

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE

APRIL 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our April workshops will be on April 12th and April 26th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Format rules are: Minimum, 12-pt. font and double spaced with one-inch margins on all sides.

ALL ABOUT ALLITERATION

Alliteration is a noun meaning: "The commencement of two or more stressed syllables of a word group either with the same consonant sound or sound group..."

Source: Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language, Gramercy Books New York/Avenel, 1994, p. 40.

Here are some prose examples of alliteration:

"With Susannah's departure the **din dimmed dramatically**..."

"**Shnookums snores** as well, **but because** of his **smaller size**, his **slumber sounds** are **softer**."

"I knew that the Susannah my parents saw was the **darling, dimpled daughter** of their **dotage**..."

Source: No Use Dying Over Spilled Milk, by Tamar Myers, A Dutton Book, 1996, pp. 29, 34, and 42 respectively.

Here are some poetic examples of alliteration:

"While I pondered **weak** and **weary**,
Over many a **quaint** and **curious** volume
of forgotten lore –
While I **nodded**, **nearly napping**, ..."

Source:

Poe: Poetry and Tales, The Library of America, 1984, p. 81, "The Raven."

COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

(Please send any Column Two Personals submissions to my e-mail address for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.)



INSIDE WRITING AND PUBLISHING:

Members John Flaherty and Rosemarie Clausen attended the Robin Currie seminar entitled: Strange Tale of Fluffy Kitten: Writing for Children and submitted the following critique:

Robin Currie only writes books for children. At the seminar, she was an excellent speaker, speaking loudly and clearly. She was all over the place and was very engaging. It was easy to see that she is a good communicator to small children and is very enthusiastic about it. Her experience as a librarian and book reader is instrumental for her story creation. When she was reading stories, she could see when the kids became bored and lost attention. So she learned what 'grabbed' their attention'. She strongly believes that to be a successful writer of children stories; you must be overwhelmed by children, you must love to be around them, and you must be around them. You have to listen to their inner voices, and try to think as they do.

She started the session by reading a fairy tale about a frog trying to get across a wall. It was one of the first stories she wrote and has never been published. It was not for a lack of trying. It just never made it in spite of it being a very nice story. Since then, she has had over 20 books published, mostly in the religious genre. This seemed to be a good market to her. She was telling us to keep at it, even when we seem to have failed. Keep trying and trying and it will happen.

Robbin deals directly with the publisher without an agent. She submits only text in successive paragraphs and relies on the publisher to supply the illustrations. Stories are 700- 900 words and she has no commentary about the style and number of drawings for the book or even the number of pages. This is up to the professional illustrator. She can imagine what the illustrations should be as she writes the story, but she rarely discusses this with the publishers. Actually, illustrations are jealously controlled by the publisher,

She receives compensation for her work in two different ways. The outright sale of the story is the way that publishers prefer and is what she prefers when she believes that the story might not be a huge success. However, for stories that have a seasonal aspect to them, say, stories about Christmas or Easter, she likes to go with royalties. This ensures her of a cash flow, and in the long run, a higher return than a one-time payment. It is a gamble and does also depend on her feelings about the ultimate success of the story. It appears that she has done well as a writer with the number of books she has published, and the fact that she has been able to put her three children through college with her book earnings.

HAPPY POETRY MONTH!

From Mary Ann Lufkin
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