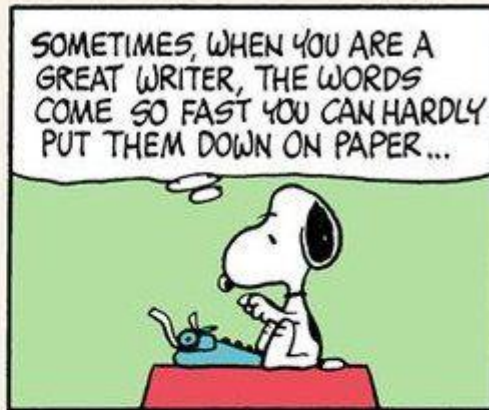
A close-up photograph of a fountain pen nib resting on a piece of lined paper. The paper has cursive handwriting on it, which is slightly out of focus. The pen nib is the central focus, with its fine lines and the small hole at the tip clearly visible. The lighting creates a soft shadow of the pen on the paper to the right.

CREATIVE WRITING

J. Bradley Burt
Sally Harrison-Pepper
Amy Pontius



1. Writers write

*There are three rules for writing a novel.
Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.*
- Somerset Maugham



The main rule of writing is that if you do it with enough assurance and confidence, you're allowed to do whatever you like...I'm not sure there are any other rules. Not ones that matter.
- Neil Gaiman

2. Start with a good story

Write one true thing.

– Ernest Hemingway

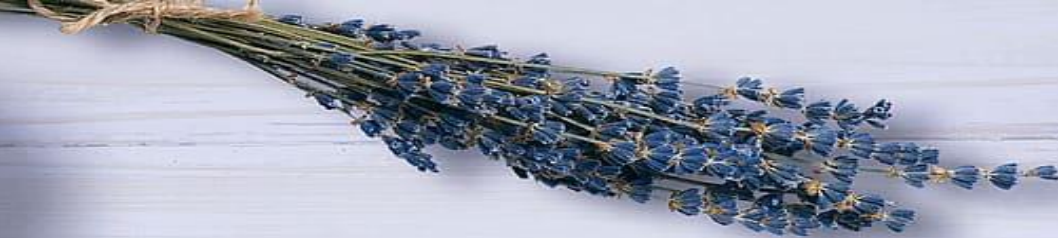
*First, find out what your hero wants,
then just follow him!*

- Ray Bradbury

*Write what disturbs you, what you fear, what you have not been willing to
speak about. Be willing to be split open.*

- Natalie Goldberg





3. My writing process

*If you wait for inspiration to write,
you're not a writer,
you're a waiter.*

- Dan Poynter



A hand holding a pencil is positioned at the bottom left of the page. The page is a spiral-bound notebook with a white cover and a silver spiral binding at the top. The notebook is placed on a light-colored wooden surface. To the right of the notebook, a silver pen lies horizontally. Above the notebook, a bunch of dried lavender flowers is tied with a string. In the top left corner, there is a purple tape dispenser with several wooden sticks protruding from it. In the top right corner, there is a small, round, purple candle with a black string tied around its base.

3. My writing process



*If I waited for perfection,
I would never write a word.*

- Margaret Atwood



3. My writing process

*If proper usage gets in the way,
it may have to go. I can't allow what
we learned in English composition
to disrupt the sound and
rhythm of the narrative.
- Elmore Leonard*





3. My writing process

*Don't tell me the moon is shining;
show me the glint of light
on broken glass.*

– Anton Chekhov

A hand holding a pencil is positioned over a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook is open to a page with a quote. The background is a light-colored wooden surface. In the top left corner, there is a purple spool of thread with several wooden knitting needles. In the top right corner, there is a small purple candle with a black string tied around it. In the bottom right corner, there is a silver pen.

3. My writing process

A book is finished when it no longer needs its author. But sometimes, the author might not know there is no real ending. It's just the place where you stop the story.

– Frank Herbert

4. Rewriting

If it sounds like writing, I rewrite it. - Elmore Leonard

We write to communicate to the hearts and minds of others what's burning inside us, and we edit to let the fire show through the smoke.

- Arthur Plotnik

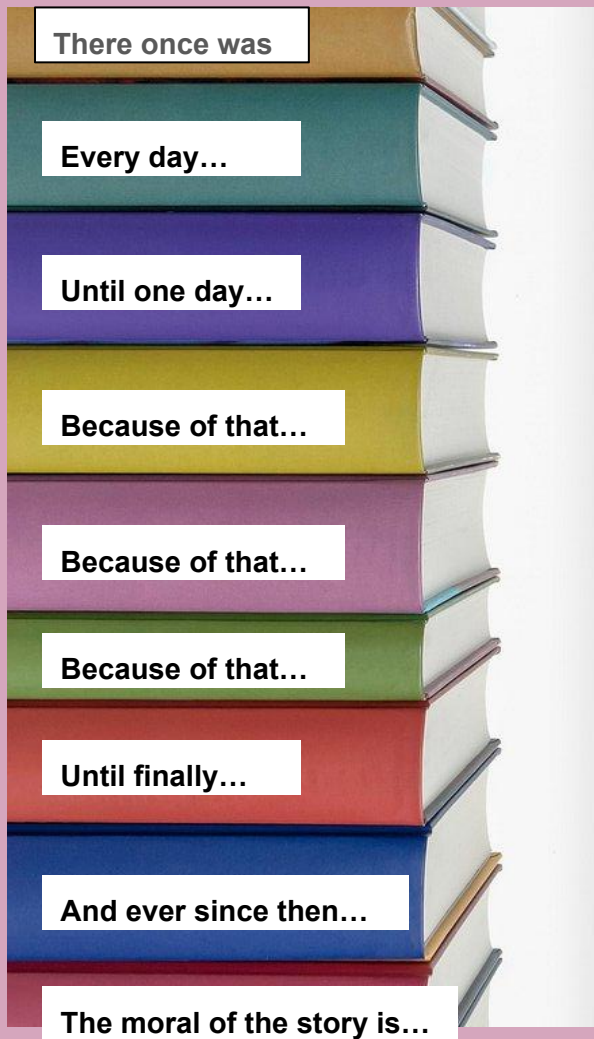
A writer is a world trapped in a person. - Victor Hugo

Many people hear voices when no one is there. Some of them are called mad and are shut up in rooms where they stare at the walls all day. Others are called writers and they do pretty much the same thing.

- Margaret Chittenden

Start with
a good story.





Story
Spine



Story Spine

There once was...



Story Spine

Every day...



Story Spine

Until one day...



Story Spine

Because of that...



Story Spine

Because of that...



Story Spine

Because of that...



Story Spine

Until finally...



Story Spine

And ever since
then...



Story Spine

And the moral of
the story is...

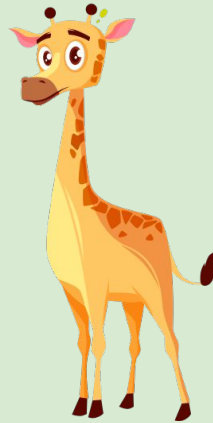
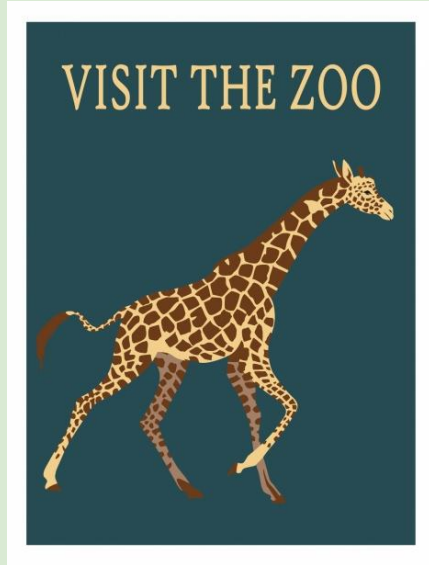


If there must be a story,

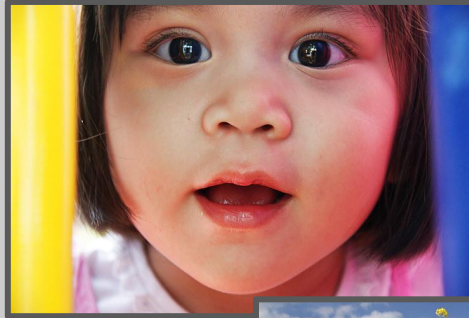
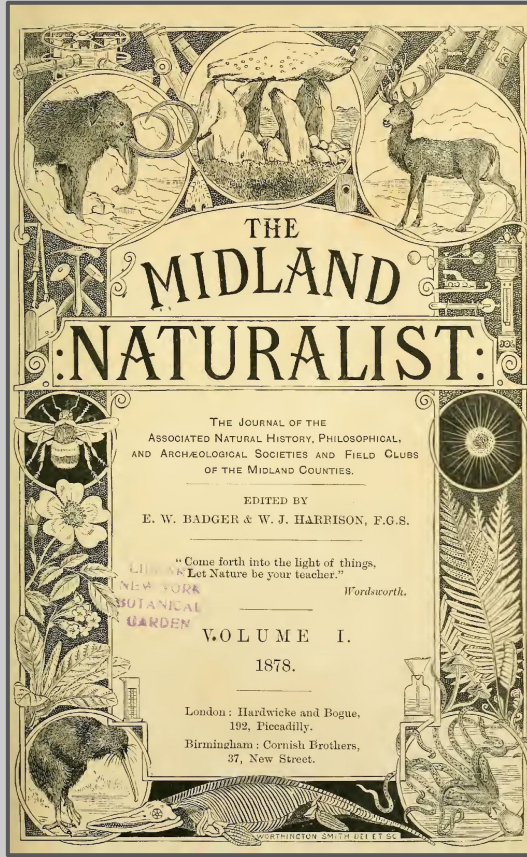
then *how do writers select* **characters, setting, and plot?**

Start with what you know - your own experiences.

We are going to the zoo.



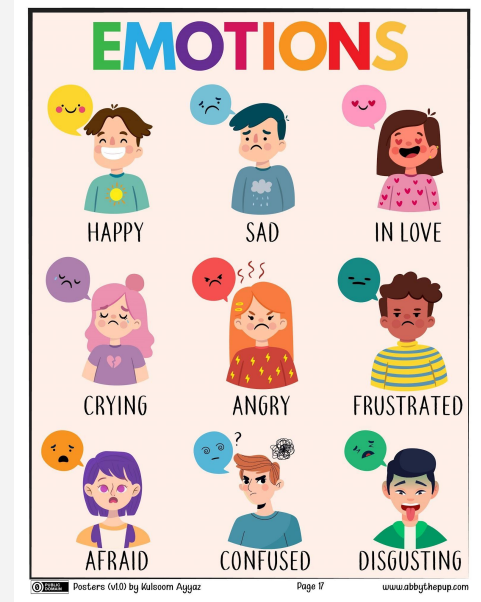
How does
that make
you feel?



MY FAMILY'S TRIP TO THE ZOO:

1. **Jen** was sad
2. **Danny** was excited to see the capybaras
3. **Grace** was looking for photo ops
4. **John** was bored
5. **I** was happy

SELECT A NARRATOR



CHOOSING A SETTING

The zoo is the zoo...

BUT it would be described differently based on the narrator.



PLOT - conflict/events will change based on the character



How would my sister-in-law's story go?

How would Danny's story be different?

Which character provides the greatest conflict?

Which character gives the most unique approach?

Which character can I connect with?

While a trip to the zoo may seem ordinary, what is it about your narrative that makes it special?



Rewriting.





BUNGALOW

baloney

lullaby

JIGGLY

brouhaha

ripple

gossamer

PETUNIA

Words are strong and gritty.

Words have heart and they are daring.

They can be playful, academic, dark, silly, or surprising.

They can have multiple meanings and multiple spellings.

Words can trigger memories, and they can tell stories.



I have always loved the word _____ because...

Maybe you have always loved the word **arrow** because of the way the word whistles when you release it from the string.

Maybe you have always loved the word **romanticize** because of the way it greets you with a soft fur coat and how the beginning of the word slips off your tongue.

*Credits: Bethany & Zahirah



Words are essential to creativity.

word = ocean

Instead of saying she loved it because it is cool, moving blue water, Alex said it was because of "the way its silky turquoise currents percolate through the pores of the coral reefs."



GIBBERISH DICTIONARY

1. Make up a word.
2. Define it.
3. Use it in a sentence.

A hand on the left holds a yellow pencil pointing to the letter 'Q'. A hand on the right holds the right edge of a blackboard. The blackboard has 'Q & A' written in white, cursive-style letters.

Q & A