

Broad Editing and Services VIEWS ON WRITING

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Dear Writer,

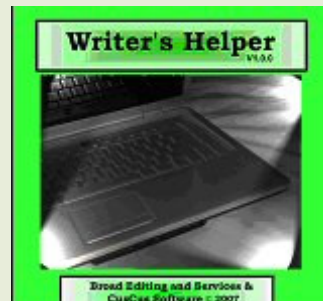
Thank you to all those who responded to test our software, Writer's Helper. It should be out soon so keep a look out.

We hope all you mothers out there had a happy Mother's Day and were spoiled. Before you sit back and ponder the next story you should write, read this month's article about the importance of a title.

From

Writer's Quest Team

Writer's Helper Soon to be released



Writer's Helper is a software package to help writers structure their ideas and plot out their storylines. No need to use scrap pieces of paper any more. Store all your characters, settings, storylines, and more in one handy software package that is easy to use.

Views on Writing: How Important is a Title

by Mary Broadhurst ©2009

Many writers get hung up on the title of their work even

Many writers get hung up on the title of their work even before the first sentence makes it to the page. Titles are important but not at the beginning, as there is plenty of time to find the right title for your work. Don't cease production simply because you're trying to find a breathtaking title. It'll come when it's ready. Having said that, it is useful to give your story a working title in the early stages, it doesn't have to be flash, brilliant or a crowd pleaser, but having a working title helps you - the author - to remind yourself that you are preparing to write something important, something you want to touch your audience. It helps you to commit yourself to the process of many hours of sitting in front of a computer and typing or working with a pen and paper. It helps you to keep your motivation when you become complacent, or consider going out to party or gardening or whatever other excuse you can think of instead of writing. It will happen, especially on large projects, such as a novel, but you need to learn to push through the distractions and your own sabotaging and keep writing.

Whenever you're not actually working on your story, think about alternative titles and jot them down in a notebook. Get into the habit of carrying a notebook around with you, many writers do. You never know where a brilliant idea will come from. Your title may be the result of a conversation, a billboard, a commercial, a song, or even some clever phrase you came up with while writing that you really liked.

Ask other people's opinions on what they think about your list of possible titles. It doesn't make their opinions right or wrong. Don't be afraid to consider other people's suggestions. It doesn't make the book any less yours. In fact, if you chose someone else's idea for a title then that person will feel honoured you thought their suggestion was good enough that you put it on your work. Whatever you do, never steal an idea no matter what it is. If it's stolen then it's not yours and you shouldn't be calling yourself a writer. Inspire to be better, you'll never know just how amazing your work can be if you don't nurture and practise it.

Your final title of your story should be one that catches the eye and sparks the imagination. Providing a reader is searching for a particular author, it's usually the cover of a book that initiates the reader's first attention. A title should impact on the reader also. It may give the reader an insight to the type of story or cause the reader to ponder the mysterious title. A title with a person's name is usually not a good idea unless the person is well known and would help sell the story.

For instance, a book called Helen might be overlooked, but Helen Keller is a well-known name and the reader gets an idea of what the story might be about. If the

gets an idea of what the story might be about. If the reader's interest is peaked then the reader will skim the story's brief on the back cover.

Titles that describe a story can be a good selling tool, such as 'Invasion from Mars' or 'Death at the Track'. If the reader likes the genre that the title indicates then he/she may purchase it. Don't lie or mislead the reader with the title. For instance, calling a book 'Invasion from Mars', which clearly implies an attack from outer space, but is actually about a difficult person called Mars who visits someone and isn't in a hurry to leave. The purchaser may feel robbed and might never purchase another story written by you.

A title that hints at mystery can be a crowd pleaser, like 'The Creature in the Shadows' or 'Secrets Never Die'. Even obscure titles can work, for example, 'Windmill'. Make it so it intrigues readers and makes them flip to the summary to find out more. Try to keep it interesting and avoid boring or unimaginative titles, such as 'Murder'.

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