

# WRITER'S INK

## THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE

### FEBRUARY 2009

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our February workshops will be on February 14th and February 28th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

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

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#### SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

“He sat, patient **as a hawk.**”

“He didn’t want to break the spell his imagination could toss over this picture **like a veil**, so he just made up the caption.”

“She shook her head in such a decisive manner that her pale hair swirled above her shoulders **like wheat in the wind.**”

“...a middle-aged man in an expensive overcoat with a dark green velvet collar, who had been standing for a long time before an ambrosial concoction of clouds **as plump as marshmallows** in a sky of liquid blue.”

“Jury could tell Martin was trying to assemble his answers, one after another, **like shards of a splintered mirror.**”

“She had a tight little ferret face and used wretchedly precise diction, mouth and words meeting **like a row of snaps on a taught bodice.**”

Source:

Grimes, Martha, 2007, Dust, Viking, pp. 64, 80, 93, 95, 222, and 229.

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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.)

#### INSIDE WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Caryn Lazar Amster: Telling and Selling Your Family’s True Story. Wednesday, Feb. 4 @ 7:00 p.m. Wheaton Public Library: 630.868.7520.

Laura Caldwell: Moonlighting: Writing as a Second Career. Wednesday, Feb. 11 @ 7:00 p.m. Hinsdale Public Library: 630.986.1976.

Rich King: Writing for Broadcast. Sunday, Feb. 15 @ 2:00 p.m. Addison Public Library: 630.458.3320.

Jennifer Flannery: Literary Agent. Saturday, Feb. 28 @ 2:00 p.m. Bartlett Public Library District: 630.837.3560.

Call each library to register.

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#### WHAT AGENTS HATE

Action:

“I don’t really like ‘the first day of school’ beginnings, ‘from the beginning of time,’ or ‘once upon a time.’ Specifically, I dislike a Chapter 1 in which nothing happens.”

--Jessica Regel, Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency

“‘The weather’ is always a problem – the author feels he has to set up the

scene and tell us who the characters are, etc. I like starting a story *in medias res*.”

(Latin for “in the middle of things.”)

(Author, J. A. Konrath also advised against beginning with the weather in last year’s seminar Inside Writing and Publishing.”

--Elizabeth Pomada, Larsen-Pomada  
Literary Agents

Source:

Sambuchino, Chuck. “What Agents Hate: Literary Reps Vent About Their Chapter 1 Turn-offs.” *Writer’s Digest*, October, 2008, pp. 24-27.

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### COMPOUND NOUNS

Compound nouns are more complicated than compound adjectives. Not all of them are hyphenated. Here are a few examples of compound nouns that are hyphenated:

“She shook his hand, catching a whiff of the cigar smoke that clung to his clothes, and surmised that he was **Tony-from-down-the-block** of cigar-buying fame.”

(Please note “cigar-buying” is a compound adjective and “clung to his clothes” is alliterative.)

Source:

Scottoline, Lisa. The Vendetta Defense. 2001. HarperTorch, p. 62.

Hyphenate compound nouns ending in “Between,” “Through,” and “Together”:

go-between  
in-between  
follow-through  
run-through  
walk-through  
get-together

(Exception: breakthrough)

“Words coined from repeated syllables or rhyming syllables are typically hyphenated”:

boo-boo  
goody-goody  
no-no  
hocus-pocus  
razzle-dazzle  
yada-yada-yada  
nitty-gritty

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“...Violet’s partner and a **jill-of-all-trades carpenter-contractor** – had reinforced the old house’s sagging gutters...”

Source:

Simon, Clea. Cries & Whiskers. 2007. Poisoned Pen Press, p. 6.

“Compound nouns ending in **on** are typically hyphenated”:

add-on  
carry-on  
carryings-on  
come-on  
follow-on  
goings-on  
hangers-on  
lookers-on  
run-on  
slip-on  
turn-on

(Exception: logon)

Next month we will explore compound nouns that are not hyphenated.

Source:

Sabin, William A. The Gregg Reference Manual, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 2001. pp. 200 and 201.

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## **BLOOD AND THUNDER**

The submission guidelines for 2009 are at: <http://w3.ouhsc.edu/bloodandthunder>. Go to the SUBMIT page. It is free! So challenge yourself to write about health care. Good Luck!

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## **KEEP WRITING!**

From Mary Ann Lufkin  
malufkin@comcast.net

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