

Spring Into Writing



2020

Workbook / Planner

Glossary of Terms:

Protagonist: Your main character.

Antagonist: The person working against your main character.

MC: Main Character

POV: Point of View

Found Stories/Poems: Putting together words or short phrases from another person's work (or multiple works) in a new way to make it your own.

Dani Duck: The host of Spring into Writing and Smart Dummies. Dani could not figure out more things to define. If anything is confusing just bug Dani incessantly.

Draw a face below that shows how you feel about this book:

Thank you for being a part of Spring into Writing in 2020!

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Spring into Writing 2020 Planner/Workbook

Created by Dani Duck

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Any typos in this booklet, real or imagined, are fictional.

Thank You!

To everyone who made this event possible. That includes you!
Attach a picture of yourself here:

Editors For this Planner

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And everyone who shares and participates in Smart Dummies and/or Spring into Writing THANK YOU!

Thursday 4

Friday 5

Saturday 6

Notes:

May/June

Sunday 31

Monday 1

Tuesday 2

Wednesday 3

Critique Group Guide

Adapted from Leila Nabih's Guide

When Starting:

Introduce Yourself and include your writing style, illustration level, target audience, genre and other works (published or unpublished). Let people know what you hope to achieve and share a synopsis of your manuscript (50 words or less).

Assign an Administrator to the Group. This person keeps everyone accountable. This is also to make sure everyone gets their work seen, and keeps the peace. It's helpful if they've had critique group experience.

Determine the Critique Schedule and decide what you will critique and how you will share your work.

Remember:

- A good critique is constructive.
- The purpose of a critique group is to receive not only praise, but vital feedback.
- You don't have to take everyone's opinion.
- Don't try to change other people's stories. This is not your work.
- If you can't say something nice, then say nothing.
- If someone is being rude, they should get one warning. The administrator should remove them if they pursue bad behavior!
- You can leave a group if you don't feel like you fit in.

This is an experience that's supposed to be instructive and fun!

Your Writing

Take a minute think about your writing this month. I'm going to ask you some questions here to help you with your writing.

Which baked goods do you need for your writing? Please describe in detail and send Dani a sample.

What, if anything, do you plan on writing?

Which book would you rewrite and why?

Thursday 28

Friday 29

Saturday 30

Notes:

May

Sunday 24

Monday 25

Tuesday 26

Wednesday 27

What do you do to avoid getting any work done?

What is your favorite (preferably caffeinated) drink? Defend your drink choice below.

What is your preferred method of writing?

Describe the death of your main character, or if non-fiction the political figure of your choice.

All About You

Write a little bit about yourself!

What are your favorite books?

Which MC (of any book) would you like to be and why?

What is your dream vacation?

If you had something you wanted no one to find, where would you put it?

Thursday 21

Friday 22

Saturday 23

Notes:

May

Sunday 17

Monday 18

Tuesday 19

Wednesday 20

What is your favorite snack? If you have a recipe to make said snack please send it to me.

Without looking, describe the person standing behind you.

What would your preferred apocalypse look like?

If you had a choice of writing or taking a nap, where would you take your nap and why?

Character Knowledge

Answer these questions as though you were your Main Character.

What is the best thing about you?

What would you like to change in your life?

What is your main goal in life?

What do you do for fun?

Thursday 14

Friday 15

Saturday 16

Notes:

May

Sunday 10

Monday 11

Tuesday 12

Wednesday 13

Who are your best friends?

What do you want and why?

How can you get what you want?

What obstacles do you face?

What If?

When I was a kid I loved the “What If?” comic from Marvel. It took all of my favorite characters from comics and changed their stories based on one thing changing in their world. Often I see writers suggesting to use “What if?” to come up with ideas for writing stories. “What if?” could also be used to come up with new ideas for your stories. Below are some what ifs you can use. Also some blank spaces so you can create your own “what ifs?”.

What if you (or your character) had a view that’s the opposite or opposing to your current view?

What if a character in your story had a completely different personality?

What if your character was lost?

Thursday 7

Friday 8

Saturday 9

Notes:

May

Sunday 3

Monday 4

Tuesday 5

Wednesday 6

What if you found a fairy?

What if your story was underwater?

What would happen if you suddenly appeared in your story?

What if you changed the genre or setting of a known fairy tale?

Mood Boards

I originally learned about Mood Boards when reading about fashion design and marketing. The idea behind the boards is to get a feeling or mood about a subject. While some might draw on these mood boards, they can be completely created with photos you take or magazine images. Mood boards can even be a collection of colors.

Mood Boards on Paper

There are many ways to create a mood board! One way is to gather a bunch of cutouts from magazines, prints from the computer, paint swatches and even small items to add to your mood board. Poster board is great because it is huge and fairly durable. You can glue, tape or pin items directly to the board. If you don't have a board you can always use sheets of copy paper to attach your images. You will likely want to tape these mini mood boards to the walls, or on a cardboard backing so you can view your work. This is something that can take up a lot of room, so you could go with one of the following digital solutions instead!

Mood Boards Online

Pinterest is a great place to create mood boards. With Pinterest you can create your boards privately. If you find an image you like on the internet you can add it on your board. The big problem with this is that the images are online, and sometimes links can be removed. I'd suggest for a big project to take pictures of the board with a screen shot or even with a phone/camera.

April/May

Thursday April 30

Friday 1 First day of Spring into Writing!

NaNoPiBoWriWee Starts.

Saturday 2

Notes:

National Picture Book Writing Week (NaPiBoWriWee) with Paula Yoo May 1-7)

On the Computer

You can download images into a computer folder. You can easily arrange these images in any photo editing software. Gimp is one such program. It's free and it doesn't take up a lot of room on your PC. It's available for Linux, Window and Mac OS. You can view your collage on the screen, so printing is optional. It's also possible to view extra large images within a computer folder.

On Your Mobile Device

If you have a phone, you can take pictures of things you like or download images to your phone. There are different programs that allow for collages on your phone. MoldIV is one such application. With this app. you can add a bunch of images to a collage. You can save these onto your phone, mail them to yourself, or even upload them to a computer.

Jar of Favorite Phrases

Found a phrase you love? Put it in the jar. Just love one word? Put it here too! Use as needed.

Jar of Favorite Phrases

Another couple of jars for you to keep all your treasures!



What's in a Description?

There are two major ways of describing an object. One is through a person's POV and the other is an unbiased description of an item. The latter is something I had to learn to do when I was helping to design a text based game. The idea was to describe something without telling the reader what to feel about it. Here are a couple of samples:

An Apple (Biased): A forlorn apple dangles from a low branch of the apple tree. It's the perfect shade of bright red. It shines beautifully in the sun. It dances playfully in the wind. The apple is just begging to be eaten.

An Apple (Unbiased): A single apple hangs from a low branch on an apple tree. The apple is bright red in color and shines in the light.

In the first paragraph the words forlorn, perfect, beautifully and playfully all are thoughts of the writer/character and not of the reader. The phrase "The apple is just begging to be eaten." Is also just as biased because just being an apple does not make it something that "begs to be eaten".

The second paragraph is shorter because it is just stating facts. I also removed the part about the wind. If I were writing for a text game it wouldn't necessarily always be windy in the area. I also removed the sun, because in a game it might not always be day. For some stories you may want the biased opinion, but it also effective to know how and when to use each type of description.

If your character is scared of going into a house you may want a biased description. It would describe the house as being scary and might say it's decrepit and obviously haunted. If the narrator wants to communicate the actual situation (without trying to affect your feelings on the house) the unbiased narrator might describe the house as an old house.

Your Future

I forgot to tell you that I am psychic. The first three words you find are most likely what wonders your writing future holds.

Y L O Z H O F H E T Q A G E N T J E X R
V V Q G Z A W V Q I Y M F I A Z I J W K
P F U N Q W O F I N S P I R A T I O N B
C H O C O L A T E R Q O C U L U F D B O
I M P A T I E N C E M R B R F K L O S R
R E S E A R C H T H E J E S A K V E W J
E S D Z W D I S C O U R A G E M E N T L
B A C K P A I N U L Z F Z B R S P O U N
N R E J E C T I O N K M U S A E S S S P
R P R O C R A S T I N A T I O N T I A D
B Y S H U T D O W N J C J W R T T E O Z
C W E E M A I L S E X C I T E M E N T N
L Y A B F G H P A T I E N C E H S T X E
K W E K P K W E B S E A R C H E S A D E
N E T B D E P I C A F F E I N E H E C W
L M L Z U E Y E S T R A I N P J V R U H
W S Y S T E M U P D A T E S A A O N S F
R W A S Y K R O M A N C E O S F J N Q H
E D I T O R B W U V S O U N D J G W G N
W C H E E U M O N E Y O U R U P Y N B J

This word search was created using the tool at:
<https://tools.atozteacherstuff.com/word-search-maker/wordsearch.php>

Writing Prompts

Stream of consciousness is a list of all the thoughts and reactions a person has as they happen in any given situation. Write a stream of consciousness for the character in the following situations. These characters need not be based on yourself.

- 90. Water is filling up the area around you. There seems to be no way out.
- 91. You see a monster outside of your house. The monster sees you watching it.
- 92. There is a knife in your hand. The blade is covered in a red liquid.
- 93. You are a dog. A person appears to be calling to you. You don't recognize the person.
- 94. You follow a fairy in your backyard to a magical portal. The portal takes you to another world.
- 95. You wake up in the dark in an unfamiliar place.
- 96. You find a working time machine.
- 97. Half of your house is frozen and the other half is warm. What are your theories about what happened?
- 98. A dangerous robot comes to your house and asks for you to hide it. What is your reaction?
- 99. You are accused of a crime. What do you say to your accuser?
- 100. You find you are now a shoe. How is your day going?

Here are some objects for you to practice describing objects in both biased and unbiased ways.

A Robin

Biased

Unbiased

A Black Car

Biased

Unbiased

A Cat

Biased

Unbiased

Extra Descriptions

Here are some extra areas where you can practice descriptions.

Biased

Unbiased

Biased

Unbiased

Biased

Unbiased

In 50 words or less answer the following prompts:

70. Write a note you leave to a cookie thief.
71. You are a toddler. Explain to your parent why you refuse to sleep
72. Write about any ordinary event from a cat's POV.
73. Write a love letter to your pillow.
74. Using only lies: Tell your child (real or fictional) how they were born.
75. Convince a shop owner to give you a huge discount.
76. Write a chant to open a magic portal.
77. Where did THEY put your shoes?
78. Your favorite author comes to dinner. What is it that they refuse to talk about?
79. You have something hiding behind your back. A person in front of you asks what it is behind your back. Without lying (or telling them what you are hiding) answer their question.
80. Your current manuscript is rejected. Write the rejection letter.
81. Write a reaction to the rejection in prompt 80.
82. Explain to your dog why he has to learn to write.
83. You are a spider. Explain to a person why you should live.
84. Describe your favorite food without mentioning its name.
85. Write a note to past you that will save your life.
86. Write a letter to a fictional character that convinces them to take you on their quest.
87. You suddenly find yourself on a football field* about to play a game. Describe your reaction.
88. You can't wake up from a dream. What do you tell yourself to wake up?
89. You are drafted into a secret organization. What does the draft letter say?

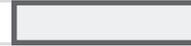
*If you are in the U.K. instead of a football field, you find yourself on a football field.

Writing Prompts

- 50. What is the origin story of your shoes?
- 51. You are a fugitive in a magical land. What crimes are you accused of?
- 52. You are at a cross roads: To the east is a monster's castle. To the west is a ghost town with real ghosts. The north lies a dragon's cave. To the south is your home. Which way do you travel?
- 53. What's one magical artifact you'd love to own?
- 54. What's one thing you love to debate and why?
- 55. If you were to find a criminal in your town where would they be hiding?
- 56. You travel far in the past. You have 3 modern items in your pocket. What are they?
- 57. You find out the person you love is lying to you. What do you do to get them to admit the truth.
- 58. You are offered your choice of transportation: a magic powder, a wardrobe, a space ship or telephone booth. Which do you choose and where do you travel?
- 59. Which two fictional stories would be better if combined?

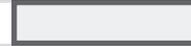
Defend your position on the following subjects as though your life depended on it:

- 60. Cats or Dogs?
- 61. Ink or Pencil?
- 62. Sleeping or Eating?
- 63. Cars or Bikes?
- 64. Pie or Cake?
- 65. Shoes or Sandals
- 66. Video Games or Movies?
- 67. Apples or Oranges?
- 68. Tea or Coffee?
- 69. Fire or Water?



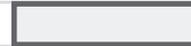
Biased

Unbiased



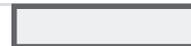
Biased

Unbiased



Biased

Unbiased



Biased

Unbiased

Person, Place and Thing

Word finds are quite common to see on social media. This one works like many of them you've seen. Find at least one person, one place, and a thing and write a short scene using the words you find.

If you'd like you can have several people in the scene. You can also use this to generate jokes for comic strips or within your story. You can use the lines on the next page to write your scene (or scenes) if you like.

X Y E F D B K I O N B A K E R Y B A B Y
L X L E M O N K A D U L T Q C O F F E E
W X C E Y E O D S Y V F T S O K A R R I
C V M E Q W C J H E C M B W U B E B T R
U S N G I R A F F E K O E D F K E C U P
W O I O H G E C O R B D M O A C I A E I
M A H V A W T S E T F R O B Y R E D C C
B S A L O N S L T B S P I E K G I A Y H
O F F U J X C K A A A T K E G Y S C R L
Z L Q I B V R U Y O U N R N F H A I E F
T P N I B A N K J S O R K E Q C A A O U
V A D P Q B V C J M C Y A E E H A O M K
C A R H T O W E L A G R T N R T Z S P Y
L V A T O T X Z C O G K A S T O R E E R
A F N Q I U Q A D V W E P P A N Y L E A
E Q P D F S S O N S T N K N E N H T Z R
U O F I C S A E L A E R N D Z R N A O F
F O U N T A I N R K O P E R T I L K Z X
U R N U G Q T L A W V O A K A P P A R K
R A F G U V Z C C R E A M P Z P T X O U

This word search was created using the tool at:
<https://tools.atozteacherstuff.com/word-search-maker/wordsearch.php>

25. What is the one thing you'd like to change about the world?
26. Which fictional character would you like to be your friend?
27. Write a story where two people from two time periods meet.
28. Write a perilous journey to get something that's now within arms reach.
29. There are footsteps in the hall. Who is making that sound?
30. What would happen if you could fly?
31. What the most interesting magical spell? What would you do if you had mastery over that spell?
32. What would you ask a deity (of your choice) if you met them?
33. If a ghost from your past came back to tell you something, what would it be?
34. You find a magic lamp. What are your three wishes?
35. You have the chance to change 3 laws. What are they and why?
36. Why are your (or your character's) glasses never where you put them?
37. If you could gain mastery in one skill that you don't already possess, what would it be?
38. Create a new holiday. When would it be and what would be its traditions?
39. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
40. What is the thing you want most of all in life? What would you do to get it?
41. What's one thing that people should never do and why?
42. You find a magic wand. What's the first thing you do?
43. You are lost in a maze. What do you find there and how do you get out?
44. The last thing you remember is falling asleep in your bed. You wake up as a ruler in a magical land. What happens next?
45. You visit a gigantic castle. You find a secret passage. Where does it lead?
46. What lives under your bed?
47. What's one hurdle you wish was gone from your life. How would your life change if this hurdle was gone?
48. What magical creature would you want to be and why?
49. Describe the perfect party. Now describe what someone could do to crash that party.

Your Pitch and Other Bad Ideas

Your dream agent/editor is in front of you. You have 20 seconds to pitch your work to them. What do you say?

Take one of your current stories: Write a brief summary of what second story in that series would entail.

Who is your favorite writer? What is one thing you could do in your writing to be more like them?

Your writing area is on fire. You can take one object with you on the way out of your house. What do you take with you?

Write 50 words on how you are feeling about your writing right now.

If you had to throw out half of your writing on an article or story, what would you remove and why?