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

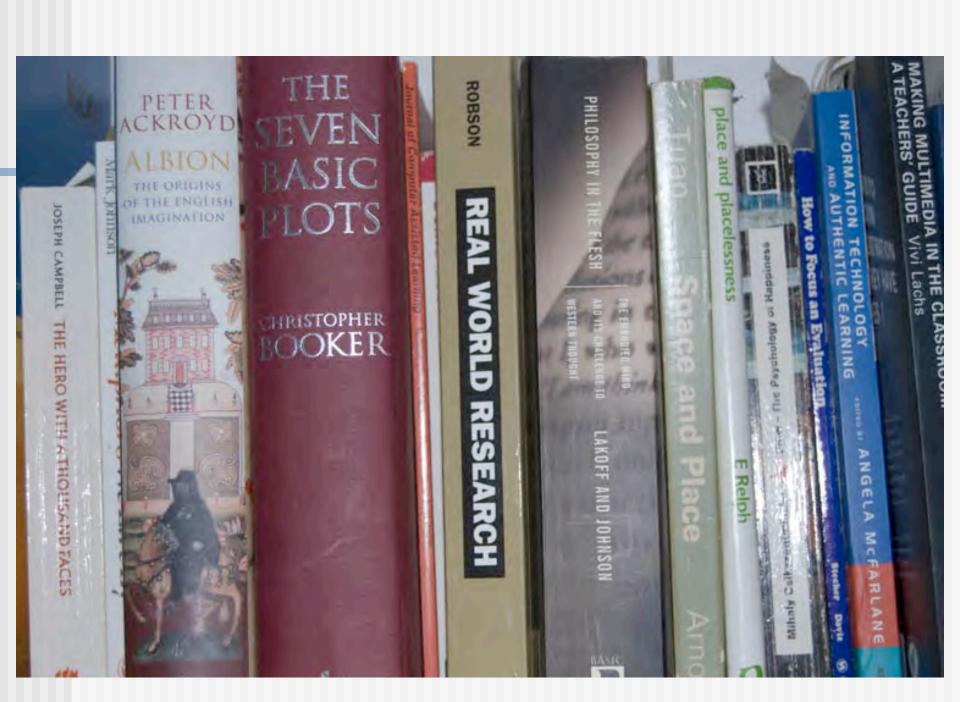
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Toolkit 1: Writer's room basics

- 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.











For next week

Session 2 Homework Why not try one of these ideas?

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