

# WRITER'S INK

## THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE

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SEPTEMBER 2011

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### SEPTEMBER WORKSHOPS

Our September workshops will be on September 10 and September 24 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. 4 pages maximum.

### COLUMN 2 PERSONALS

*(Please share your writing or other artistic adventures in the April newsletter.)*

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### COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

#### ALLUSION AND ILLUSION

The noun allusion means “an indirect reference to a person, event, or thing.” Illusion is a noun that means “false impression.”

Examples:

- The name Yogi Bear is an allusion to the Yankee baseball star and manager, Yogi Berra, and Jellystone Park, of course, is an allusion to Yellowstone Park.
- The Hallowe'en production tried to create the illusion of a spooky, abandoned castle, haunted by restless spirits.

Sources: <http://grammar.about.com/od/words/a/UsageGlossary.htm> and <http://www.educationbug.org/a/allusion-vs-illusion.html>

Thanks to Adeline Dobbins for contributing this section.

## BARTLETT LIBRARY HOSTS WRITING PROGRAMS

Many thanks to Sue Wells for sending this information to me.

### **10 Secrets to Getting Your Book Successfully Published**

Sat. Sept. 24 at 2:00 p.m.

Literary agent Joseph Durepos and author Bret Nicholaus will share what goes on in the world of publishing and what authors need to know to be successful. Learn about today's competitive publishing landscape, how to know if your idea will sell, how agents and royalties work and more. Includes a Q&A session. Meets in the meeting room. Register at 630-837-3560.

### **Impossibly True Stories**

Sunday Oct. 9 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The library's resident storyteller Leah Danoff will present her original stories highlighting humorous events in her life. All stories are impossibly true and some names have been changed to protect the innocent.

These stories are intended for mature audiences, not for young children. Refreshments provided. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Meets in the meeting room.

### **The Mystery of Living: Packing for Syria with Agatha Christie**

Sunday, Oct. 23 at 2:00 p.m.

Professional actor Betsey Means explores the life and times of author Agatha Christie, famous for her detective characters Hercule Poirot and Miss Jane Marple. Christie's career spanned over 50 years and her works have sold into the billions and been adapted to radio, stage and film. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Meets in the meeting room.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Prairie Writer's Day VII: Get Hooked!**

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators - Illinois Chapter

Harper College

Saturday, November 12, 2011

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information:

[http://www.scbwi-illinois.org/pdf/PWD2011\\_FullDescr.pdf](http://www.scbwi-illinois.org/pdf/PWD2011_FullDescr.pdf)

### **Craft & Critique Workshop in Writing for Children and Teens**

Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30 PM

Sept. 27-Nov. 15, 2011 (no class 10/18)

Mayslake Peabody Estate

1717 W. 31st Street

Oak Brook, IL 60523

For more information:

<http://www.carmelamartino.com/events.htm>

### **Nature Writing**

Morton Arboretum

Tuesdays, October 8-November 15

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information:

<http://www.mortonarb.org/education.html>



## EXPANDING YOUR CHARACTERS

In her guide *Shut Up & Write!*, Judy Bridges says her favorite tool for fleshing out real or imaginary characters is a Character Wheel:

Draw a circle on a piece of paper or whiteboard. In the circle, write the name, age, and gender of your character.

Next, draw five spokes extending out from the circle: one each at 12, 2, 5, 7, and 10 o'clock. Label the spokes: sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell.

Now draw short lines off each spoke. On the short lines, note details about the character, using one- or two-word phrases--just enough to jog your memory.

Brainstorm ideas relating to each of the senses. For example, ask: What do you see when you imagine your character? What does he or she like to look at? Anything else related or sight or eyes?

Circle the unexpected details to focus on for a fresh, interesting character.

-From *The Writer* magazine, September 2011

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### EDITOR'S CORNER

Send your writing and ideas to:

[jspealman@comcast.net](mailto:jspealman@comcast.net)



Visit our website at:

[www.creativeoptions.com/BWW/index.htm](http://www.creativeoptions.com/BWW/index.htm)

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