



"Starting with mood frames the entire story or scene."

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Live Your Writing Dream

Starting with Mood

Mood can be used to start a story or a scene. The writer might choose this to create a situation where the reader will ask questions and want to read more. Starting with mood frames the entire story or scene.

The mood established at the beginning of a story or scene might reflect the character or situation that is to be presented. Mood can be created through dialog, action, description, or a combination of these elements. Mood can prepare the reader for what is to come in the story, a form of foreshadowing.

Not sure what mood is or how to work with this? Check out the Mood Worksheet (the URL is at the end of the article). You'll find a list of sample words and a writing exercise. Have fun with this. Try working the exercise into different story openings

Here are some examples of starting a story with mood.

1. The thunder shook the floorboards of the falling down Victorian house.
2. The man ran through the park, his heart pounds, the slap of his shoes on the paved walkway driving him closer to his victim.
3. "Get out of my house," Jennifer screamed at the teenager standing in the open doorway.

Mood is all about evoking an emotional response in the reader, about raising questions, and giving the reader an indication of what kind of story this is going to be.

NOTE: Please do NOT begin a story: "It was a dark and stormy night."

This line has become a cliché and even has a contest derived from it. (Check out: The Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest at <http://www.bulwer-lytton.com/>)

Conflict can be tied into the mood that you create in your story opening. This furthers the reader's interest in your story by raising even more question.

To help with setting the mood of your story, ask yourself these questions:

What setting might help in the establishing of the mood?

What character would be the best one to help set the mood at the opening of the story? (NOTE: To give a twist to your opening, consider putting a character outside of where he or she might ordinarily be found. This adds to the tension.)

What conflict ties the character to the mood you wish to establish?

Mood Worksheet URL:
<http://LiveYourWritingDream.com/Worksheets/Worksheet-MoodList.pdf>

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"In your description of a sunrise, you want to convey a certain mood; the sunrise, let us say, in a ominous one. That requires different words than a description of a bright, cheerful sunrise would. Consider how much knowledge goes into your ability to differentiate between the two intentions. What is ominous? What is cheerful? What kind of concepts, words, metaphors will convey each?" Ayn Rand



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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

Visit:
LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com

Upcoming Workshops:
FORESHADOWING

WHEN: March 7-13, 2010

MAKE A SCENE!

MOVED TO June 7 - 21, 2010

For information for either workshop and to register:
<http://www.savvyauthors.com/workshops.cfm>

Workshop for the Muse Online Writers Conference (a FREE event)

Title: Building a Submission Package for Success

WHEN: October 11 – October 17

<http://www.themuseonlinewritersconference.com/>

Registration is **NOW** open.

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My elbow continues to heal. I can now write by hand for about an hour.

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

Best Wishes,
June

Live Your Writing Dream



"How do you track your goals and your progress? What works best for you?"

Writing Goals: Step 3 -

Appraise & Track Your Progress!

After you have solid, SMART goals, you need to step up and make sure you are taking responsibility in moving forward.

How often do you review your goals?

Do you have weekly and daily goals that are broken down from your larger goals?

How do you track your goals and your progress?

Keep your daily and weeks goals where you see them often, as a reminder of what you wish to accomplish that day and during the week.

Have a set time when you review the goals for the upcoming week. I usually do this Sunday evening as that's my time to relax and get ready for the week.

You might want to have a copy of your weekly and daily goals in a word document and print it out as a reminder of what you want to accomplish that week. Check off the goals as they are completed.

Maybe you prefer to use a spreadsheet and make comments for each goal, or use this as your check-off list.

Making comments helps you to see where you might want to adjust your weekly and daily goals. If you have not completed one or more goal, maybe the goals you are not completing are still too large and need to be broken down into smaller steps.

Another area to track in appraising your goals is what is keeping you from completing them daily or weekly. Do you

see a pattern? This is where you need to be truthful to yourself, if you want to be successful.

If you find that a goal is too challenging, ask yourself: What resources do you need to be able to complete this goal?

Try using your calendar or task list, such as the task function in Microsoft Outlook, or other software that you normally use for your calendar.

I'm into TO DO lists, and make a new list each week of what I will accomplish, including the day of the week that I plan on working on a specific goal. I do this in MS Word, print it out, and check off the goals as I complete them. I also review each morning what's on my list for that day.

Appraising and tracking your goals will help you to get those larger goals accomplished by the end of the year.

A Goal Appraisal Worksheet can be found here:
<http://LiveYourWritingDream/Worksheets/Worksheet-GoalAppraisalChecklist.pdf>

"Nothing happens unless we first dream."
- Carl Sandburg

"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it."
- Michelangelo

The reason most goals are not achieved is that we spend out time doing second things first.
-Robert J. McKain

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