

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE

MARCH 2010

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our March workshops will be on March 13th and March 27th from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

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



SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

“...with Claire Gilbert’s face burnt into her mind **like the bright afterimage of a flare.**”

“At least he supposed you could call it music, for it consisted of tinkling sounds repeated in rhythmic patterns, **like wind chimes moving to mathematical variations.**”

Source:

Crombie, Deborah, *Mourn Not Your Dead*. Berkley Prime Crime. 1996. pp. 95 and 106.



ALL ABOUT ALLITERATION

“The two **sleek springer spaniels** at his heels sniffed at them with equal politeness.”

Source:

Crombie, Deborah, *Mourn Not Your Dead*. Berkley Prime Crime. 1996. P. 181.



COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

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



FICTION: STRENGTHEN YOUR SCENES. ADDING DRAMA AND CONFLICT TO A SCENE

Flip the Obvious:

Our minds work by reading for the most familiar choices available. If your characters are mere types, your scenes won’t engage the readers.

Imagine a truck driver rumbling down the highway at midnight, holding the steering wheel in one hand and a cup of hot, black coffee in the other.

Is it a burly, grizzled man in a beat-up cap? Put the brakes on. Make it a woman instead, a young, pretty Asian woman. Now you have a unique character to work with.

Source:

Bell, James Scott. *Writer's Digest*.
"Writer's Workbook." Nov.-Dec. 2006.
P. 91.



HONE VS. HOME

Hone means to sharpen.

Home (in on) means to move or be aimed toward a destination or target with great accuracy.

Jimmy **honed** his writing skills by studying the works of Hemingway and Updike.

After a long stakeout, the police officer **homed** in on mafia kingpin Lucky Luciano.

Source:

Writer's Digest. "Diction Fix." Nov.-
Dec. 2006. P. 25.



AN IRISH BULL IS ALWAYS PREGNANT

What is an Irish bull? Some dismiss it as a silly blunder, allegedly endemic to the Emerald Isle. Others more affectionately describe an Irish bull as a statement fueled by a delightful absurdity that sparks forth a memorable truth.

An Irishman is never at peace except when he's fighting.

May you never live to see your wife a widow.

Half the lies our opponents tell about us are not true.

This piece is chock full of omissions.

IRISH BULL, AMERICAN STYLE:

You couldn't get me on Mars if it were the last place on earth. Erma Cohen

All generalizations are bad. R. H. Grenier

Please accept my resignation. I don't want to belong to any club that will have me as a member. Groucho Marx

Always be sincere, even when you don't mean it. Irene Peter

Wagner's music is better than it sounds. Mark Twain

People are more fun than anybody. Dorothy Parker

If you live to the age of a hundred, you have it made because very few people die past the age of a hundred. George Burns

I distinctly remember forgetting that. Clara Barton

Source:

Lederer, Richard. *Anguished English: An Anthology of Accidental Assaults Upon Our Language*. "An Irish Bull is Always Pregnant." Wyrick and Company. 1987. Pp. 83-85.

(HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!)



COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

“But there was no one occupying the pair of long **snow-white** couches that sat face-to-face, blending so well with the **wall-to-wall** carpeting that they were almost impossible to see.

“Two **blue-and-white-striped** cabanas stood off to one side – the perfect place for slipping into one’s **two-hundred-dollar** Burberry bikini.” (alliteration, too)

Source:

Baxter, Cynthia. *Monkey See, Monkey Die*. Bantam Books. 2008. Pp. 41 and 51.



INSIDE WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Member, Marjorie Lee, attended a free seminar and submitted this critique:

CREATING A MEMOIR

Roseanne Gulisano presented a session on "Memoirs" at the Helen Plum Library in Lombard on Saturday, February 6th.

The speaker emphasized writing regularly and providing a framework for your theme, which is a point well taken for any writer.

Unlike many of our group, Ms. Gulisano is not emphasizing a quest for publication, but instead she is teaching a

system to create an individualized family memory packet.

Her presentations, identified as "Lifestories," are popular with senior groups, park district programs and women's organizations. Also Ms. Gulisano has been successful as a ghost writer for older people who are anxious to share their memories but need assistance in putting their memories into a written format. One interesting facet of the presentation was her information about the ease and reasonable prices available from local copying services in packaging the memories into nicely bound booklets for family gifts.

The large attendance at this presentation apparently indicates widespread interest in family histories.

KEEP WRITING!

From: Mary Ann Fristoe
malufkin@comcast.net

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

