be interested, forward this newsletter to them.

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