Write Right Now! With PeggySue Wells

Git 'er Done

How to Write to The End

You are off to a great start.
What about writers block? Research? Point of view?
Here are tips to keep going until those final words: The End.

Write Fast: schedule consistent time to have your butt in the chair, writing!

* Write short paragraphs.
* White short chapters, around ten pages or less. Each chapter is a scene.
* Decide on a format and stick to it throughout your manuscript. (Point of view. Past or present tense.)

Give your character an inciting incident from which there is no turning back. Mary's positive pregnancy test, Joseph's dream, the Wisemen's star

Research

- Initially leave blanks in your story where you need research
- Limit research time or you can drop into a black hole of forever research
- Ask experts what they can share about your research topic
- Keep a file(s) with everything you find, even if you won't use it
- Use what you find, write around what you don't find
- Feature the unusual items your research provides

Writer's Block? I don't think so. Write poorly, but write. Polish later.

- Boldly and courageously take your character into the worst situation.
- Read an advice column but not the answer – just use the problem.
- Like Bill Myers, make up a wild title and write to the title. *My Life As a Smashed Burrito with Extra Hot Sauce.*
- Write something from your own life. The cat that slept in your fiddle case, the goose you stole from the zoo, your most embarrassing moment.
- Vent a pet peeve. Suggest a solution. Novelize an issue.
- Choose a unique setting and imagine life there.
- Incorporate a current issue such as new technology, ridiculous trend, reality shows, gun control, medical care, surrogate mothers for movie stars.
- Play music and write to the feelings the music evokes. Compose in a strange font.
- Add a pet. Put the character in a new setting – on a dog sled, in Amish country, at the south pole, on a movie back lot, in a factory that makes plastic doggie poopie.
- Begin with a weird fact. Like what's the capital of North Dakota, how often a goose poops (every 8 minutes – trust me), the difference between a violin and a fiddle?
- Add a unique occupation. A modern sheep shearer. A sequin maker. A ferrier who moonlights as a tattoo artist (I am not even making this up.)
- Begin the sequel to a story you liked or one that sticks in your memory. (*Wicked)*

Wrote Yourself into a Corner and don't know how to get out?

- Make your character choose between two wrongs.
- Recall your most painful experience. How did that event look, smell, taste, sound, feel? Write a scene that plunges your character into those strong emotions.
- Ask your character questions.

- Give a character an obsession.
- Write a prolog. For Jerry Jenkins, that led to three prequels. Write an epilog. Maybe that will lead to a series.
- Be outrageous. Have fun.
- Be desperate. Don't worry about getting it right. Just get words in the manuscript.

Play the *what if* game. What if your character …

- goes spelunking
- lose what they most love
- finds Santa has run away from the North Pole and joined the ice follies
- runs for supreme court judge
- get trapped in a moon launch
- stalked by a younger sibling
- allergic to seafood
- has a romantic crush on a bull rider
- has prosopagnosia (facial recognition syndrome)
- gets a mysterious text
- is mistaken for someone else
- wrongly accused
- discover their parent has a secret identity

Once the story is roughly in a manuscript, add in

- Backstory
- Bridges between action, scenes, and chapters
- Dimension
- Foreshadowing
- Humor

Revisit Chapter One

- Is chapter two a better chapter one? Does the first paragraph pull the reader in?
- Add the 5 senses, objects important to plot, remove unnecessary characters and add in pivotal characters, generate tension and suspense

Create a worthy first line

- "Have you ever killed anyone?" (Shock. Dean Koontz)
- Ah the woman, why can't she be more like a man? *My Fair Lady.* (Battle of the sexes)
- They say you can't take it with you. But Jim Jones tried. (Contradiction)

- The Marleys were dead to begin with. (Charles Dickens)
- It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife. (Jane Austen)

Be Part of a Healthy, Encouraging Writers Group

How often will you meet?
Where will you meet?
What is the format?

Practice Healthy Author Habits for better creativity and productivity

- Sabbath – Reconnects
- Stillness – Refreshes
- Solitude – Restores
- Sleep – Rejuvenates

Remember, most things people say or do, don't say, don't do, and accidentally do or don't do hardly ever has anything to do with me. Or you. We're just doing our best to live our lives as well as we can.

- Stick to the facts, don't make up a story about what someone did or didn't do or say
- Practice grace
- Choose gratitude
- Be generous
- Don't take ourselves or others too seriously

Always have a mentor

- **Darren Hardy's Darren Daily**
- **The Bible Project**
- **Benjamin Hardy - Medium.com**

Always be reading excellent books:

- **Essentialism by Greg McKeown**
- **The Compound Effect by Darren Hardy**
- **Willpower Doesn't Work by Benjamin Hardy**
- **Blue Zones by Dan Buettner**
- **Vantage Point by Brenda Jank**

For more about Unsticking a Stuck Wordsmith

https://bit.ly/2DE7AxG

Want writing coaching? Let's talk.
PeggySueWells@gmail.com

Connect with me at
PeggySueWells.com