

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF

BLOOMINGDALE

JANUARY 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our January workshops will be on January 10th and January 24th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

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

SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

“Adapting his subject to his captive audience, he plunged at once into parliamentary small talk about the newly appointed committee, bobbing up and down between Berowne and Dalgliesh *like a small craft on bumpy water.*”

“It seemed to him inappropriate that the statues should be lit, the beauty of the house still celebrated when Berowne lay frozen *like a carcass of meat in his plastic shroud...*”

“Diana lying there, eyes staring, with the water running off her hair and the weeds wrapped round her neck *like a green scarf.*”

“Far below to her right under the high arc lights the avenue ran due west, greasy *as a molten river*, bearing its unending cargo of cars, trucks and red buses.”

“Looking out over Londong, she felt confidence surge through her veins strong and sweet

“Looking out over London, she felt confidence surge through her veins strong and sweet *as the first conscious breath of morning.*”

“Even the hiss of the traffic on the avenue was muted *like a spent tide on a far distant shore.*”

Source:

James, P. D. 1986. A Taste for Death, pp. 25, 128, 140, 152, 153, 358, and 407.

CAN YOU HAIKU?

Kobayashi Issa (1763-1827)

Issa means “a cup of tea” or “a single bubble in seeping tea”. He wrote hundreds of poems about the smallest creatures: Flies, fleas, crickets, bedbugs, etc. He was a pious Buddhist with a cynical streak.

Examples of his poems:

Don't worry, spiders,

I keep house

Casually.

Mosquito at my ear—

does it think

I'm deaf?

Even with insects—

some can sing,

some can't.

Source:

Hass, Robert, Ed. 1994. The Essential Haiku: Versions of Basho, Buson, & Issa, pp. 145, 153, 155, and 163.

COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

Member, John Flaherty, proudly displaying a third-place plaque for his short story, "Bums". The contest was sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book. The presentation ceremony was held at Bradley University in Peoria. Congratulations, John!



WHAT AGENTS HATE

Cliches and false beginnings:

"I *hate* it when a book begins with an adventure that turns out to be a dream at the end of the chapter." (here-here!)

--Mollie Glick, Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency

"I don't want to read about anyone sleeping, dreaming, waking up or staring at anything."

--Ellen Pepus, Ellen Pepus Literary Agency

"I don't like it when the main character dies at the end of Chapter 1. Why did I just spend all this time with this character? I feel cheated."

--Cricket Freeman, The August Agency

Source:

Sambuchino, Chuck, "What Agents Hate: Literary Reps Vent about their chapter 1 Turn-offs." *Writer's Digest*, Oct. 2008, pp. 24-27.

INSIDE WRITING AND PUBLISHING

"Calling All Caped Crusaders: How to Create Your Own Comics and Graphic Novels." Saturday, January 24, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Glenside Public Library District, 25 East Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights. Phone 630.260.1550 to register.

Robert Goldsborough—"Mixing Fact and Fiction in your Writing." Thursday, January 29th, 7:00 p.m. Glen Ellyn Public Library. Call 630.469.0879 to register.

KEEP WRITING!

From: Mary Ann Lufkin

malufkin@comcast.net

Writers Workshop of Bloomingdale 2007-2009 all rights reserved. Materials here are the property of the author(s).