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Creative writing exercises for dummies

Writing a first draft of your creative project - whether a novel, short story, poem, or play - can be a bit daunting. For example, how does your pencil feel? Imagine your main character is at home staring at a photograph. Remember you can't use your other senses (i.e. see, hear, smell or touch) in this description. Now imagine living in a world where all these things were banned or against the law. We have this helpful guide on writing a letter to your best friend for extra inspiration. Write down at least 10 benefits of writing. Describe this amazing thing to your readers. Make a list of at least five possible settings or locations for future stories. You can use a dragon name generator to give yourself a cool dragon name. Pick your favourite book or a famous story. What if SpongeBob SquarePants was in The Flash? Your goal is to amaze your readers with its beauty. You'll soon get going again! Rewriting and editing helps to tighten up your work. What do you think they do on a daily basis? Pick two different TV shows, movies or books that you like. Our resources are crucial for knowledge lovers everywhere—so if you find all these bits and bytes useful, please pitch in. Jot down a particular exchange and carry it on, seeing where the characters lead you. Imagine if this piece of food was alive, what would it say to you? If life was one big musical, what would you be singing about right now? And what kind of activities would you do? Which one item in your house do you use the most? Think about the land it was built on and the people that may have lived here long before you. Imagine that you are the king or queen of a beautiful kingdom. Flash fiction is normally around 500 words long, so try to stay within this limit. The goal is to summarise your story in just six words. Think about their appearance, special abilities and their superhero name. What would their actions be? Watch this video prompt on YouTube to inspire you. What is your favourite food of all time? Is it huge or tiny? Listen to conversations on the bus, in a coffee shop, or at the supermarket. Do you want to be the next best-selling author and dream up a new iconic character? Publication date 2014 Topics Creative writing, Creative writing ~ Problems, exercises, etc ... Here are over 105 creative writing exercises to give your brain a workout and help those creative juices flow again: Set a timer for 60 seconds. Now use these three items in your next story. Think about the theme of the dinner party, the food you will serve and entertainment for the evening. Write an acrostic poem about an object near you right now (or even your own name). Write down at least three dark secrets they might have. Check out this collection of over 300 writing prompts for kids to inspire you. This time around, Prince Charming could be the main character. What's the worst thing that could happen to your character? You find a box on your doorstep. Write three short stories, one from each perspective in this scenario (The bully, the witness and the kid getting bullied). You just won \$10 million dollars. What do you think Prince Charming was doing, while Cinderella was cleaning the floors and getting ready for the ball? Pick a random writing prompt and use it to write a short story. We understand that not everyone can donate right now, but if you can afford to contribute this Wednesday, we promise it will be put to good use. You could even research some interesting facts. Pick a villain of your choice and interview them for your newspaper article. What is the biggest problem in the world today, and how can you help fix this issue? Create your own travel brochure for your hometown. What kind of riffs would you have? What is happiness? Now start your sentence with this colour. Follow this handy Cheat Sheet, which breaks down the creative writing process into manageable tasks and helps you to develop your writing style and become a confident and accomplished writer. Always be prepared! Here's a checklist of useful writing aids to have with you as you begin to write - just don't forget the tea and coffee! A desk or other writing space and a comfortable chair If you prefer to write longhand: A good notebook Your favourite pen A dictionary and thesaurus If you prefer to create electronically: A computer, laptop, or tablet A printer (or access to one) A suitable notes app on your cellphone Software that provides grammar and spellcheck capabilities Writer's block affects all writers from time to time. Join a writers' circle to get support, encouragement, and feedback from other writers. Think about someone important in your life. What do you think the world would look like in 100 years time? Think about a recent argument you had with someone. Is it the television, computer, mobile phone, the sofa or the microwave? What year would you travel to and why? Describe your own superhero. If you become stuck on a particular passage, start somewhere else or write a different scene. Describe this pain in great detail, so your readers can also feel it. If you were lost on a deserted island in the middle of nowhere, what three must-have things would you pack and why? Participate in an online writing challenge or contests. Every time you wake up in the middle of the night or early in the morning you can quickly jot down things that you remember from your dreams. Think about a time when you were most upset or angry and describe it. The goal of this creative writing exercise is to make your readers savour this food as well. Pick a random object in your room and write a short paragraph from its point of view. Use this sentence as a story starter. Create a character profile based on all the traits that you hate. Think about one fact or truth about yourself. For example, one goal might be to write at least 150 words a day. Create a list of people you would invite, and some party invites. Use the generator below to get a random creative writing exercise idea: Click the "Random" button to generate a quick creative writing exercise List of 105+ Creative Writing Exercises Here are over 105 creative writing exercises to give your brain a workout and help those creative juices flow again: Set a timer for 60 seconds. What kind of activities can you do? Write about the worst experience in your life so far. Now rewrite the scene in a different genre, such as horror, comedy, drama etc. After you know where your story is going, you can go back and rewrite the beginning. And the three fictional elements could be they have the ability to fly, talk in over 100 different languages and have green skin. Write at least 10 tips for playing this game. Pick your favourite hobby or sport. Written by the founder of the Complete Creative Writing Course at London's Groucho Club, this activity-based guide walks you through the process of developing and writing in a wide range of genres including novels, short stories and creative nonfiction. Here are several things you can do: Take a course on creative writing techniques and get constructive feedback on your work from a tutor and other students. If you're lost for inspiration, just watch a random movie or read any book that you can find. Write a six-word story about something that happened to you today or yesterday. Write a shopping list for a famous character in history. Maybe you could talk about what your life is like now and compare it to their life? Try writing some quick flash fiction stories. Remember to show not tell — think about how to dramatize what you're writing about and create visual images. Image not available forColor: To view this video download Flash Player Get full access to Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies and 60K+ other titles, with a free 10-day trial of O'Reilly. You open this box and see the most amazing thing ever. Learn to spark your imagination and sketch out ideas Create compelling characters and paint a picture with description Develop your plot and structure and maintain continuity Step back from your work and become your own ruthless editor The rise of e-books has opened up the publishing world, even to non-established writers. Keep the flow going in the early stages — keep writing without stopping, going back, re-reading, or changing what you've written. You can close your eyes and slowly move your finger across the page. The most common monsters or creatures used in stories include vampires, werewolves, dragons, the bigfoot, sirens and the loch-ness monster. The good news is that we have a list of 105 creative writing exercises to help you get motivated and start writing again! What are creative writing exercises? What kind of creatures live in this world? You shouldn't need to think too much about your style of writing or how imaginative your notes are. Then write a critical review on it. While eating your snack write down the exact taste of that food. Don't block yourself by starting to edit before you've got a good chunk written. At least one of them must be the main prop in the story. Using nothing but the sense of taste, describe a nice Sunday afternoon at your house. Try to think of at least three fears. Use one for your next short story. Try not to go over or under this word limit. Make a top ten list of your favourite animals. Now write a short story where your main character also learns the same thing. Describe the most beautiful thing you've ever seen in your own world. Think about the best parts of the book/movement and the worst parts. Pick one line from this song and describe a moment in your life that relates to this line. Check out our challenges section in the menu. They watch the key events play out, but have no role in the story. This could be climate change, black lives matters, women's rights etc. Creative writing exercises are short writing activities (normally around 10 minutes) designed to get you writing. You could even draw a picture of this monster with your description. Write seven haikus, one for each colour of the rainbow. This could be a good way to motivate yourself to write every day. Pick up a book you really like and open it at a random page. The goal of these exercises is to give you the motivation to put words onto a blank paper. When and where did it happen? Recently the business has slowed down. In a school playground, you see the school bully hurting a new kid. Think about the key events in your life, such as birthdays, graduations, weddings and so on. Describe this bad day and the series of events they experience. These notes can then be used as inspiration for a short story. Now write a short story about a character who is forced to confront one of these fears. Imagine you are a journalist for the 'Imagine Forest Times' newspaper. Write a story based on the lives of these two characters. Imagine your main character is a Librarian. May 14, 2021 (last modified January 14, 2025 at 10:31 am) You know that feeling when you don't feel like writing? Write a short story centred around this activity. Now change the point of view. Write the lyrics of your song. Whether you're a new writer with a seed of an idea you would like to develop, or are looking to strengthen your creative writing skills, this book has you covered. Can You Chip In? Dear Patron: Please don't scroll past this. The result of these quick creative writing exercises is normally a series of notes, bullet points or ramblings that you can, later on, use as inspiration for a bigger piece of writing such as a story or a poem. Who are these characters? You are waiting to see your dentist in the waiting room. Let us know in the comments below! Description Turn your inspiration into a story with clear, expert guidance Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies is a step-by-step creative writing course designed to hone your craft, regardless of ability. Now pretend an alien has just landed on Earth and you need to teach it this hobby or sport. Describe this sound in great detail, so your reader can understand the pain you feel when hearing this sound. What is your favourite song at the moment? Open a book or dictionary on a random page. How would they react? Three very different characters have just won the lottery. What kind of dragon would you be? Set yourself at least three writing goals. And then add in three fictional or fantasy elements. We'd be deeply grateful if you'd join the one in a thousand users that support us financially. Good creative writing exercises are short, quick and easy to complete. For example, your character could be the same age as you or real life, this is your one fact. Now put yourself into their shoes, and write a day in the life story about being them. Now create a campaign poster for this global issue. Make a list of your greatest fears. Remember to describe each setting in detail. Think of something new you recently learned. Can you think of a memorable moment where this person's life affected yours? Describe your kingdom in great detail. Make a list of all your favourite moments or memories in your life. Write a letter to your favourite celebrity or character. It can be A to Z of animals, food, monsters or anything else you like! Using only the sense of smell, describe where you are right now. Take a snack break. Find a good library and use it. Write a day in the life story of three different characters. The Internet Archive is working to keep the record straight by recording government websites, news publications, historical documents, and more. Pick a sentence you like and write it down, and then carry on writing your own story from here, using your own characters and setting. Write a short scene using this character swap as inspiration. What's your favourite video game? Describe the perfect person. Find the ninth sentence on that page. Create a "Wanted" poster for a famous villain of your choice. You'll get expert guidance into character development, plot structure and prose, plus extensive insight into self-editing and polishing your work. Whether you're a new writer with a seed of an idea you would like to develop, or are looking to strengthen your creative writing skills, this book has you covered. Write at least ten tips on how you would teach this alien. Use a random image generator and write a paragraph about the first picture you see. Change the main character of a story you recently read into a villain. This can help motivate you and beat writer's block. Complete this sentence in 10 different ways: Patrick waited for the school bus and... Pick up a random book from your bookshelf and go to page 9. Now write down ... Read and re-read good writing — books that have been successful or stood the test of time. Can You Chip In? And how does their day end? The Internet Archive is a nonprofit fighting for universal access to quality information. Write down the script for this conversation. Using extreme detail, write down what you have been doing for the past one hour today. Take for example: "Another football game ruined by me" or "A dog's painting sold for millions." Six-word stories are similar to writing newspaper headlines. Write this down. Are there any lessons you learned or warnings you need to give? Will they have any positive traits? Complete this sentence in at least 10 different ways: Every time I look out of the window, I... You have just made it into the local newspaper, but what for? You can even use an online dictionary to get random words: Create your own alphabet picture book or list. How and when was your house built? Why was this situation scary? Write down at least three funny scenarios that could happen to you at the supermarket. Remember, the best secrets are always unexpected. There's a history behind everything. You can use this fantasy world name generator for inspiration. At the flip of a switch, you turn into a dragon. What is your town's history? Will they have a secret identity? What would you spend this money on? Pick a random animal, and research at least five interesting facts about this animal. Now swap the main character. Would you be a kind ruler or an evil ruler of the kingdom? Make a wish list of at least three objects you wish you owned right now. Take the basic idea but set the story in a different time and place with your own characters. Sometimes you can't even get a word down on paper. Write a book review or a movie review. What would their traits be? Your goal is to make your reader cry when reading this scene. Create an emotion and create a story around it complete with characters who are feeling that emotion. Use this as inspiration for your next story. Would you rather be rich and very popular? Turn your inspiration into a story with clear, expert guidance Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies is a step-by-step creative writing course designed to hone your craft, regardless of ability. Create a timeline of your own life, from birth to this current moment. We build and maintain all our own systems, but we don't charge for access, sell user information, or run ads. For example, the name "Marty" means "Servant Of Mars, God Of War". Introduction Part I: Getting Started with Creative Writing Exercises Part II: Realising That Character Is Everything Part III: Painting the Picture with Description Part IV: Developing Your Plot and Structure Part V: Polishing Your Product: Revising and Editing Part VI: The Part of Tens About the Author Cheat Sheet book Creative Writing For Dummies, 2nd Edition by Maggie Hamand Unlock your creative potential and write something special Ever dream of writing a book, article, poem ... book Creative Writing by Anjana Neira Dev, Anuradha Marwah, Swati Pal In Creative Writing: A Beginner's Manual, the authors provide numerous and exciting exercises, classroom tutorials, activities. ... book Creative Writing by Casey Clabough Creative writing may be the ultimate form of self-expression. For example, you could take a popular fairytale such as Jack and the Beanstalk, but this time re-write the story to make Jack the villain of the tale. Complete the following sentence in at least 10 different ways: Do you ever wonder... What does your name mean? How does each character start their day? How would you improve the book or movie? Write down a conversation between yourself. You might want to do some research online and use these ideas to build up your story. Create and describe the most ultimate villain of all time. Pick a random word. What is the climate like? Rewrite a scene from this book or movie, where the main character is an outsider. Now write down as many words or phrases that come to mind at that moment. Pick any colour you like. In exactly 100 words, describe your bedroom. Make a list of things that make you happy or cheer you up. You might want to use a Harry Potter name generator or a witch name generator for inspiration. What is your favourite thing to do on a Saturday night? Keep a daily journal or diary. You can use a fantasy name generator to help you. Describe a futuristic setting. Write a script for each character, as they reveal the big news to their best friend. It's the most frustrating thing ever to a writer, especially when you're working towards a deadline. That's red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Describe the history of your house. Write a short story centred around one of these interesting facts. The book includes writing prompts, exercises, mind maps, flow charts and diagrams designed to get your ideas flowing. Think about your thoughts, feelings and actions during this time. Make a list of potential character names for your next story. No writing is ever a finished product — there are always ways to improve and refine your style. Here's an example, Local Boy Survives a Deadly Illness. If you were a witch or a wizard, what would your specialist area be and why? This could make a good concept for a sci-fi story. Make a list of three different types of heroes (or main characters) for potential future stories. If someone gave you \$10 dollars, what would you spend it on and why? Describe the world's most boring character in at least 100 words. Attend book festivals, readings, and bookshop events to see what published authors say, meet other writers, and contact book industry professionals. You could use a poetry idea generator to inspire you. Imagine you are the head chef of a 5-star restaurant. Follow these handy hints to help you organize your thoughts and manage your time: Don't worry about a great opening line yet. What everyday challenges would a typical citizen of this world face? Think about anything that inspired you or anything that upset you, or just write anything that comes to mind at the moment. Dear Patron: Please don't scroll past this. Your goal is to convince the reader to buy this object from you. What is the worst (or most annoying) sound that you can imagine? Pick a global issue that you are passionate about. What do they do throughout the day? Write down at least five potential newspaper headlines. Whether the reader is a creative writing ... book Business Writing For Dummies, 2nd Edition by Natalie Canavor Business writing that gets results The ability to write well is a key part of your ... Turn your inspiration into a story with clear, expert guidance Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies is a step-by-step creative writing course designed to hone your craft, regardless of ability. Use this nightmare as inspiration for your next story. Keep a dream journal. The whole idea is to just get you writing something, anything. Your task is to get an exclusive interview with the most famous villain of all time. Imagine you've found a time machine in your house. Think about why tourists might want to visit your hometown. What would you tell them? Describe your appearance, special abilities, likes and dislikes. What situations would they encounter? In at least 150 words describe the feeling of happiness. What questions would you ask them, and what would their responses be? Where would you live one day? Who was there? Your main character has just received the following items: A highlighter, a red cap, a teddy bear and a fork. Try to think of at least five ideas. Make the characters move from the first emotion to the second - from hope to fear, from hatred to love. There are also live events, courses curated by job role, and more. And finally, how did it make you feel? Pretend to be someone else. Just write anything that comes to mind, and you'll be on the road to improving your creative writing skills and beating writer's block. Why was this event important? What if Supergirl was in Twilight? Now pick one to write a short story about. Describe the scariest and ugliest monster you can imagine. Turn your inspiration into a story with clear, expert guidance Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies is a step-by-step creative writing course designed to hone your craft, regardless of ability. In a battle of intelligence, who do you think will win and why? Think about an important event in your life that has happened so far, such as a birthday or the birth of a new sibling. Covering every aspect of narrative, from setting initial goals to formatting a manuscript, Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies provides the tools and instruction you need to make your story ... Creative writing exercises for dummies by Hamand, Maggie, author. Based on this list create your own animal fact file, where you provide fun facts about each animal in your list. What is your favourite scene from a book or a movie? Ask yourself questions about the event, such as what exactly happened on that day? Look at any object and write about it - where does it come from, who does it belong to, what memories does it trigger, who might want it and why? For example, you could rewrite the fairytale, Cinderella. Imagine you are at the supermarket. Covering every aspect of narrative, from setting initial goals to formatting a manuscript, Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies provides the tools and instruction you need to make your story the best it can be. Learn to spark your imagination and sketch out ideas Create compelling characters and paint a picture with description Develop your plot and structure and maintain continuity Step back from your work and become your own ruthless editor The rise of e-books has opened up the publishing world, even to non-established writers. Write down every thought you are having at this moment in time. Research the meaning of your own name, or a name that interests you. What's the worst pain you felt in your life? Imagine if you were Albert Einstein's assistant, what kind of things would he shop for on a weekly basis? Create a fake advertisement poster for a random object that is near you right now. How would they feel? Complete this sentence in at least 10 different ways: I remember... Write about your dream holiday. Write down this scene. Now using the 5 W's and 1 H technique describe this event in great detail. Create a character description based on the one fact, three fiction rule. Research five fun facts about this country and use one to write a short story. Turn your inspiration into a story with clear, expert guidance Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies is a step-by-step creative writing course designed to hone your craft, regardless of ability. There are lots of things you can write about in your journal, such as you can write about the 'highs' and 'lows' of your day. But it can be difficult — what to chop and when to stop may not be clear, and you may change your mind more than once during the process. The 5 W's include: What, Who, Where, Why, When and the 1 H is: How. A six-word story is basically an entire story told in just six words. What would their past look like? Think about their appearance, their interests and their dislikes. If you feel a bit stuck for inspiration, try these techniques to get your creative juices flowing: Find an image (postcard, photograph, painting) depicting two or more people and write a story about them. After you have done this, you can pick one key event from your life to write a story about. Think about the crimes they have committed, and the reward you will give for having them caught. If you have a story you're dying to tell but aren't sure how, Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies is the clear, concise solution you need. Read local news for unusual and interesting stories and develop them as fiction. You'll get expert guidance into character development, plot structure and prose, plus extensive insight into self-editing and polishing your work. What traits would they have? Ask yourself whether you need to take out. Unnecessary information and explanation Passages of dialogue that go on too long Clunky descriptions that give too much detail Clumsy images that don't really work Too many adjectives and adverbs You may need to add or expand: Something you know but have forgotten to tell the reader; perhaps the age of the main character More specific descriptive information that shows instead of tells; instead of describing a man as "old," describe his white hair, slow gait and mottled hands Dialogue of what the characters actually say, rather than summaries Material to add interest or create suspense A better opening or closing line You may need to move: Dramatic sections to make a stronger opening Early information to where the reader really needs to know it Essential information nearer the beginning of the book Descriptive passages to add tension and suspense to incidents Words, phrases and sentences to make a better rhythm In your final edit: Check for grammar, punctuation and spelling mistakes Ensure you have no continuity errors Pay particular attention to the first and last lines of any section or scene Smooth out any awkward words and phrases Clarify anything that isn't clear Here are some top tips for developing your creative writing. What inspires you most about them? Who would you go with? Write the saddest scene possible. It might help to list down all the traits first and then work on describing the character. What is the scariest or most dangerous situation you have ever been in? Can you write a story using these items? Your main character is having a really bad day. What might they be thinking? What would your character do with these items? Here at Imagine Forest, we offer daily writing challenges with a new prompt added every day to inspire you. Think of a famous book or movie you like. If you find our work useful, please pitch in. Who is their number one enemy? What is your favourite country in the world? Now write a story of how this item was invented. Where would you go? Your task is to come up with a brand-new menu to excite customers. For example, Orange, the colour of my favourite top. You could use examples from your own life of when you felt happy. Think of a recent nightmare you had and write down everything you can remember. How would you resolve an argument in the future? Describe a fantasy world. This is a great way to keep writing every day. Do you have any more fun creative writing exercises to share? Covering every aspect of narrative, from setting initial goals to formatting a manuscript, Creative Writing Exercises For Dummies provides the tools and instruction you need to make your story the best it can be. What if your lamp had feelings? Describe your dream house. You're hosting an imaginary dinner party at your house. You can imagine talking to your younger self or future self (i.e. in 10 years' time). Would you change anything about it? Now, write a paragraph with this random word in it. Pick another emotion and carry on writing. These words don't need to be logical or meaningful, neither do they need to be grammatically correct or spell correctly. How did you cope at that moment? Pretend that you're a chat show host and you're interviewing your favourite celebrity. Then use this as inspiration for your next story. Simply start writing wherever you like.

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