When the book takes over': creativity, the writing process and flow in Australian fiction writing

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Main content

Abstract:

This paper explores the concept of flow (Csikszentmihalyi 1988a; 1988b; 1997a; 1997b) in relation to creative practice as discussed by a sample of Australian fiction writers. Approximately 68% of these writers experienced what they felt was an altered state of consciousness or an unconscious process at work more generally. For example, more than a quarter of the writers interviewed (27%) discussed a sense of empathy with their characters to the degree where they felt the characters ‘come to life’ as separate entities. It can be seen that this experience of a flow-like state with regard to character in particular and content more generally substantially derives from an intense familiarity garnered through idea generation, research, development and the drafting process itself. This discussion of flow, looking at the specific example of character empathy, goes some way towards explaining the apparent dichotomy between writers’ descriptions of conscious, controlled writing and a subconscious or uncontrolled state. Key words: Creative writing, Writing process, Flow, Story development

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There are four major steps in the writing process, and each of these steps is further subdivided into specific sub-divisions. Some of these things take place on paper, some take place in your mind. A great deal of writing involves thinking through your ideas. Some of these steps might involve discussion with other people. The four major steps are: 1. prewriting. 2. composing and first drafting. 3. continuing drafting, revising and editing. 4. final drafting. The Beginning: Creative writing takes its first breath when the writer asks, "What can I create out of a particular feeling, image, experience, or memory?" The Purpose: It carries out a writer's compelling desire to imagine, invent, explore, or share. Writing satisfies the creative soul. It often takes on a life of its own; the writer merely follows along. display was over. Creative Process and Creative Writing Ideas. CREATIVE PROCESS. Breathe the fresh air and think. Allow your thoughts to float. Creative writing ideas. 1. Let it flow. A story or book has little to do with the intellect or language when we first begin.
Best ideas usually emerge as a spark or image. Like dreams, they will make little sense. Some writers argue that “writer’s block” isn’t real. It’s just an excuse to use when we’d rather procrastinate than get to work on our writing projects. There’s a quote attributed to William… But keep writing, no matter if you’re pleased with the final result or not. Maya Angelou explained in the book Writers Dreaming: “I suppose I do get ‘blocked’ sometimes but I don’t like to call it that. That seems to give it more power than I want it to have. What I try to do is write. I may write for two weeks ‘the cat sat on the mat, that is that, not a rat,’ you know. And it might be just the most boring and awful stuff. But I try. Every writer works in a different way. Some writers work straight through from beginning to end. Others work in pieces they arrange later, while others work from sentence to sentence. Understanding how and why you write the way you do allows you to treat your writing like the job it is, while allowing your creativity to run wild. Keep what works for you and discard the rest. Your material and process will guide you to your own set of rules. tags: creative-process, creative-thinking, creative-writing, creativity, individuality, life, life-lessons, reality, writers, writers-on-writing, writing, writing-from-the-heart, writing-process. The grass is cut. It smells like strawberries. Today I finished four books and cleaned my drawers. Do you believe in a God? Can I tell you about Icarus? How he flew too close to the sun? I want to make coming home your favourite part of the day. “When I used to teach creative writing, I would tell the students to make their characters want something right away - even if it’s only a glass of water. Characters paralyzed by the meaninglessness of modern life still have to drink water from time to time.” — Kurt Vonnegut.