

Broad Editing and Services

Writers' Corner Solving Writers' Block

Infant to Writer

By M Broadhurst © 2007

- Pick a children's story (such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears)
- Think of the possibilities of what could happen after where the story normally ends
- Ask questions (what happens after Goldilocks leaves the bears' house?)
- Create a new story by finishing the tale

Our introduction into the world of stories began when we were infants when our parents, older siblings, friends or perhaps an aunty or uncle read a bedtime story. Most children love stories, but for those that are destined to write – well, let's just say a seed was planted back then. Somewhere along the line, we evolved from wanting to hear or read stories to wanting to create them. That doesn't mean we don't want to hear someone else's, for it is listening to others that we learn, but the ultimate goal for us is to create worlds, people and situations.

There are so many children's stories these days, but the old favourites keep coming back, they are rewritten and retold because they still contain a certain charm, an innocence that reminds us of our youth and wanting to pass those same treasured memories on to our children. Stop and count how many Cinderella stories you've seen or heard. Ten perhaps? Maybe more? The same can be said for whichever children's story comes to mind. The setting and/or people may be contemporary, but the initial storyline remains. In Cinderella's case: a wrongly done by girl, a handsome suitor who doesn't know her true identity and the wicked stepmother and stepsisters that torment our heroine.

So, for our exercise: pick a children's story, perhaps it was your favourite, maybe it was one that wasn't as well known, or it might even have been one someone made up just for you when you were a child.

Inside this issue:

Writers' Corner Solving Writers' Block: Infant to Writer	1
Views on Writing: How to Write Better Instruction Manuals	2
Sentence Starter ...	2
Word Finder	3
Résumé Builder: Research Those Details	4

Here is a list of a few in case you need a little help remembering them:

- Chicken Little
- Three Little Pigs
- Cinderella
- Beauty and the Beast
- Blue Beard
- Little Red Riding Hood
- Sleeping Beauty
- Peter Pan
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Think about your chosen story and the characters involved and create a story from that. For example, you may want to write about how Cinderella's evil stepsisters were forced into slavery where they learnt humility and the ability to care for others, which in turn resulted in their transformation into better people, and their plight to start an orphanage for the homeless.

Think about the possibilities: how could you twist the Peter Pan tale around, what becomes of Sleeping Beauty after she wakes up or do the Three Bears plot to seek revenge against the golden haired girl who stole their food and broke their furniture. Have fun with it and see where you end up.

Views on Writing

How to Write Better Instruction Manuals

(Reprint Article)

By Brian Konradt ©

If you know how to do something – and can do it well, almost without thinking – it makes sense that you'd want to share this information. What better way to do it than with an instruction manual. Writing an instruction manual may seem complicated and overwhelming, but it is easier than you think. The following tips will instruct you with what to do and how to do it.

Outline your topic

Before you can teach someone how to do something successfully, you need to conceptualise which aspects of the project they need to know. If your topic is complicated, such as how to play the piano, list each chapter and outline the points you need to make. If it's simpler, such as the task of changing a tire, briefly jot down all the steps that come to mind. Don't worry about the details or if you list the steps out of order; we will fix these things later.

Start with the supplies

The most logical way to start an instruction manual is to list the supplies the reader will need for the project. Be as exhaustive with this as possible; your students will thank you. If any of the supplies are expensive or difficult to find, list alternatives or stores that carry the item.

Move step by step

Instead of explaining the task in long paragraphs, break your instruction manual into specific, detailed steps. Give as much direction as possible; if one step requires slightly different tasks, create sub-steps. Think of these as an outline; number or letter the steps accordingly (and logically).

Do the project

If your instruction manual details a tangible project, then complete it using only your written guide. Don't improvise and don't go on your prior knowledge. If it's difficult for you to do this (subjectivity is sometimes next to impossible to ignore), ask a friend to use your manual to complete the project. Look carefully at the finished product; did it turn out as you'd envisioned? Did you miss something important? Continue to revise and describe until your written words encompass every step in the most detailed and effective way possible.

Keep it simple

Writing an instruction manual is different from writing literary fiction; creative wordiness isn't important here – it's clarity you're after. Use short sentences and simple words. Make sure your manual is clear and readable; if the reader can't understand what you're saying, they won't be able to complete your project.

About the Author: Brian Konradt writes articles on English grammar and literacy for

<http://www.LousyWriter.com> and <http://www.LiteracyNews.com>

Source: <http://www.isnare.com>

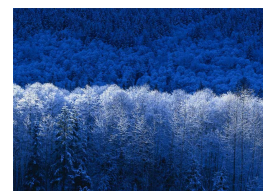
Writing an instruction manual is different from writing literary fiction; creative wordiness isn't important here ...'

Sentence Starter ...

Many writers suffer the 'blank page' complex; therefore, each month we will supply you with a first sentence. Now your page isn't blank any more. Let your imagination take you on a journey.

This issue's sentence starter:

She watched the tree sway to and fro in the wind, such a contrast to the anger she tried to suppress ...



Word Finder

Words can be found horizontally, vertically and back to front.

A	B	D	O	M	E	N	E	A	R	U	N	A	W	A	Y
T	U	R	G	I	D	N	W	R	E	P	E	L	I	A	R
R	M	I	N	T	G	O	E	T	K	N	I	L	N	R	A
Y	P	P	I	N	E	G	D	U	N	O	G	E	O	E	N
S	H	O	W	O	L	A	G	N	U	B	H	G	M	T	I
H	T	N	I	N	D	R	A	Y	B	F	O	R	E	R	D
A	O	R	D	E	E	D	A	T	N	O	M	O	D	O	R
D	A	E	O	M	F	Y	F	O	C	H	E	A	N	P	O
O	C	S	W	O	F	R	A	U	E	E	T	O	B	E	A
W	E	I	E	N	E	A	T	C	Y	D	E	M	E	R	R
S	I	R	R	E	C	N	I	H	E	A	X	E	P	U	T
B	R	O	L	H	T	E	G	Y	I	U	C	L	S	H	X
P	E	R	S	P	I	C	U	O	U	S	E	D	A	T	E
E	E	R	R	E	V	I	E	W	E	R	P	D	E	D	T
E	O	E	M	O	E	V	E	R	Y	E	T	A	R	R	O
R	E	T	A	C	I	T	S	I	H	P	O	S	I	T	W



Word List:

abdomen	leg	reporter
allegro	liar	reviewer
axe	link	rodomontade
bump	near	runaway
bungalow	neigh	saddle
bunker	ninth	sedate
deed	nippy	shadows
demon	nudge	show
dragon	peer	sophisticate
eerie	perspicuous	terrorise
effective	persuade	touchy
every	phenomenon	turgid
except	posit	vicenary
extraordinary	remedy	widower
fatigue	repel	wing
home		

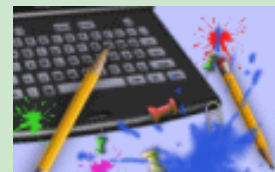
Turn to page 6 for the answers to the Word Finder and the hidden message.

What is the hidden message?

The remaining letters will spell out a message. Can you work it out?

Having trouble with your story or article?

Why not post the problem to our Writers' Workshop forum and gain help from other writers. It's free!



Résumé Builder

Research Those Details

By Mary Broadhurst

It doesn't matter if you are a creative writer or a non-fiction writer, your story or article should contain accurate facts. Don't think that no-one will notice, they will. Have you ever read a story, or even watched a movie, where the facts have obviously not been researched? A few unchecked details can be annoying, and comes across as the author couldn't be bothered. But incorrect fact after incorrect fact can lead the audience to more amusement from picking on the errors than following the storyline – something you don't want unless your intention was to write a piece that leaves your audience rolling around the floor in fits of laughter for all the wrong reasons.



If your piece is completely fantasy then fine, have fun making details up; it's fantasy so who's to say it can't be right. But if you want your story to sound authentic or for you to sound like an expert then the details must be checked. That means more than writing a detail that you 'think' could be right, as far as what you can remember, from something you read or heard years ago.

I can 'see' you nodding as we speak, and admit it – you're going straight to the internet to check your facts, right? Good, but don't forget that anyone can upload information on the internet these days. Blogs, reprint articles and individual web sites are bulging with free information, it's quick, easy and affordable, but that doesn't make it error-free. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying don't use online resources, just make sure the information isn't from an obscure source. Check the information is consistent over a number of sites. If you found twenty sites with the same facts and one site contradicting the information then it would be a safe bet to stick with the majority, especially if they are experts in the required field.

'... make sure the information isn't from an obscure source.'

There are a number of free dictionaries and thesauruses available online, as well as some of my other favourites:

- A great site for checking spelling of streets, suburbs and making sure your street does exist where you say it does at Where is. <http://www.whereis.com>
- State Library <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au>
- Avoid silly time zone traps at <http://www.timezoneconverter.com>

Although I'm a big believer in visiting your local library for its reference material, writers should build up their own reference library. It will save you countless hours to have quality books at your disposal. Every writer should have:

- A good quality dictionary
- A thesaurus
- Atlas

Of course there are others, but it depends on what type of things you write about. For example, if you write poetry then I would recommend reference books that would help such as a rhyming dictionary. If you write crime stories then make it a point to purchase a number of reference materials on police procedures, forensics, and law. These can get costly so treat yourself to one every few months or so, and in the meantime visit the library.



If you have a friend that is an expert in the field you're writing about then ask this friend questions. Or you may be an expert so use your own knowledge in such cases.

From page 5 : Research Those Details

Keep a record of where you obtained the information from because you may need to return to it for follow-up details, or to confirm the answers that you have. If you are ever in doubt about the factual content then research it further.

If you are writing a period piece then make sure your facts fit that period. It can be very distracting to read a character checks his/her mobile phone for the time in an era prior to mobile phones. This is just an example, but things like this can creep into your work – don't let it!

Don't ruin your work to sloppy or lazy research habits, it's better to spend the time researching while writing a piece than having publishers toss it aside because it doesn't sound real or, worst still, have the audience laugh at your work.

Target Setting at Writers' Workshop

Set your weekly targets at Writers' Workshop to help you achieve your goals. It's easy!

Step 1: Log on to, or join, the forum

Step 2: Post your target for that week

Step 3: Achieve your target with the encouragement of other writers

Step 4: Post your outcome and get ready to set new targets for yourself

Watch how quickly your dreams turn into reality through target setting and following through. You'll be amazed at what you can accomplish.



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Broad Editing and Services

proudly presents



PO Box 4394
Langwarrin VIC 3910
Phone: 0417 123 075
Fax: 03 9789 3623
info@broadeditingandservices.com.au
www.broadeditingandservices.com.au

At Broad Editing and Services, we more than just an editing or proofreading company. We are dedicated to help you, as writers, become better at your craft. That is why we offer a monthly e-zine and Writers' Workshop forum—to educate, assist and nurture your talent.

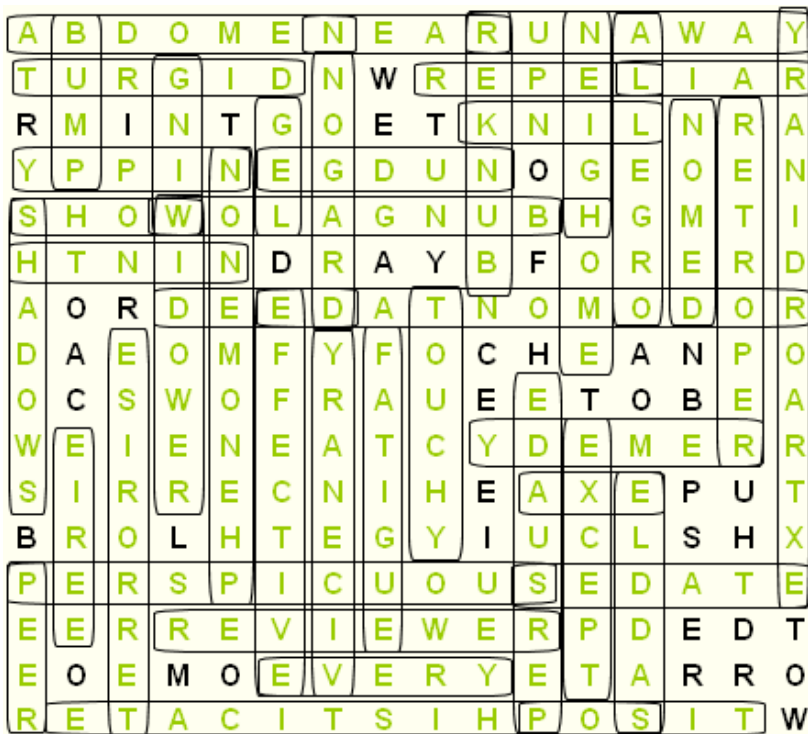
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Answers: Word Finder



Hidden message: Write today for a chance to be published tomorrow.

Authors

We are currently accepting articles, short stories and poems. Emails us for more details.

