

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF

BLOOMINGDALE

JANUARY 2010

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our January workshops will be on January 9th and January 23rd 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

“The tops of two cypress trees were **still as sentries** against the sky beyond the window.”

Source:
Nabb, Magdalen. *Vita Nuova*. Soho. 2008. P. 8.

“Those initials radiated from the dimpled surface **like a search beacon in a midnight sky.**”

“I savored the extrasensory burst of sensation **like a dieter sneaking a forbidden slice of chocolate cake.**”

Source:
Toussaint, Maggie. *In for a Penny*. Five Star. 2008. Pp. 14 and 25.

COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

Congratulations to members, Chris Aument and Jill Spealman for publishing poems in the Fall 2009 issue of the *Prairie Light Review*, a literary magazine of the College of DuPage! Chris' two poems are “You Weren't There” and “Imprinted.” Jill's poem is “24 Hours in Autumn Through the Eyes of a Suburbanite.”

Also, Chris Aument was one of six featured poets at a Livewords reading in Toronto, Canada in October. Livewords is “a Toronto reading series featuring poetry, spoken word, fiction, and word-based performances.”

As if that was not enough, Chris Aument has had two chapbooks published. *Detour* and *Take-outs*. Anyone interested in purchasing the chapbooks for a nominal fee, please contact Chris. Copies are available for viewing at the workshops.

MANGLING MODIFIERS

Amy Carter was among more than 100 Americans returning from a ten-day tour of the Soviet Union during the weekend.

The judge sentenced the killer to die in the electric chair for the second time.

Farmhand Joe Mobs hoists a cow injured while giving birth to its feet.

Here are some suggestions for handling obscene phone calls from New England Telephone Company.

Source:

Lederer, Richard. *Anguished English*. Wyrick and Company. 1987. P. 103



TYPES OF SCENES

Setup scenes: Scenes where needed background information is provided that “sets up” the character’s subsequent actions.

Verifying scenes: Scenes that show your characters acting out the lives you’ve given them. Where setup scenes lay the foundation for a character’s motivations, verifying scenes establish skills and abilities that are important to your plot.

Flashback scenes: Use sparingly and only when the action taking place is strong enough to warrant dramatization (if it’s not, use narrative instead to summarize the incident). Be sure to provide an adequate transition between the flashback and the “present time” of the story. This is generally handled with a change in verb tense.

Source:

Stollenwerk, Joe. “Writers Online Workshops’ Extended Novel Writing Workshop.” *Writer’s Digest*. Nov./Dec. 2006. P. 91.

INSIDE WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Marc Heiden – Travel Writing. Saturday, January 23, 2:00 p.m. Bloomington Public Library. To register, contact Adult Services: 630-924-2730.

Libby Fischer Hellmann – 20-20-20: Dialogue-Plot-Setting. Tuesday, January 27, 7:00 p.m. Warrenville Public Library. To register, contact Adult Services: 630-393-1171.

Full-schedule brochures are available in the Blue Book.

COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

“...his gratified smile pulling at his already **too-tight** skin until it looked as though it must melt, like wax under a flame.”

“They stood in a **terra-cotta-tiled** kitchen, and it was much less intimidating than she would have imagined from the **high-tech** displays in the shop. **Dusty-blue** cabinets, a **sunflower-yellow** Aga (British stove) as well as a gas cooktop...”

“Tall, **silver-trunked** trees closed in on either side of the road, and the falling leaves flickered and swirled through the air like swarms of golden bees.”

(Did you spot the two similes?)

Source:

Crombie, Deborah. *Mourn Not Your Dead*. Berkley Prime Crime. 1996. Pp. 123, 181, and 188.

ASK MS. Y

Question: What is the difference between an on-demand publisher and a subsidy press?

Answer: Subsidy publishers often take all your intellectual property rights and lock you into multiple-year contracts. Legitimate on-demand publishers leave all the rights to you and you may cancel at any time.

Source:

Writer's Digest. Aug. 2006. P. 5. "Ask Ms. Y."

Membership dues are due in January.

KEEP WRITING!

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