

Our Environment is Royal and Divine. Treat it With Due Respect.

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The Apky Newsletter

Volume 1 July 2009

<http://www.akinyi-princess.de>

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1. Mindset of the Issue

"What is written without effort is in general  
read without pleasure."

~ Samuel Johnson

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2. African Proverb:

You have three friends in the world –
Courage, Intellect and Wisdom



Photo courtesy of: www.afrika-weisheiten.de

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3. From the Executive Editor

Greetings and Welcome to you all, our new subscribers.

As an artist and especially a writer, we have ups and downs just like in any other career. My ambition is to not only encourage, tutor and assist new talent – young and old – but to also look at some of the difficult issues especially for Afroancestral writers in a world dominated by both readers, publishers and agents centred around the Euroancestral way

of life. This includes all aspects of existence including the cultural and traditional philosophies. For the Big Thinkers and Creators, it may also include becoming worn out, exhausted, and blocked.

The Apky Newsletter will tackle all the issues that involve us all as a single humanity.

Happy Creating and Writing!

Akinyi Princess of K'Orinda-Yimbo  
Executive Editor

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4. Did You Know That.....



Queen Sophie Charlotte, portrait by Allan Ramsey, 1744

(The Blurred Racial Lines of Famous Families)

In 1486, when the Benin Empire was flourishing, Timbuktu in Mali was an international trading center and the Empire exchanged ambassadors with Portugal, the then leading European sea-voyaging nation. Ambassadors in those days were picked from the ruling nobility, there being no governments with civil servants. It seems that the liaison between Africa and Portugal would later mingle African blood with nearly every European ruling noble family from Portugal up to Germany and the English monarchy, in the person of Queen Charlotte, wife of George III. The couple had 15 children, nine boys and six girls.



Sophie Charlotte zu Mecklenburg-Strelitz aka Queen Charlotte, portrait by Esther Denner, 1761

(sold by: Sotheby's London: Thursday, 25.November 2004, [Lot 38] Important British Paintings 1500-1850)

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5. Creative News & Stories

Debut Novelist Takes €100,000 Impac Dublin Prize

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/jun/11/debut-novelist-impac-dublin-prize>

Guardian, 11 Jun 2009

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6. Feature Article

How To Write Short Stories

Everybody knows writing a story is not easy. Like the drama or the poem, it is imaginative literature that should appeal to the emotions of the readers. Since it communicates the writer's interpretation of reality, there must be an artistic use of language to signify human experience. But how do we write a great short story? What are the things to keep in mind in order to come up with a short story that works? Here's a quick guide to get you started:

1. Read

Reading is essential to anyone who wants to write. In order to be able to write a good short story, you must read other short stories first. This will not only give you the motivation and inspiration for your own story, but it will also help you learn how other authors made an impression on the reader and use their style as basis to create your own style and impression.

2. Get inspired

For seasoned professionals, there is no need to obtain inspiration because thoughts naturally flow and they only have to put them into words on paper. But for novice writers, it is important to have one because it will not only help you begin your first paragraph but also keep you going throughout. Your inspiration may take the form of an object, a person, or an event that you just can't seem to forget.

3. Conceptualize your story

Think of something you want to talk about with your readers. Let's say you want to relate a story about a couple who fell in love with each other. What about the couple? What is it about them that you are interested to let your readers know? Focus on this idea and think of other concepts that you want to associate with this couple. Suppose the girl's parents disapproved their relationship. What about the parents? What did they do to stop the two from loving each other? This could signal a good beginning for your story. From here, you would have the notion what to write down.

4. Map out the scenes

In order to keep your writing aligned with your preconceived story events, it is good to briefly map out scenes of your story on a different piece of paper. Write down the possible characters of your story and list the main events in order. You don't have to put so much detail on them because this only serves as a rough sketch of how your story will look like.

5. Choose your point of view

Who tells the story and how it is told is very critical for a short story to be effective. The point of view can change the feel and tone of the story radically. Hence, you must decide carefully before finally resolving with the angle of vision to use for your story. But whatever it is you decide to choose as the point of view, make sure it stays constant throughout your story to maintain consistency.

6. Conceive your characters

For a short story, create a maximum of only three main characters. Too many main characters will make your story confusing since each new character will provide a new dimension for the story. Each character should be more than cardboard caricatures. Make your characters speak naturally in proportion with their traits. Make them believable but mysterious.

7. Furnish a good introduction

When you have everything planned out, start scribbling your first paragraph. Introduce your main characters and set out the scene. The scene must be some place you know much about so that you'd be able to supply the necessary snapshot for a clearly described setting. Make your introduction interesting to hold the reader's interest and encourage them to read on to the end. It is also important to hold back significant details and the greater part of the action at this point so the mystery is kept.

8. Build up a great plot

From your introduction, draw out events that will eventually create a problem or a conflict for the main character/characters. After that, begin laying out an array of clues to keep the reader interested, intrigued and guessing. Intensify the conflict as the story moves forward. This will not only make your reader enthused to read more but will also keep them riveted to your story.

9. Show don't tell

The characters should be the ones responsible for expressing the story through their actions and dialogue and not the writer telling the reader what is being expressed. Rather than saying, "Annette was really mad at her best friend Christina for stealing her boyfriend", say "Annette felt an ache in her stomach and a strong pang of betrayal as Christina approaches her and flashes her with a sweet smile. She breathed hard trying to calm herself as she speaks with suppressed anger: "I hope you're happy now that you've proven yourself as a friend."

10. Use active verbs

Put as much life into your story as you can. In order to do this, employ verbs in the active voice in your story. Instead of saying, "The flower was picked by Johanna", say "Johanna picked the flower."

11. Use some dialogue

Dialogue is important in bringing your story to life. Don't just use it to pad out your characters. Use it to convey your characters to identify with the reader. Use it in direct quotes like "Go there!" instead of indirect quotes as "She told him to go there."

12. Keep references handy

A good reference such as a thesaurus or a dictionary is crucial in creating a good story. You can use them to check your spellings and to find the words which best fit your description. Instead of using one lengthy sentence or paragraph, you can utilize one or just a few words to convey what you want to say. Oftentimes, one strong

word has a greater effect than a paragraph full of fancy language.

13. Conclude briefly

Conclusions are tough sledding. For a good ending, it is advisable to experiment and to add a little twist. Make your ending unique but not hanging in a loose end. Make it satisfying without making it too predictable. Keep in mind to keep it short but concise and lingering so that the reader is left with a feeling of resonance. Your conclusion should wrap up everything from start to finish.

14. Edit and revise

After fashioning the last words of your story, it is time to begin the editing cycle. Carefully go through your work and fix all your mistakes regarding sentence construction, word usage, formatting, punctuation marks, diction, spelling, grammar, and descriptive analysis. Scratch out words, phrases and even paragraphs which don't seem to contribute to the basic elements of the story. After you're done, let it sit for a while for days and even weeks, then edit it again. Reread your story over and over again at different occasions. This will make you see various things you may want to change to make your story shine at its best.

15. Let others proofread

Have your friends take a look at your work. They may just be able to see mistakes which you have missed. For instance, they may be distracted with some words or lines which you adore dearly. In this case, you have to decide on changing it or cutting it off completely.

Writing a short story may not be easy but it can surely be done. With some knowledge on the basic elements and some passion and patience, it's effortless to pull together a story with just a few ideas. Just keep in mind that you're writing not because you have to, but because you want to. Give it a go now!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rachelle Arlin Credo is a freelance writer and web columnist from the Philippines. She writes on a variety of topics for print and online publications. Feel free to check her website at <http://www.rachelle.co.nr>

7. Healthy Tips on Your Life, Health & Style

One of the more popular topics searched on this site is sex, and rightfully so. There's a strong connection between stress and sexuality that works both ways: stress can hamper your sex

drive, and problems in the bedroom can cause stress. Conversely, stress management can boost libido and healthy sexual activity can keep stress at bay. This newsletter brings information you need to know about sex and stress management, as well as other general stress management info. Enjoy!

Sex and stress are linked in several ways. Most of us instinctively know this already, and feel it unmistakably when a particularly stressful week or two zaps us of our sex drive. But while stress can have a hand in low libido, it can also be a great stress reliever, which is why jokes about uptight bosses needing a good roll in the hay are always good for at least one knowing chuckle. Have you ever wondered how much truth there was to the idea that sex works nicely as a stress salve? Here's some research on stress and sex:

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- In an Arizona State University study on 58 middle-aged women, physical affection or sexual behavior with a partner significantly predicted lower negative mood and stress, and higher positive mood the following day. Simply put, researchers found that sex and physical intimacy led women to feel less stressed and be in a better mood the next day. (These results weren't found when women had orgasms without a partner.)
 - **Good Mood and Good Sex**
The same study found that being in a good mood predicted more physical affection and sexual activity with a partner the next day, showing that the sex-stress management connection works both ways: sex can lead you to feel less stressed, and being less stressed (or at least in a better mood) can lead to more sex. Further proof of the importance of effective stress management!

from **Elizabeth Scott, M.S.**