

# WRITER'S INK

## THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF

### BLOOMINGDALE

### DECEMBER 2009

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our only December workshop will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

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

The Bloomingdale Library Annual Open House is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Come and help pass out our calendars! Each member receives ten copies. This is your opportunity to pick up yours.

#### SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

"It seemed as if the sky's tears were washing away memory, cleansing grief, **like a surgeon's scalpel performing a lobotomy.**"

"Fear ripped at her throat **like an attack dog.**"

"He seemed to understand; his silver eyes were **soft as mist.**"

"The night was **peaceful as scenery flashing past in quick frames like a silent movie.**"

"The Corolla took off **like a gazelle**, but the big, black car followed **like a panther hungry for prey.**"

Source:

Seewald, Jacqueline. 2007. *The Inferno Collection*. Thompson Gale. pp. 79, 157, 160, 213, 213, and 215.

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#### THE COLON (PART TROIS)

The colon must have the entire sentence before it. When the sentence continues after the listing, do not use a colon. Instead, use a set of dashes around the listing.

Examples:

He wrote them on these dates – the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> – and mailed them right away.

It requires – hard work, dedication, and grit – in order to succeed.

Source:

Wakeman-Wells, Margie. "The Colon." *Journal of Court Reporting*. March 2009. P. 58.



## BRING YOUR CHARACTER TO LIFE

Consider these ways to make your main character distinctive (in children's books):

1. Give her a name that reflects her personality.
2. Be aware of the Name Game. Make sure that your characters' names are easy to pronounce and not too exotic.
3. Vary the names. Doing so prevents your readers' from getting confused. Using the names Cassie, Kathy and Katie, for example, might make it difficult for the reader to distinguish between the characters.
4. Create a handle for your main character. Perhaps the character loves to chew bubble gum or wears purple socks all the time.
5. Let your character speak. Give him a distinctive way of speaking or a catch phrase she always uses.
6. Mind his mannerisms. Create a character with a mannerism that will allow the reader to identify with him – cracking knuckles, scrunching his forehead, playing with his hair.

Source:

Dils, Tracey E. *You Can Write Children's Books Workbook*. Writer's Digest Books. 2003.

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## MANGLING MODIFIERS

No one was injured in the blast, which was attributed to a buildup of gas by one town official.

The police said Barth's 1981 Toyota traveled down the shoulder for almost 1,000 feet and then hit a utility pole going about 45 miles an hour.

Breaking into the window of the girls' dormitory, the dean of men surprised ten members of the football team.

One couldn't help but be aware of the stallion Royal Rick sitting in the stands the last couple of nights.

Source:

Lederer, Richard. *Anguished English*. Wyrick and Company. 1987. Pp. 102-104.

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## COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

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

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## KEEP WRITING!

From: Mary Ann Lufkin  
malufkin@comcast.net

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