



"...Engages the reader to become an active participant in the story."

Issue 4, Volume 1

April 2010

Live Your Writing Dream

Starting with Foreshadowing

The beginning of your story includes a promise to your reader. The writer gives clues to what the story is about (genre, plot, etc.), who the main character is, and a hint of the conflict. One way to accomplish this promise to the reader is to make use of foreshadowing.

Foreshadowing might be defined as: "...the presentation in a work of literature of hints and clues that tip the reader off as to what is to come later in the work." (From About.com; <http://contemporarylit.about.com/cs/literaryterms/g/foreshadowing.htm>)

Here are some reasons and uses of foreshadowing:

- Helps the reader understand what the story is about.
- Builds tension between the reader and the story, helping to ensure the reader will continue reading.
- Can be used to increase or build suspense.
- Helps to keep the reader moving forward in the story.
- Engages the reader to become an active participant in the story.
- Adds a sense of momentum to your scene or story.
- Helps to make the ending more believable.

Examples of Foreshadowing

Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare: This is a case of obvious foreshadowing as the opening mentions "star-cross'd" lovers and later dialog between Romeo and Juliet about death.

Hound of the Baskervilles by Conan Doyle: The author includes multiple uses and favors of foreshadowing including through dialog, description, action, and in flashbacks.

EXERCISE:

Part 1

Pick out five to ten books you've read and look at the first couple of pages in each one. Answer these questions:

1. Can you find references to the future?
2. What changes can you find in the mood, setting, or the weather?

3. Does the character or narrator share direct information to the reader?

4. Are there any signals that things might not be what they seem?

These are all examples of foreshadowing.

Part 2

Chose some of your own story openings. Ask yourself the same four questions as in Part 1.

Did you make use of foreshadowing in your stories? If so, great!

If you didn't or want to beef up your use of foreshadowing, find places where you might include foreshadow and make notes of those for your revisions.

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"A closed mind is like a closed book; just a block of wood."

- Chinese Saying



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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

Visit:
LiveYourWritingDream.wordpress.com

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.

For a complete list of upcoming workshops and events, go to:

<http://LiveYourWritingDream.com/>

and click on Workshops for coaching and writing coming events.

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

Best Wishes,
June

Live Your Writing Dream

"Celebrate ALL your victories... Each is but one step to living your writing dream."

Writing Goals: Step 4 - Celebrate Successes!

You've done the following:

Step 1: Have written goals
Step 2: Regularly reviewed goals
Step 3: Appraise your progress

Now, it's time to PARTY!

You should (you **MUST**) celebrate your successes - not only for yourself, but so others can see what you've achieved. (You never know whom you might inspire!)

Along with your list of goals and sub-goals, leave space to acknowledge your successes and how you celebrate them.

Celebrate **ALL** your victories -- small as well as the large ones. Each one is important. Each is but one step to living your writing dream.

Set up a party and invite your friends and family. This can be large or small, depending on what feels good to you.

Find ways to announce your success and celebrate your achievement. Maybe use Facebook or Twitter. Be creative!

Take a trip! This could be a day trip, a weekend retreat, or something longer. You decide. Where might you go? What might you see that's special to you? Plan and do it.

Do something special for yourself. Make a "play" date with yourself and do something fun. Or stay home all day in your PJs and do **NOTHING**.

Do something you've always wanted to do, but keep talking yourself out of. Do it alone or with a friend or loved one. But **DO** it!

Invite some friends to take you out to lunch or dinner, or some other activity you all might enjoy while spending time together.

Maybe you have other ways you might want to celebrate your achievement. Create a list of ways that you can celebrate. Be as wild and crazy as you

wish. This is your DREAM list. Make these become a reality as you have success with your goals.

Acknowledge your achievements -- and if you hear that inner voice, that inner critic, whispering something negative, tell that voice to leave you alone -- you're busy celebrating.

Focusing on success and celebrating them helps to make future success possible.

Celebrate! Enjoy yourself. What we focus on in our lives becomes our reality.

What's next? Look at the next goal and begin working toward another celebration.

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"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

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