

NEWS

Only writing related news is valid here.

A Merry Christmas Invitation

To the Members of the Writers' Nook

From the Shuswap Writers Group in Salmon Arm

Greetings; you and your guest are invited to the Shuswap Writers' Group potluck luncheon! It will be on Dec. 4th from 11:30 to 2:00 at the Field House adjacent to Field of Dreams soccer field 30th Street SE across from the Shuswap Middle School.

This is a great time to read your short story or poem. This is a great time to visit with friends and of course enjoy the delicious potluck. Being the environmental gurus we are, please bring your own plate, cutlery and mug in a bag so you can take them home after.

Please R.S.V.P. by November 30th to shuswapwritersgroup@gmail.com

VOICE OF THE SHUSWAP new program, Stories for Seniors. See the [Press Release](#) as well as the [Poster](#).

Call for manuscripts of novellas. Theresa Kishkan is the force behind *Fish Gotta Swim* publishing. If you've read her work you'll know how good this is. [Check this out](#). What is a novella? It's a story too long to be a short story, but too short to be a novel (say over 40 but under 100 pages) or word count as falling between 15,000 and 40,000 words) but really there's no precise definition.

Character Development

REFLECTION on First Impressions continued from the last meeting

When we are first introduced to a new character in a book we are, just like in real life, relying on this first impression to give us information about the character.

Download and Read: introduction of [Ruby Bell](#) from *Ruby* by Cynthia Bond

1. Does this brief description give us enough information about Ruby Bell to interest us before we dive into the story? Does it give us a glimpse of Ruby's backstory?

What is Backstory

The backstory about a character is a narrative that outlines their pertinent history or background. It helps us understand what it is that makes them who they are and why they act as they do when they appear in a novel or story.

NOTE: It is more important for you, the author, to know the character's backstory than it is for the reader to know it.

Discussion: of famous character, Archie Bunker

1. Describe his appearance.
2. Describe his personality.
3. What do you suppose was his backstory? How and why did he get this way?
4. Understand that he thinks the way he thinks, talks the way he talks, and says the things he says because that's who he is. He couldn't be any different.

Discussion: of Rosanne Barr using same criteria.

THE CHALLENGE (homework):

Our challenge for the next meeting is very similar to the previous one — to develop and prepare an interesting character to reveal to a reader, to provide to the reader their their First Impression of this character.

To accomplish this, find an image of an interesting-looking character. Cut it out, or print it out so we have it handy to look at, for inspiration. Write an interesting physical and character description of this character.

Using these descriptions, imagine what this character's "backstory" is. The backstory will tell us something about this character's history, something that makes him/her act and react the way they do. (Keep the picture for future reference, so you can use it for future meetings.)

ALTERNATIVELY...

Wish I would have thought of this prior to the last meeting — you can find a great physical and character description of a character that you've enjoyed reading in a book. Copy it. Be sure to cite the name of the book and the author for us. Then use your imagination to give us your own personal version of this character's "backstory."

Send your homework to me as a pdf file. I would like to post it onto the website as soon as possible to give everyone the opportunity to prepare a response to it for our discussion at our next meeting.