



Paragraph 3: Read It, Write It, Share It

Writing @ your library
Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center

¶3 is a teen writer's group dedicated to supporting young writers through group discussion, collaboration, critique, and presentation. Teens may bring all types of writing – short stories, poetry, graphic novels, and journals – to share with peers and staff advisors. This group will also support open mic readings and the occasional book discussion.

Ground rules:

1. Play Nice! Respect your fellow group members, regardless of differences in age, stage of life, level of writing ability, or any of a hundred other possible sources of division.
2. Read the other person's work with the same care you expect the others to give your own efforts.
3. When offering a critique, start by saying what you *like* about the piece; then move on to what doesn't work for you. If you have trouble finding *something* positive to say, you're not looking hard enough.
4. *Always* direct your criticism at the work, not the writer. There is no room in a workshop for personal attacks or insults.
5. If you can, offer constructive suggestions for fixing problems. If you don't know *how* to fix it, be honest and say that, too.
6. Be honest, but supportive. Offer criticism as you would like to receive it.
7. When on the receiving end, listen quietly. Ask for clarification if you don't understand the criticism. But otherwise let the work speak for itself. Don't try to defend it.
8. *After* you've heard all the critiques, you may want to talk about what you were trying to do. At this point, there may be back-and-forth discussion about how you could better achieve your purpose.

http://www.writesf.com/12_Lesson_04_Workshops.html

Tips on being critiqued:

When your work is being critiqued in the group, you should do the following:

Take notes. Even if you disagree with a criticism, take note of it. Later on, you may realize that you actually see that person's point after thinking about it for a while.

Don't defend. Defending is when you interrupt someone's critique with something like "oh, you don't understand what I was getting at," usually followed by an explanation or clarification. Remember that you won't be able to explain or clarify like this with an editor or publisher, and you should simply keep listening and take note that the person had a problem with this section. Similarly, don't ask questions, unless you don't understand a comment and need clarification. It's much more important for you to listen during a critique than it is for you to talk.

<http://www.sff.net/people/dan.perez/writing/groups.htm>

Books:

Dearman, Jill. *Bang the Keys: Four Steps to a Lifelong Writing Practice*. Indianapolis, IN: Alpha Books, 2009.

Dunn, Jessica, and Danielle Dunn. *A Teen's Guide to Getting Published: Publishing for Profit, Recognition, and Academic Success*. Waco, Tex: Prufrock Press, 2006.

Edgerton, Leslie. *Hooked: Write Fiction That Grabs Readers at Page One and Never Lets Them Go*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Writer's Digest Books, 2007.

Hanley, Victoria. *Seize the Story: A Handbook for Teens Who Like to Write*. Fort Collins, Colo.: Cottonwood Press, 2008.

Mazer, Anne, Ellen Potter, and Matt Phelan. *Spilling Ink: A Young Writer's Handbook*. New York: RB Flash Point/Roaring Brook Press, 2010.

Writer's Market Guide to Getting Published. Cincinnati, Ohio: Writer's Digest Books, 2010.

Questions? Comments?
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Please contact Missy Lang, Assistant Youth Services Coordinator
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Headquarters Library

Online Resources and articles:

Creative Writing and Description

http://research-writing-techniques.suite101.com/article.cfm/creative_writing_and_description

Copyright and Fair Use Overview

http://fairuse.stanford.edu/Copyright_and_Fair_Use_Overview/

Invaluable information about copyright, fair use, and public domain in easy-to-understand language by Stanford University Libraries.

For Writers

www.forwriters.com

Database of resources for writing information on the internet and marketing information for publishing your work

The Market List

www.marketlist.com

The online resource for genre fiction writers: news, articles, interviews

National Novel Writing Month

<http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/resources>

It is a fun, seat-of-your-pants novel writing event where the challenge is to write an entire novel in just 30 days.

Nicola Scott: Why Self Publishing Books Looks More and More Attractive

<http://asknicola.blogspot.com/2010/08/why-self-publishing-looks-more-and-more.html>

Positive Narration and Vibrant Description: How to Capture the Reader and Write Better Fiction

http://research-writing-techniques.suite101.com/article.cfm/positive_narration_and_vibrant_description

Script Buddy

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

Web-based program conforms your script to proper screenplay format specifications. Free version available.

Script Frenzy

<http://ywp.scriptfrenzy.org/overview>

Script Frenzy is a writing event in which participants of all ages attempt to write a movie, play, TV show, or comic book in the month of April.

Susan Beth Pfeffer (YA author): Tips for Young Writers

<http://susanbethpfeffer.blogspot.com/2009/04/tips-for-young-writers.html>

Writer's Café

www.writerscafe.org

Online writing community with resources for finding an agent and literary publisher, as well as improving your craft.

Writing With All Five Senses: Readers Relate With More Description Using All the Senses

http://research-writing-techniques.suite101.com/article.cfm/writing_with_all_five_senses

WEbook

www.webook.com

Writing community for writers, readers, and literary agents. Submit works, read, and rate others writing. Lots of resources for writers of all skill levels in the WEbook Toolbox.

Select Print on Demand/Self Publishing companies (also called "vanity presses"):

Self Publishing a Book: 25 Things You Need to Know

<http://reviews.cnet.com/self-publishing/>

Science Fiction Writers of America: Print on Demand Publishing Services

<http://www.sfw.org/for-authors/writer-beware/pod/>

Author House

www.authorhouse.com

Dog Ear Publishing

<http://dogearpublishing.net/whydogear.aspx>

provides comparison info between companies

Lightning Source

www.lightningsource.com

Lulu

www.Lulu.com

xLibris

<http://www2.xlibris.com>

Outskirts Press

<http://outskirtspress.com/selfpublishing.html>