

Writing Workshop Discussion Questions



Why do we write? Why do we read?

What makes for a good story? What makes a story interesting and engaging?

What inspires you? This is, of course, different for every person but come up with your own list and we will then talk about this together.

What kinds of techniques can we use in our writing?

What writing habits work best for you? How have your writing habits changed?

Find alternative words for:

happy	go	got	nice (day)
sad		look	eat

Writing Workshop Discussion Questions

Why do we write? Why do we read?

- to convey information
- to tell a story
- to express our emotions
- for fun
- for school
- to get better
- to explore ideas
- for entertainment
- for ourselves
- for our readers
- to find out what a character will do

What makes for a good story?

- It casts a spell over its reader.
- It draws us in, draws the reader in.
- It helps the reader forget where they are.
- It has strong characters.
- It has a good beginning, middle and end.
- It has a lot of action and drama.
- It's exciting.
- It touches our emotions.
- It uses good writing techniques.
- twists
- mysteries
- action
- different worlds

What inspires you? This is, of course, different for every person but come up with your own list and we will then talk about this together.

- memories
- books you've read
- trips you've taken
- the news, current events
- write for yourself
- life -- jokes, other people's experiences
- animals
- your imagination
- games
- something I'm afraid of
- surroundings

What kinds of techniques can we use in our writing?

- rhymes
- dialogue
- similes
- metaphors
- onomatopoeia
- descriptive details (imagery)
- alliteration
- assonance
- personification
- idioms -- figurative phrases like "It's raining cats and dogs." "Having your head buried in the sand." An expression that doesn't exactly mean what the words say.
- allusion -- talking about something or someone through hints
- mood
- tone
- oxymoron - a figure of speech where apparently contradictory terms are put together. Two terms that seem to have opposite meanings are put together to make a phrase. -- awfully good, random order, irregular pattern, invisible ink, freezer burn, minor crisis, jumbo shrimp

What writing habits work best for you? How have your writing habits changed?

- writing daily
- writing in the same place
- writing at the same time as others

Find alternative words for:

happy	go	got	nice (day)
Cheerful, content, blissful, jubilant, ecstatic, excited	Hurry, wander, sauntered, dash, sprint, rush, scramble, skip, meander, tiptoe,	grab, receive, chose,	Beautiful, sparkling, crisp, clear,
sad	stroll, glide, trot,	look	eat
Remorseful, lonely, depressed, sullen, sulky, down, grumpy, upset, distraught, glum, miserable, dismayed, forlorn,	shuffle, hike, tread, bolt, hustle, fled	Gaze, examine, glance, view, observe, peek, inspect, spy, stare, watch, notice, study	Gobble, slurp, inhale, munch, chomp, bite, wolf down, picked at, nibble, sample, tasted

Finding thoughtful words to use:

