

Just Write Newsletter ~ Vol 6, No. 10 ~ December 2017

Just Write: The At-Large Chapter for the League of Utah Writers



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Writing Quotes

“I carry a notebook with me everywhere. But that's only the first step. Ideas are easy. It's the execution of ideas that really separates the sheep from the goats.” -- *Sue Grafton (RIP Sue – thank you for all those great novels)*

“It is a writer's greatest pleasure to hear that someone was kept up until the unholy hours of the morning reading one of his books. It goes back to authors being terrible people who delight in the suffering of others. Plus, we get a kickback from the caffeine industry...” -- *Brandon Sanderson*

“Being a writer is a peculiar sort of a job: it's always you versus a blank sheet of paper and quite often the blank piece of paper wins.” – *Neil Gaiman*

“We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing wings on the way down.”
– *Kurt Vonnegut*

“The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do.” – *Thomas Jefferson*

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New Member

Welcome to our new member: Vern Grimshaw. He currently lives in Arizona and says he's in the middle of his fourth book. Way to go, Vern. We're excited you've joined us in Just Write!

Just Write Critique Group

Just Write hosts two Critique/Review sessions a month. All Just Write members are welcome to join our critique sessions. You can submit a story, article or chapter. Let me know if you're interested.
Write On!

Editorial: A Priceless Literary Device

Metaphors and similes are used extensively in poetry and advertising. Their purpose is to compare one thing to another, not only to evoke a memory or to connect with the reader, but to set a mood or paint a picture. They work wonders in fiction too by adding color, interest and variety; well-placed metaphors and similes can bring magic to a page.

When I start reading a book replete with metaphors, I can hardly put it down. Publication and acquisition editors prefer manuscripts from authors who skillfully use metaphors. I think you'll find that most Pulitzer Prize winners have used these literary devices well.

A current author, Marcus Sakey, pens great metaphors and similes that make his prose more vivid and exciting. These are some from his book Brilliance:

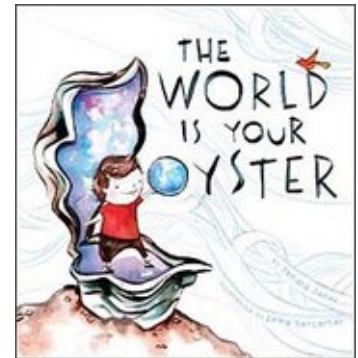
"Gentlemen." The voice behind them was cotton padding over hardened steel. It snapped the schoolyard moment like a twig.

Orange hate radiated in waves off Bryan's face.

"Well, we terminate brilliants. We're lifeguards at the gene pool."

The flames flew outward, like the spray from a sunset ocean, orange and yellow and blue.

From Cooper's perspective, the thousands of metal shavings had looked like a swarm of locusts tearing Vasquez apart.



Try inserting a well-written metaphor in each chapter, especially the first chapter. Remember to keep your metaphors short (too many words can ruin the mood), stay away from trite phrases, and make sure the passage flows (doesn't sound contrived). For impressing publishers, readers, and contest judges, this literary device is well worth mastering.

~ Ann

Conferences, Workshops, etc



<http://ltue.net/>

- ▶ **LTUE – Life, the Universe, and Everything:** February 15-17 at Provo Marriott Hotel & Conference Ctr. LTUE is a popular three-day symposium comprised of panels and presentations on writing, book covers, art, literature, publication, film, gaming and other facets of speculative fiction.

Cost for the 2018 symposium ranges from \$5 to \$99. Students receive reduced pricing. Learn more here:

- ▶ **Utah's Book Marketing Symposium:** Friday, March 23rd, Viridian Event Center in West Jordan, 3:00 p.m. \$40 early bird, \$50 regular admission. 12 hours of presentations to choose from. Presenters include Maxwell Alexander Drake and David Farland (two of my favorites). I couldn't find a website and it isn't listed on the Viridian calendar yet, but it's on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/UBMCon/>
- ▶ **U of U Creative Writing Bootcamp:** Starts Saturday, March 24th. Includes exercises designed to give you plenty of material for your own stories, especially Flash fiction. Fees range from \$5 to \$134. https://continue.utah.edu/lifelong/class/llwrc_842_creative_writing_bootcamp
- ▶ **LUW 2018 Spring Conference:** April 14th at the SL Community College, 4600 Redwood Road, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Discounts for League members. Details will be published here: <https://www.leagueofutahwriters.com/events>

Resources

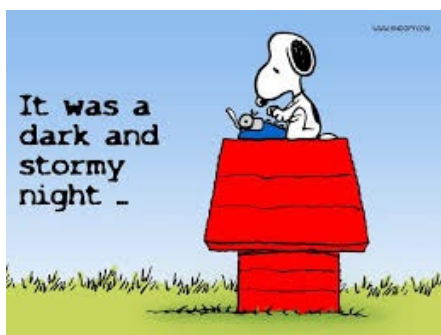
- ▶ **41 Ways to Create and Heighten Suspense – from Ian Irvine:** Ian has written and published **32 novels**, including the bestselling “Three Worlds” fantasy sequence. His article starts out like this:

According to top New York literary agent Noah Lukeman, if a writer can maintain suspense throughout the story, many readers will keep reading even if the characters are undeveloped and the plot is weak.

I agree. Suspense doesn't mean just creature-from-black-lagoon scary – it means pulse-quickenning tension that keeps readers turning pages. Read his article here:

<http://www.ian-irvine.com/on-writing/41-ways-to-create-and-heighten-suspense/>

- ▶ **How to Write Faster: 9 Jedi Mind Tricks to Get More Written in Less Time – From TCK Publishing.com:** This is a nice long article with steps to help us write more in less time. <https://www.tckpublishing.com/how-to-write-faster/>
- ▶ **How to Write a Flashback Scene: 7 Key Steps – From Now Novel:** It's nice to find a thorough article on this subject. <https://www.nownovel.com/blog/incorporate-flashbacks-flashbacks-into-a-story/>



I wish all of us a productive and successful 2018!

*Happy New Year,
Ann*