



"Where would we be if an entire rain shower was delivered in one drop?"

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# Live Your Writing Dream

## Starting with Conflict

Among the ways that you might begin a story, using conflict to introduce your characters is an excellent way to get your readers involved from the first sentence.

I'll share with you some ways you might start a story with conflict.

To begin, pick a situation that involves a conflict between two or more people (external conflict) OR a conflict that is internal to a character. Write this down!

1. What action might convey the conflict.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Tom drew his fist back to his shoulder, ready to strike his best friend.

2. Think of one sentence a character might say that gives the reader a clue (directly or indirectly) that some conflict is underway.

FOR EXAMPLE:

"You're a filthy liar," Tom shouted at his best friend.

3. Create a mood to give your readers a clue to what might come.

FOR EXAMPLE:

The space between the two best friends sparked like lightning between two dark clouds.

4. The setting can also convey a conflict.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Tom ignored the noisy partons, slammed his beer mug on the bar counter, and with clinched fists turned to his friend.

You don't need to have a setup to explain what's going on at the beginning of your story. Drop the readers in the middle of the action. They are intelligent and will come to understand what's going on. That's part of the HOOK.

Backstory can be filled in along the way. Think of rain. Where would we be if an entire rain shower was delivered in one drop? Keep backstory like a gentle spring shower, starting instead with conflict



All meaning, in the best fiction, comes from--as Faulkner said--the heart in conflict with itself.

-- John Gardner



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I continue to post at my blog at least once a week. Check it out!

Visit:  
[LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com](http://LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com)

Upcoming Workshops:  
**FORESHADOWING**

WHEN: March 7-13, 2010

**MAKE A SCENE!**

WHEN: March 14-27, 2010

For information for either workshop and to register:

<http://www.savvyauthors.com/workshops.cfm>

Remember my dislocated elbow? Turns out I also had torn ligaments. I'm taking care of this and thinking "HEAL!" and my elbow is doing better. Also had a procedure to promote healing. After a couple of weeks not being able to write, I'm back at the keyboard. It feels good to be about to type all the things I've been thinking about the past couple of weeks.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter (in its entirety) to others.

Best Wishes,  
June

# Live Your Writing Dream



"Share your goals with a trusted friend. This is your goal buddy."

## Writing Goals: Step 2 - Regularly Review Your Goals

You've thought long and hard about your writing goals for 2010. You wrote them down as a reminder of what you want to accomplish this year.

What's next? The second step in the goal achieving process is to regularly review your goals. Find ways to keep your focus on your goals every day of the year.

When you have goals you want to accomplish over a year's time, what might you do to keep your focus moving forward?

Here are some suggestions for ways to keep your goals in front of your face during the year:

1. Print out your list of goals and put them where you do your writing work.
2. Keep a list of your goals with you every where you go.
3. Write a goal for how often you will evaluate your goals.
4. Develop a goal or plan for how you might celebrate your accomplishments.
5. Physically check off the goals you have realized.
6. Read your goals **OUT LOUD** to yourself. Do this EVERY day.
7. Share your goals with a trusted friend. This is your goal buddy. (We all

need buddies!) You might want to develop one or more goals around how often you'll check in with your buddy and what support you're seeking.

Goals are more than just dreaming them up and writing them down. Success is moving forward!



You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream,

--C. S. Lewis

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