

Writer's Block: Creative Writing Exercises

Breaking through Creative Blocks (Grades 6 - 12)



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Introduction:

Whether we are painters, coders, sculptors, illustrators, writers - creatives in any capacity and context, we can become stumped with what to do next with our creatives. I like to think of a creative block as Not An Actual thing - it is not a blocking of, but rather, a pausing or slowing down of our creative pursuits. Sometimes, these can be opportunities to rest in possibilities - there are infinite ways to go with our makings! These writing exercises are created for writers of any kind to use as a way to (hopefully) get some juices flowing!

Description:

Writing for the senses:

1. Think of the most deafening sound you can imagine, describe it in detail by having a character hear it for the first time.
2. Look around you and focus on a sight. Do your best to explain the colors and shapes you see as though you were describing them to an individual who could not see. What does red feel like? How does blue sound?

Writing about objects:

1. Write about a forgotten place: a locked storage unit, an abandoned attic, an overgrown garden. Walk into or through the place in your imagination: what object/s do you encounter? Write about the discovery of the object from the object's point of view.
2. Think of an object that is undesirable, ugly, impractical, and create a character who finds it very beautiful. Have the character describe the object in a way that convinces the reader of its beauty.
3. Write down a list of five to ten emotions, general or specific, and put them into a container. Go outside or look through a window to a tree. Pull one emotion from the container and describe the tree from that perspective without mentioning the emotion in your writing.

Writing about people:

1. Think of the types of interactions two people can have: a celebration, a competition, an argument. Write a scene about the interaction from two perspectives: one from an individual's point of view *in* the interaction, and another from an individual's point of view *outside* of the interaction, maybe someone watching from a park bench or through a window.
2. Write a paragraph where a person does a simple action, like turning on a light switch, and make the reader marvel at how strange and odd it truly is.
3. Have a character tell a story inside a pre-established form: an instruction manual, traffic update, email exchange, weather report, text message. Be sure to keep to the form of the chosen format.
4. Imagine yourself in a public restroom with messages left on the wall of a stall. Write the story either of the message left, or the person who wrote it.