

Writing Tips by Joe Gribnau



Have Fun ... Write because you love to write

Read ... Writers are Enormous, Immense, Monumental, Colossal, Huge, Gigantic Readers. You learn how to write from other writers and that comes from reading a bunch of stories.

Journal ... Write down all the cool things you see, hear, touch, taste, and feel. When ideas or words or thoughts pop into your head you need to have a place to quickly write them down. A small journal that fits in your pocket is perfect.

Discover Wonderful, Witty Words ... Steal, Pilfer, Plunder, Burglarize, and Borrow all the Fun Words you can find ... Write them in your writing journal to use later.

Use a Thesaurus ... Using a different word to say the same thing (synonym) makes your stories more interesting. Some of our words like "said" are getting pretty tired. It's fun to discover new words.

Be a Secret Agent Listener ... What I mean by this is to always have your ears in listening mode. Writers listen, they eavesdrop and collect the weird, wild, crazy, funny, and things they hear and use them in their writing.

Write, Write, Write ... Good writing never happens by thinking about it. Put it into practice. Write short stories, magazine articles (that's where I started), descriptive paragraphs, and poems. You need to let your writing "talk" to you. What I mean is don't get hung up on one idea for a story. As you begin to write, you'll discover other ideas pouring in, building upon your first idea and quite possibly, changing that original idea you started with. I had to learn to let go of what I thought was the perfect idea, phrase or sentence so my story could grow. That's what I meant by the writing "talking" to you.

Revise, Revise ... Go back through your work and rewrite. This is where the best writing takes place. Now is the time to add exciting details, make your characters come alive, give depth to your setting, add humor or drama. It's where all my good ideas and words come from. Don't be afraid to rewrite ... it's the most enjoyable time.

Share Your Writing ... Yes, I really mean let someone else read it! It's scary at first and then you realize that it helps you become a better writer.

Writing is a Rubber Band ... A rubber band is not real interesting until you stretch it, shoot it across the room, or snap your sister with it. Writing is like that; make your words stretch, fly, and snap. It's crazy what your brain can think of when you let it.



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