



Creative Workshops
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Creative Workshops July 2011
Writing Newsletter
Re-story and re-imagine your Life and Work

Our deepest fears are like dragons guarding our deepest treasure (Rilke)

Dear writers, story-tellers, readers

In a recent storyshop, *Dragons, Fears and Treasure*, presented in Durban and Cape Town, I asked people to choose five magazine pictures to represent the dragon they feared. Then to write about each one, using a statement, a question, an exclamation and then a command - an idea I picked up from Paul Matthews' Creative Writing Sourcebook, *Sing me the Creation*. (explored below) Then participants returned to the same five pictures and now interpreted them as representing five treasures. As with the dragon pictures, they moved through the same four writing steps. Finally I asked them to connect their five pictures via one story, a linking narrative.

A couple of observations about the process. Pictures speak to our imagination and open to images. They ground the writing in the concrete. Goethe reminds us that "it makes a great difference whether the poet seeks the particular for the universal or beholds the universal in the particular." The first is merely an example whereas with the second option, "whoever grasps this particular in a living way, will simultaneously receive the universal too." The movement in philosophy might be from the Universal to the stone. But in writing it is the stone, the stone, the stone.

Something more about the four-part cycle of statement, question, exclamation and command - the four basic types of sentences available to us. To return to the magazine pictures - one participant chose a bleak landscape with barren ground as one of her pictures. Let's imagine what she might have written:

Statement: "The ground is dry the sky hazy." This is a description about what she sees in the picture.

Question: "Why is the ground dry and the sky hazy?" She is now beginning to speak outside the frame of the picture to events that preceded or might follow it. This begins a dialogue

as it calls for a response. This induces movement.

Exclamation: "Look how the dark light falls onto the dry ground." She begins to accept and appreciate what is ,not expecting it to be other than it is. Such acceptance is the prelude to change.

Command: "Bleak scene, teach me about patience as I wait for rain." Her language evokes power and movement.

Sometimes in describing a picture or an object, we shift from statement into exclamation (praise) as the emotional impact of what we are observing strikes us like lightening. I wonder if it was observation that lead Hopkins to the opening of so many of his sonnets? "Glory be to God for dappled things/for skies of couple colour as a brindled cow... " "Nothing is as beautiful as spring/ when weeds in wheels shoot long and lovely and lush...."

Try this approach to your writing, applying it to fears (possibly fear of writing?) and treasures. In so doing you might begin to move from the future (here be dragons) into the present (dragon treasures)as you explore unchrated territory. This is where the writing lives and breathes.

Dorian's July/Aug Storyshops/ Writeshops/Conversations

A thinner one-day wordshop schedule in July as I'm currently mentoring the writing of 20 **Once upon a Journey Course** folk, refining, nuancing the texts that are going to be part of the shared 2011 collection. Many of them have found the dragon's treasure.

This Course, leading to a publication, will run again as from end March 2012. Detailed flyer from me.

If you want any of these workshops in your area speak speak.

KZN

1. Ixopo Buddhist Retreat Centre (with Bob Commin)

The Art of Conversation Developing our Listening and Speaking Skills

Fri 8- Sun 10 July bookings brcixopo@futurenet.co.za 039 834 1863

The branches of your intelligence grow new leaves in the wind of listening (Rumi)

Many of us have in life's business, mislaid the sister arts of listening and speaking. In this retreat we attend to the silence around us, paying our respects to breath and heartbeat. We begin to cultivate a space for the authentic listener and speaker in us. We rediscover our natural resonance, rhythm and sense of timing. It's all about recovering the lost art of conversation in an age of instant response.

Who washes his hands of life says whatever he has in his heart. (Sa'di)

2. KZN Midlands

19 to 21 August 2011

CALLING ALL READERS AND WRITERS - calling Kay Zed and Ian

KZN MIDLANDS STORY JAMBOREE at the Truth Café(near the site of Mandela's arrest)

An interactive weekend of writing, telling, listening , god food and **FUN!!!!!!**

Friday evening 19

Rekindling the Fire

Supper, storytelling and sharing

Saturday and Sunday 20 21

Writing Yourself Alive

A Life Story Workshop

Saturday evening 20

Bosman & Truth Food

Bosman Stories and Supper

Attend all or choose which tickles your fancy.

Interested?

Contact **Fiona** on 082 920 3342 frobinson@wol.co.za or **Annie/Brendan** on 083 227 2376

Western Cape

3. Cape, Claremont

The 8 O'Clock Club: interactive talk R50 Pensioners R25 Refreshments

Once upon a Life: How stories lead us into a larger life

Tues 5 July 7.45pm for 8pm - 10pm

*Who are you really wanderer?
And the answer you have to give
No matter how dark and cold
The world is around you is:
Maybe I'm King (William Stafford)*

Are you living your full story – sunshine and shadow? Dorian's interactive talk explores how we can enlarge our lives through story telling. As we wonder about life, choice and change, we consider how the stories we live by (our life stories) can lead to greater abundance and nobility of spirit ... as king/queen.

Venue : The Pavilion, Grove Primary School, Claremont. entrance Bishoplea Road
info@8oClockClub.co.za

4. Somerset West

Sat 23 July 09.30 – 13.00

Write your Life: How to be at ease with words a U3A (University of the third age) workshop – for U3A members. Elders teaching elders. Free venue TBA: a private home

5. Stellenbosh

Last Wed eve of every month July - Nov an established writing group meets called Magic Carpenters. I have two places open flight times 18.30 -21.15. R590 for the series

Gauteng

6. Johannesburg

3-4 Aug

Corporate Stories : Halo or Noose?

Graham Williams and I facilitate a 2 day In-house storyshop for 3 M

Down the Line (Sept/Oct)

7a. Ixopo Natal Midlands Buddhist Retreat Centre

Zen Pen A Writing, Being & Meditation Retreat 9-11Sept

bookings bcixopo@futurenet.co.za 039 834 1863

*Looking at your image in a clear stream,
you answer the question by your very presence*

In this workshop we explore the connection between writing and meditation. We write and meditate on the many changes and transformations we experience as we journey along the river of our lives. We consider how creativity steadies the boat and how writing helps us dip the oars into dark water so we may navigate the river safely.

7b. Crafting Words in the Silence of Shared Space

Sun 11 Wed 14 Oct

This Life so short, this craft so long to learn (Chaucer)

This retreat is for those who wish to begin or develop a piece of writing. We listen, observe, attend and allow the text to take us where it wants to go. We get out of the way so we can be spoken and written through. We move between workshop input and silent writing time. Like the potter, we spin, shape and fire our words so they can find their simple beauty.

8. Cape Town

Storytelling Storyshop - Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace

30 Sept – 1 Oct

The age-old tradition of storytelling has long been recognized as a formidable tool for reconciling differences and building peaceful relationships. If we think of conflict as the clash of divergent stories centring on real or imagined wrong-doing and superiority, then we can take advantage of the ethical underpinning of story, in general, and of storytelling, in particular, to defuse these harmful narratives.

Through the folds of fiction we can examine our attitudes and prejudices on a symbolic level, employing the ancient archetypes to focus on our similarities, rather than on our differences. The sharing of life stories provides an opportunity for seeing the world through the eyes of another.

The proposed pre-summit training is a two-day storytelling workshop. In this workshop delegates will learn to use storytelling as a tool for peace-building. The process will be an experiential one, with delegates experiencing the techniques, which they will simultaneously be taught to use with others. Art and music will be interwoven through the two days. The training will culminate in a storytelling celebration.

website, www.mfp-dop.org/ <http://www.sapeacealliance.org.za/>

Ongoing activities (some repeat info here)

Mentoring – one-on-one

“You make me sound like myself” (various clients) Walk with me in words. You put on one shoe, I wear the other. Memoirs, mindful adventures, work in the word... genres tumbling out of folk on the one-on-one path. Such a richness of story here.

Email Courses: Writer's/ Poet's Voice Course – one-on-one tuition

Some folks respond to structure, assignments... if so, ask and it shall be negotiated. Here is one possibility: Do you love reading and writing? This one-on-one apprenticeship aims to take you further up the writing mountain and offer you a deeper engagement with your craft. This course is structured in the nature of an ongoing conversation with a few chosen

writers or poets, (ancestral or alive) with me and with yourself. I encourage you to keep a journal to record your observations and reflections.

Speaking Engagements

Be still when you have nothing to say but when genuine passion moves you, say what you've got to say, and say it hot. (D. H. Lawrence) Last August I created and presented a myth of the Berg at the Drakensberg Sun for Southern Sun executives. What are your needs?

Development Work

During 201 I will be working for Diakonia facilitating life story workshops for stress and trauma debriefing counsellors.

Bosman and Nasrudin under starlight

This season I will be a story-ing ...a winter evening, wine, cheese, breads and fire tales for the telling. This kind of evening is a bit like the old days - singing around the piano at home. - Except I use stories and creative activities to get folk interacting and to prompt conversations. Themes... Chinese, South African, Mediterranean, Arabian nights. Spending quality time. Any rhyme or reason – birthdays, TV fatigue, the art of conversation.

Corporate Work



**ENGAGE
YOUR CUSTOMERS
MOTIVATE
YOUR STAFF**

Use the Power of Story to:

- tap into their minds
- enrich & enliven your messages
- stimulate mindfulness, imagination & innovation
- influence & persuade
- elicit metaphors that count

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Story Matters @ Work
The Halo and the Noose
The power of story telling and story listening in business life
by Graham Williams and Doreen Handoll

The Halo and the Noose, the Power of story-telling and story listening in Business Life R195

Want to source a 100 plus stories? co-written with Graham Williams (Graysonian Press). We run corporate story workshops based on our book.

Friends at Work and Play

SLED's accredited Stage 1 South African Sign Language course

We start our weekly Stage One Sign Language Course on the 26th July 2011 for the Tuesday afternoon class or the 30th July 2011 for the Saturday morning class. Please could you let us know if you are interested in joining the class as soon as possible? SLED is an ETDP accredited training organisation.

For information (021) 448 2520 or email us at nodumo@sled.org.za.

Elma Pollard: Write for Earth email based writing course

Learn the art of eco-journalism with energy and passion. Offer your voice to help craft a better future. More information at this link <http://thegreentimes.co.za/index.php?id=63>

Aneta Shaw: Creative relaxation in a small group context

Enhance personal growth and honour your soul through creative techniques. Aneta is a clinical psychologist and hypnotherapist, has integrated years of experience and life in other countries with ancient ways of being in this world.

Aneta 082 686 8118 or 021 8555415 aneta.shaw@vodamail.co.za

Hugh Hodge: As-you-write-it

Hugh, the Off-the-Wall Poetry MC and New Contrast Ed, runs a Saturday morning - 0930-1230 - class in creative writing from his home and the homes of participants, The course, As-you-write-it, is themed on the seven ages of (wo)man; over seven Saturdays. Cost R250 per Saturday or R1000 for all seven if paid up-front. Booking essential to Hugh (hahodge@gmail.com) - quorum 3, full house 8.

Juliette Gyure : Coaching *"If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies"*

Far Sight Change and Transition Coaching provides a framework, creative processes and support mechanisms for people negotiating significant changes and transitions. I have a passion for co-creating innovative pathways to change, transition and transformation with my clients. For a free consultation contact me, Juliette Gyure, 0726353818. (Durban- based)

Anne Haarhoff OWL (Order, Words, Language)

Need a top class sharp eyed editor and proof reader? Oh so most highly recommended 044 873 0547 ah1948@gmail.com 078 2733963

Writer-sites and News (see site news on my web. see new web address dorianhaarhoff.com)

May you find your dragon's hoard of words.

Dorian

