

# Writing Life

## The Ordinary Facets of Life

The mundane, the ordinary are a significant part of the writer's world. Pay close attention to the minute facets of everyday life. To draw your reader into your character's life, you need to include aspects of life we all know. The coffee mug half-filled with yesterday's coffee, the five year old with chocolate ice cream dripping from his chin, the aroma of freshly baked bread which encompasses a house all are small, but significant factors which pull a reader into the character's world. These details set the scene, give clues to the character's world and are elements with which we can all identify.

Using those details help set up your character. An office with several half-filled cups of cold coffee and stacks of paper plates with bits of pizza crust and moldy cheese creates a picture of the office and the lifestyle of your character.

Pay attention to the details of your day.

- The sounds of computer tapping as it echoes in a cubicle
- The welcome splash of coffee in the first morning cup of energy
- The meow of a cat awaiting breakfast
- Clips of random words overheard in the employee lounge
- The soft beep of a hummingbird as he flits from feeder to feeder near one's screened in porch.

Listen carefully for a day. What sounds are part of your ordinary day?

## Writing Life

**The Writing Life page offers suggestions for all writers. Quotes may inspire reactions in journals or articles. or may spark a story idea. Quotes or the "what if" suggestions may spark a story idea or two... Writing Life suggestions will change weekly. If you like a suggestion or want to share a comment, please respond under contacts on my web site:**

### Jumpstart writing idea:

**"There is only one trait that marks the writer the writer. He is always watching. It's a kind of trick of the mind and he is born with it." Morley Callaghan**

**Writers are people watchers. The characters we create are composites of the glimpses of those we pass in a grocery store, the snatches of conversation overheard at a restaurant and mannerisms of friends and relatives. Everyone we see adds to our writer's palette of character traits and movement.**

**Take a journal with you shopping. Study the cashiers as you wait in line. What do they choose to talk about, how do they package the customers items, how does one cashier differ from the other. Which could become a character in your writing?**

**An episode of Desperate Housewives chose the common, mundane details of an everyday shopping day to create a powerful, suspenseful scene. The little details we all recognized drew us into that story. What observations do you notice in your shopping? What sounds provide the background?**

**Writing Life will also include descriptions of guest speaker topics, a listing and description of writers' workshops. I enjoy sharing ideas with others and am available as a guest speaker or writing workshop moderator for clubs, reading groups, writing groups and other organizations.**

**Speaking engagement topics include:**

## **PASSION**

**Passion drives our lives; be that passion for one's lover, job or hobby. Utilizing one's passion can be a driving force and contributes to a fulfilling life. "Live with passion. Passion for life, for work, for one's love. A life with passion bursts forth each morning blooming with colors and alive with fragrances and joy. Life without passion is uninspiring and mundane." RB**

---

## **DON'T TELL MY ENGLISH TEACHER, I CAN'T REMEMBER THE RULE**

**Which word? Affect/ effect? A semi-colon where? What colon? What use would I have for a description? This is a fun and humorous refresher of rules you can now use on the job, at home, in business writing and in creative endeavors.**

---

## **ROMANCING YOUR LOVE.**

**Be that love a person or your book. Romance is more than remembering one's anniversary, or dinner by candlelight. Romance enriches our lives, brightens our days and creates that special smile. Romance can spark a new relationship and revitalize the feelings in an old one. Romantic gestures, words or rituals reflect a character's personality or heighten the sensual tension between two lovers. How has romance affected you day today?**

---

## **CREATING CHARISMATIC CHARACTERS**

**Readers identify with characters in a story and quickly become involved in their goals,**

problems and needs. Writers are people watchers and creating a realistic character is challenging and fun. What believable character lurks within your vision? Choosing specific details to create a unique character are described.

---

## **HE SAID, SHE SAID**

How does dialogue reveal character, provide background, and create tension in a story? The few words between quotation marks empower your story. Learn how to effective dialogue to highlight character and develop plot. Excerpts from other authors provide supportive examples

---

## **STORYTELLING IN OUR LIVES.**

Parents, teachers use anecdotes to support points and kids listen. Storytelling has passed won a country's history or a family's history. Storytelling attracts us to novels we read. What stores attract you? How does storytelling still influence today's world?

---

## **FINDING YOUR MUSE**

A blank page or a blank screen is a writer's enemy. Ancient Greeks thought muses inspired writing, sculpture, art. How to find your muse to have a steady flow of ideas or to get past the writer's block that interrupted your story is the focus. Whether you are a beginner or professional writer, the empty page can be unnerving. This invigorating workshop offers clues and ideas for all writers.

---

## **JOURNAL WRITING**

For a writer, writing in a journal is like warm-up routine for an athlete. It enhances one's performance and strengths one's talents. Journals inspire ideas, create a personal style and alleviate stress. Journals are also great vehicles to record personal histories, work through problems, and celebrate one's life. How to use a journal to enhance your writing and how journals add to life's moments will be part of the workshop. This is not the diary of an adolescent or even Bridget Jones; this is journaling to celebrate life and to expand writing skills.