

Get Writing

Session 2

KWR310X Autumn session

30th Sept

Mike Howarth

Exercise 1: on the computer

- **Finding your own strengths**

- **Type up on the Computer**

- 1) What kind of writing do you like?

Fiction; Non fiction autobiography, historical novel poetry, memoir, new journalism, nature writing, and the literature of place?

- 2) What would I like to improve in the subject?

- 3) What are my strength in the subject?

- 4) What would I like to achieve at the end of the course?

- 5) Why am I here?

Exercise 2: On the computer

- Write a short story outline. 1 page only.
 - 1) Use the ‘What would happen if...?’ approach to stimulate ideas.
 - What would happen if the lights suddenly went out in the room.
 - What would happen if the door burst open andt.
 - 2) Note basics of story outline: A person. A subject. An event. An outcome.

Starter ideas

Writing from Life

- Use your own experience.
- Use fragments – little bits and pieces.
- Use any little encounter.

Writing from personal interest

- Investigate and research a subject that you are passionate about.
- Enjoy getting all your facts straight.

Starter ideas

Look for ideas in:

- Newspapers– Is there an event that could be fictionalised?
- Biographies– Is another person's life good material?
- Plays/Movies– Is there a scene or character that could be expanded into a whole new story?
- Activities– Does a sport or activity contain a whole world of people with interesting stories?

Starter ideas

Inspiration Triggers

- Adaptation is one way of finding inspiration from existing material. Your version of the Canterbury Tales

Searching for a story often starts with finding the right characters.

- They grow out of characters.
- Inspiration can also come from other storytellers, i.e memory of my family is people chatting – people telling jokes and stories.

Writer's Toolkit

Mike Howarth

Toolkit elements

- ❖ Toolkit 1: Writer's room basics
- ❖ Toolkit 2a: Microtips, write, rewrite methods
- ❖ Toolkit 2b: Microtips Con't
- ❖ Toolkit 3: Ask yourself questions
- ❖ Toolkit 4: Discipline & Order
- ❖ Toolkit 5: Plot
- ❖ Toolkit 6a: Character
- ❖ Toolkit 6b: Character Con't
- ❖ Toolkit 7: Ad hoc tips

Toolkit elements

- ❖ Toolkit 1: Writer's room basics
- ❖ Toolkit 2a: Microtips, write, rewrite methods
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- ❖ Toolkit 3: Ask yourself questions
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- ❖ Toolkit 7: Ad hoc tips

Toolkit 1: Writer's room basics

- A place of your own
- Comfort zone
- Resources: Books
- Aids: notebooks, files, stickies, whiteboard
- Good practice: filing, filenames
- Fads, fancies, foibles, eccentricities, obsessions are OK.



MAKING MULTIMEDIA IN THE CLASSROOM
A TEACHERS' GUIDE Vivi Lachs

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AND AUTHENTIC LEARNING
EDITED BY ANGELA MCFARLANE
Scribner Doris

How to Focus an Evaluation

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi *Flow - The Psychology of Happiness*
E. Relph

place and placelessness

Yuan *Space and Place* - Arno

PHILOSOPHY IN THE FLESH
THE ENLIGHTENED AND
AND HIS CHALLENGE TO
WESTERN THOUGHT
LAKOFF AND JOHNSON

ROBSON
REAL WORLD RESEARCH

Journal of Computer Assisted Learning

THE SEVEN BASIC PLOTS
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER

PETER ACKROYD
ALBION
THE ORIGINS OF THE ENGLISH IMAGINATION
MARTIN JOHNSON



JOSEPH CAMPBELL THE HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES





For next week

Session 2 Homework

Why not try one of these ideas?

- 1) Write a blurb or review of a book you might want to write.
- 2) Make notes on how the book idea might develop: chapter headings, character-anything that comes to mind.