



## LitChat November 16-18, 2009

Topic of the Week: THE CRAFT OF WRITING

Monday: Open chat

### MONDAY: November 16, 2009

LitChat Welcome to another week of #litchat. This week we're discussing THE CRAFT OF WRITING. Have Qs? Send to @litchat w/o hashtag. -12:58 PM Nov 16th, 2009

LitChat Step into the #litchat salon and introduce yourself. Please tell us a bit about your writing experience and goals. -12:59 PM Nov 16th, 2009

dosankodebbie RT @LitChat: Monday's #litchat begins in 15 minutes. We're discussing THE CRAFT OF WRITING this week. All levels of experience are welc ... -1:00 PM Nov 16th, 2009

maggiedana I'm so glad Renni's going to be here Friday. Her book has pride of place on my shelf. Helped me become a far better writer. #litchat -1:03 PM Nov 16th, 2009

sharifwrites LitChat I write YA and I have a recent deal for my first book. and my goal is to continue writing and getting published. #litchat -1:03 PM Nov 16th, 2009

scgreen Hello #litchat. I'll stick around for as long as I can today. -1:03 PM Nov 16th, 2009

LexxClarke Good evening everyone!! I'm a newbie writer from the UK, first time #NaNo participant #litchat -1:04 PM Nov 16th, 2009

LexxClarke @sharifwrites congratulations! #litchat -1:05 PM Nov 16th, 2009

LitChat @sharifwrites Congrats! When does your book release? What is your title/tagline? #litchat -1:05 PM Nov 16th, 2009

HilaryWagner1 @sharifwrites #litchat Sharif, I absolutely adore the title of your book! I can't wait until it comes out--how exciting!!!! xoxo -- Hilary -1:05 PM Nov 16th, 2009

Saffy #litchat I am mainly a blogger but have had numerous poems and short stories published and worked as an illustrator for a small pub -1:05 PM Nov 16th, 2009

dosankodebbie @LitChat I'm a Japan-based translator of novels and folklore. Have published a bit, but difficult to figure the Western market #litchat -1:05 PM Nov 16th, 2009

maggiedana Many congratulations. RT @sharifwrites: I write YA and I have a recent deal for my first book #litchat -1:05 PM Nov 16th, 2009

scgreen @LexxClarke Good luck w/ #NaNo. I have yet to find the time to participate. #litchat -1:06 PM Nov 16th, 2009

sharifwrites @maggiedana thanks #litchat -1:06 PM Nov 16th, 2009

Saffy #litchat currently editing my first completed novel and writing the next in a completely different genre for #nanowrimo -1:07 PM Nov 16th, 2009

sharifwrites @LitChat Thank you, Summer 2011 - The Bestest Ramadan Ever #litchat -1:07 PM Nov 16th, 2009

LexxClarke @scgreen thank you, it's not easy! #litchat -1:07 PM Nov 16th, 2009

maggiedana Until I learn to say nanowrimo without getting syllables in wrong order, I shall not participate (that's my excuse, anyway). #litchat -1:08 PM Nov 16th, 2009

CarolyBurnsBass @maggiedana I, too, have a copy of Renni's book on my desk. Wonder how many authors she's touched w/ that book thru the years? #litchat -1:08 PM Nov 16th, 2009

LexxClarke @maggiedana hehehehe #litchat -1:08 PM Nov 16th, 2009

maggiedana I've written MG and YA, many years ago. Most recently, Beachcombing, women's fiction, pub'd by Macmillan UK in June 09. #litchat -1:09 PM Nov 16th, 2009

sharifwrites @ChrisPaternoste Thanks, I feel lucky. #litchat @Saffy -1:09 PM Nov 16th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

November 16-18, 2009

THE CRAFT OF WRITING -p 1

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krisriggle Hello. Peeping in while I can (kiddos about). <--- author Real Life & Liars, book two out in August. #litchat -1:09 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana @CarolyBurnsBass Thousands, I'd guess. Can't wait to see her on Friday. She's fabulous. #litchat -1:09 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana OK ... then you say it, fast, over and over without stopping, and see how long you last! RT @LexxClarke: @maggiedana hehehehe #litchat -1:10 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LitChat Q1 fm @scgreen With the number of ways to approach writing, is there any rule or method that is universal to all? #litchat -1:10 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana Waves. RT @krisriggle: Hello. Peeping in while I can (kiddos about). <--- author Real Life & Liars, book two out in August. #litchat -1:11 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @maggiedana touche! :o) #litchat -1:11 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana Q1: Sit butt in chair, place fingers on keyboard, and DO IT. #litchat -1:11 PM Nov 16th, 2009
krisriggle Universal? Not much universal, except maybe "you can't edit a blank page" #litchat -1:12 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe 25yrs writing, 1st plays, now novels. 4 written, self-pubbed my first "A,B&E" last month. Experimental & literary #litchat -1:12 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @ChrisPaternoste It took years until I got it right. #litchat -1:12 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad #litchat Hey all... My \$.02: Universal approach? Sit down & WRITE on a regular schedule & stop *trying* to write when juice is done for day. -1:13 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @krisriggle Everyone has different methods. #litchat -1:13 PM Nov 16th, 2009
rj_anderson @LitChat Q1: Don't give up, no matter how tempting it may be. #litchat -1:13 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe If you enjoy writng, won't be a chore. Can't be doing with writer's block - no time! #litchat -1:14 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy @maggiedana Q1: or use speech recognition soft wear and be in a position conducive to you working #litchat -1:14 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Q1 There are no rules to writing. There are rules for grammar, punctuation and spelling, but even those can be flux with voice. #litchat -1:14 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @badbadbad A reg schedule works, or else writing doesn't get done. #litchat -1:15 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @ChrisPaternoste Do you use AgentQuery? I loved using that site. #litchat -1:15 PM Nov 16th, 2009
TwinkleChar Be kind to yourself. Some days we write junk. Some days we write semi-junk. Some days all good, but all can be edited. #litchat -1:15 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana @CarolyBurnsBass Q1: good point about rules for grammar, etc. Takes a talented author to get away w/breaking those. #litchat -1:15 PM Nov 16th, 2009
krisriggle But some better than none, if sched. fails RT @sharifwrites: @badbadbad A reg schedule works, or else writing doesnt get done. #litchat -1:15 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad #litchat oh right... my intro (btw, I'll be in & out)...longtime critic, journalist, editor... 1st novelist weighing publ. options -1:16 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites RT @rj_anderson: @LitChat Q1: Don't give up, no matter how tempting it may be. #litchat -1:16 PM Nov 16th, 2009
MariahSinclair RT @badbadbad: #litchat Hey all... My \$.02: Sit down & WRITE on a regular schedule & stop *trying* to write when juice is done for day. -1:16 PM Nov 16th, 2009

LexxClarke If trying #NaNo has taught me anything it's that you just have to go for it,don't get bogged down in structure,that's for editing #litchat -1:16 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @sharifwrites: @badbadbad A reg schedule works, or else writing doesn't get done. #litchat Depends on yr lifestyle. I'm spree writer -1:16 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @rj_anderson #litchat I disagree. Give up if you can. Unless you *have* to write, then don't do it. No one needs more books unless *you* do. -1:17 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CDominiqueG RT @LexxClarke: If trying #NaNo has taught me any its that u just have 2 go 4 it,dont get bogged down in structure,thats 4 editing #litchat -1:18 PM Nov 16th, 2009
ajodasso @sharifwrites I'm completely the opposite: I write when the urge hits, rather than chaining myself down (doesn't go well if I do). #litchat -1:18 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @sharifwrites #litchat AgentQuery's great. Agents?... not so much... at least not pros w/ adventurous tastes. too few, in my experience. -1:18 PM Nov 16th, 2009
krisriggle @badbadbad @rj_anderson I don't *have* to write. It's simply the best job I've ever had. #litchat -1:18 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LucidGlow There are no rules to writing. Period. Just start writing, and you will learn and grow as you go. #litchat -1:18 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @CDominiqueG Hey princess! :o) #litchat -1:19 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @21stCscribe If I can't write on work day, I write overtime on weekend, some way to get it done. #litchat @ajodasso -1:19 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @maggiedana Exactly. To break the rules effectively, a writer must first know the rules. #litchat -1:19 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @21stCscribe #litchat re: spree writing - you've got powers, my friend, that most of us lack. -1:19 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @ajodasso Sometimes if I make myself do it, I can at least outline, edit, if not write, do a little something towards goal #litchat -1:19 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Whatever works for you... Method/no method. Pre-planned/free forming etc #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @ajodasso How often does the urge hit? Have you completed and submitted anything? #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 16th, 2009
NPalmby RT @LucidGlow There are no rules to writing. Period. Just start writing, and you will learn and grow as you go. #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CSWriting RT @LucidGlow There are no rules to writing. Period. Just start writing, and you will learn and grow as you go. #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @LucidGlow: There are no rules to writing. Period. Just start writing, and you will learn and grow as you go. #litchat Agreed. -1:20 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @ajodasso I'm a Type A though. #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 16th, 2009
ajodasso @sharifwrites I know what you mean; editing, I can muster the energy to do any old time. #litchat -1:21 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad rule #1: first drafts are shit (isn't that a given?) think I first heard it from anne lamott "bird by bird" (rec. book!) as a teen #litchat -1:21 PM Nov 16th, 2009
ajodasso @sharifwrites As in Type A personality? So am I ;) #litchat -1:21 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @CarolyBurnsBass: 2break the rules effectively, writer must 1st know rules. #litchat Just don't buy this I'm afraid. Faulkner,Joyce, etc -1:21 PM Nov 16th, 2009
rj_anderson My "don't give up" comment was meant for those who are serious about writing a book. I agree you should quit if you're not. #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 16th, 2009

CarolyBurnsBass @badbadbad Yeah. Anne Lamott calls it the "sh*tty first draft." #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Tx RT @badbadbad: @21stCscribe #litchat re: spree writing - you've got powers, my friend, that most of us lack. -1:22 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @krisriggle #litchat that's what I'm talkin' 'bout - writing = RT "best job I ever had" - if you can get paid, then I say by all means do it -1:22 PM Nov 16th, 2009
ajodasso @CarolynBurnsBass I produce a few poems a week. My list of publications is here - <a href="http://ajodasso.livejournal.com/profile">http://ajodasso.livejournal.com/profile</a> #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana If more writers read SELF-EDITING FOR FICTION WRITERS, there'd be less adverbs in the world. @EditorialDept #litchat -1:23 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @21stCscribe Oh, I think Faulkner and Joyce knew the rules. They chose to break them in such a way they made literary history. #litchat -1:23 PM Nov 16th, 2009
alisonwells RT @LitChat: Topic of the Week for November 16-20 in #litchat is THE CRAFT OF WRITING, guest host on Friday is @EditorialDept's Renni Browne -1:23 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @badbadbad I *cringe* at my first drafts, but they're the unavoidable foundation to work on. #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 16th, 2009
rj_anderson For some of us the "crappy first draft" dictum doesn't work. If I really think what I'm writing is crap, I can't continue v long. #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat RT @LexxClarke: Trying #NaNo has taught that U just have to go for it,don't get bogged down in structure,that's for editing #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @ajodasso Good for you! Too often when writers say they wait for inspiration, they rarely complete, let alone publish, anything. #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 16th, 2009
rj_anderson @21stCscribe I like "spree"! I was going to say I'm a "burst" writer but "spree" sounds so much more fun. #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LitChat Q2 Is writing a craft that can be learned, or is it more of an artistic talent one is born with? #litchat -1:25 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad #litchat I love how the writing "rules" change w/ the times. Adverbs & semi-colons are so yesterday, er, today; actually what I mean is th-- -1:25 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @ajodasso Yes, sometimes I have to ease up on the writing goals. #litchat -1:25 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe We need more not less. I use 'lodestone' & guillotine' as adjectives RT @maggiedana: less adverbs in the world. @EditorialDept #litchat -1:25 PM Nov 16th, 2009
ajodasso @CarolynBurnsBass Thanks :) I'm hit by the urge to stay up writing quite often, which is probably why forcing it is a moot point. #litchat -1:25 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe 1st draft is 100% fun& creativity. After that it's just sweat of editing. Love yr 1st draft! #litchat -1:26 PM Nov 16th, 2009
scgreen @rj_anderson In those situations, I put the draft aside for later. I figure my craft isn't ready for the idea. #litchat -1:26 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @rj_anderson: Yes! Spree is much better than binge, bender, burst, et al. #litchat -1:26 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat RT @maggiedana: ...less adverbs in the world. @EditorialDept #litchat [Shouldn't that be fewer adverbs? :-P ] -1:26 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad #litchat Re: structure - I cranked out my first draft in 13 weeks & it was decent enough b/c I did a lot of pre-writing/org/folders/outlines -1:26 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana @21stCscribe More adverbs? Surely, you jest. #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 16th, 2009

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THE CRAFT OF WRITING -p 4

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<p>rj_anderson Patricia Wrede likes to quote Kipling, "There are 9 and 60 ways of constructing tribal lays / And every single 1 of them is right!" #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>21stCscribe RT @CarolyBurnsBass: I think Faulkner/Joyce knew the rules. They chose2 break them ... literary history. #litchat No one breaks anything now -1:27 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>TwinkleChar Q2 I think most can learn mechanics. Storytelling is a different story. #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>Saffy @rj_anderson First drafts are a must for me - I know I can't spell and that my grammar is erm... well full of wholes #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>kashicat RT @rj_anderson: For some of us the "crappy first draft" dictum doesn't work. #litchat [Me too. I have to think it's not bad stuff 1st time] -1:27 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>CDominiqueG @LexxClarke hey Lexxy !!! #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>rj_anderson I think that Kipling quote is perfect statement about writing craft. It doesn't matter how you get there, as long as you get there. #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>maggiedana Whoops. RT @kashicat: ... less adverbs in the world. @EditorialDept #litchat [Shouldnt that be fewer adverbs? :-P ] #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>LexxClarke Q2 anyone can write,the art and craft of writing well can be taught I would suggest #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>badbadbad @sharifwrites #litchat The beauty of ugly 1st drafts, tho, is you now have something to work w/, i.e., you can't revise a blank page. -1:28 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>CarolyBurnsBass @21stCscribe Agree with the creative bliss of first draft. Second also fun, tying up threads from first draft. Third, not so much. #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>rj_anderson @scgreen I just edit, edit, edit until I either like what I've got, or I realize I have to go back and revise the whole draft. #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>21stCscribe Depends what type of writer u are - instinctual or very structured. Again, whatever works for U #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>WritingAgain @rj_anderson Does "crappy first draft" apply to the prose or the idea? #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>21stCscribe RT @maggiedana: @21stCscribe More adverbs? Surely, you jest. #litchat No, 4 real. -1:28 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>pmc6284 @CarolyBurnsBass case in point: Joyces early prose follows "rules." no ulysses or FW w/o dubliners #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>rj_anderson @21stCscribe I hate the 1st draft. I love revision! #litchat -1:29 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>maggiedana @kashicat My only excuse, besides dental discomfort, is that 'less' is one character shorter than 'fewer.' A mistake I made often. #litchat -1:29 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>21stCscribe RT @TwinkleChar: Q2 most can learn mechanics. Storytelling is a different story. #litchat It's about your emotional intelligence on paper -1:29 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>badbadbad @LitChat A to yr Q: Writing is both a craft to be learned and a talent to be nurtured. Craft may = formula, but talent = vision. #litchat -1:29 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>21stCscribe If U can communicate emotionally to the reader, mechanics don't matter so much #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>maggiedana Yes, yes, yes RT @badbadbad: The beauty of ugly 1st drafts, tho, is you now have something to work w/, you cant revise a blank page #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>
<p>rj_anderson @WritingAgain I think it can be the prose, plot, characterization or all three that are crappy in the 1st draft. #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 16th, 2009</p>

sharifwrites @TwinkleChar They're separate. Mechanics might be there, but there can be a lack of holding reader's interest. #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @rj_anderson: @21stCscribe I hate the 1st draft. I love revision! #litchat Hmm, we need 2B spliced together 2 make 1 complete writer! -1:30 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @21stCscribe RT "Love your 1st draft!" I'll second that: LIVE your 1st draft! #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @TwinkleChar Great minds think alike on the "can everyone learn writing" question. :- ) #litchat -1:31 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy Q2: Information conveying and story telling are innate but can be polished - how many people have them is another question #litchat -1:31 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana @21stCscribe We could agree to disagree, or roll up our sleeves and go at it! Pistols at dawn? #litchat -1:31 PM Nov 16th, 2009
scgreen @Saffy I'm with you. I can't spell worth a shirt. #litchat -1:31 PM Nov 16th, 2009
malenalott @21stCscribe I love that! Emotional intelligence on paper #litchat -1:32 PM Nov 16th, 2009
WritingAgain @pmc6284 But then you have Faulkner's "The Sound and the Fury" ... he broke the rules with his 1st novel. #litchat -1:32 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Prob right, but I cnever got hung up on rules from day1RT @pmc6284: @CarolyBurnsBass Joyces early prose>no ulysses w/o dubliners #litchat -1:32 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Adjectives at dawn...RT @maggiedana: @21stCscribe We could agree to disagree, or roll up our sleeves and go at it! Pistols at dawn? #litchat -1:32 PM Nov 16th, 2009
malenalott @rj_anderson I love the surprises and a-ha moment in the first draft, but the second draft is probably my favorite when story gels #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @21stCscribe Tho I find if the mechanics are bad, my only "emotional connection" w/writer is fury. #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy @21stCscribe @maggiedana the use of adverbs is surely a stylistic thing and depends what you are trying to convey and to who(m)? #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 16th, 2009
rj_anderson You can revise crappiness out of your 1st draft as you go, or after it's done. If you have problems finishing projects, do latter. #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy :) RT @scgreen: @Saffy I'm with you. I can't spell worth a shirt. #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @maggiedana I'll be your second. #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 16th, 2009
rj_anderson @malenalott This is true! Nothing like those a-ha moments. *resists the urge to warble "Take On Me"* #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @WritingAgain Re: crap 1st draft = prose. If the idea's crap, then start over from scratch. You can call this "pre-writing." #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Thank U Sir, scholar & gentleman RT @WritingAgain: @pmc6284 But then you have Faulkner' broke the rules with his 1st novel. #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LitChat I am not seeing Q2 in my tweetchat feed. Did everyone get it? #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana @Saffy Adverbs normally modify a verb. If verb cannot convey intent w/out adverb to prop it up, then verb is too weak. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat RT @malenalott: I love the surprises & a-ha moment in the first draft, but the second draft is probably my favorite when story gels #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 16th, 2009
WritingAgain @Saffy Adverbs have a bad rep. Use 'em if you want, just not as a way to avoid showing. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 16th, 2009

21stCscribe Agree RT @Saffy: @21stCscribe @maggiedana use of adverbs is surely stylistic thing-depends what UR trying to convey and to who(m)? #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana <--- wiping brow. Thanks. RT @kashicat: @maggiedana Ill be your second. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LucidGlow Using a lot of adverbs is perfectly okay, of course. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat RT @scgreen: @Saffy I'm with you. I can't spell worth a shirt. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @LitChat yes, there have been some replies too! #litchat -1:36 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @LitChat I saw Q2 on TweetDeck, at least. #litchat -1:36 PM Nov 16th, 2009
WritingAgain @badbadbad What about writing until the true story appears? Sometimes it takes a while, no? #litchat -1:36 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe 2Commune with reader, you have to have emotional truth 2take yr work out of personal subjectivity RT @kashicat: #litchat -1:36 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass RT @badbadbad: Writing is both a craft to be learned and a talent to be nurtured. Craft may = formula, but talent = vision. #litchat -1:37 PM Nov 16th, 2009
scgreen Few adverbs are necessary. Most times you use an adverb because you didn't use the right verb. #litchat -1:37 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @maggiedana Oooh, fightin' words. I agree only partially about "strong" versus "weak" verbs. I think *sometimes* they're needed. #litchat -1:37 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana Adverbs more popular with authors in UK than in US. #litchat -1:37 PM Nov 16th, 2009
mariblaser Not in the mood for twitter. Seems I'm not as addicted, heh. Sorry to miss #litchat *waves from far* but am going back to reading Dracula ;P -1:37 PM Nov 16th, 2009
krisriggle Q2: I think a flair for writing is innate like any other talent (dance, music, geometry proofs) but must be honed with craft #litchat -1:37 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad #litchat Faulkner was a freak genius & an alcoholic crazyman, no? How many of us can count ourselves so blessed? -1:38 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Yr assuming I'm using a verb! RT @maggiedana: @Saffy Adverbs normally modify verb. If verb can't convey intent w/out adv 2prop up. #litchat -1:38 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @mariblaser take care x #litchat -1:38 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @21stCscribe I agree, but if horrible spelling or grammar overshadow emotional truth so I can't notice it the work is wasted #litchat YMMV -1:38 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Sentences R linear. Human thought & much dialogue (ums, ers etc) is not linear. #litchat -1:38 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana RT @krisriggle: Q2: Flair for writing is innate like any other talent (dance, music, geometry proofs) but must be honed with craft #litchat -1:38 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat RT @krisriggle: I think flair for writing is innate like any other talent (dance, music, geometry proofs) but must be honed w/craft #litchat -1:39 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @WritingAgain #litchat Absolutely. That's a diff. kind of writing ("until true story appears") to me. I'd call it pre-writing/brainstorming. -1:39 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Well I don't drink... RT @badbadbad: #litchat Faulkner reak genius an alcoholic crazyman, no? How many of us can count ourselves so blessed? -1:39 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana @21stCscribe Then I'll back off a bit. If you're modifying an adjective w/adverb, I agree they can be useful, illuminatingly so! #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @kashicat YMMV? #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 16th, 2009

Saffy grr my twitter time line is screwed tonight :( sorry if I'm being disjointed #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 16th, 2009
x_indigodreamer But then again I'm non-published and struggling with #NaNoWriMo so what do I know? #litchat For me, it's just a way to have fun. -1:40 PM Nov 16th, 2009
pmc6284 agreed. faulkner, joyce etc are great exceptions. RT @badbadbad #litchat Faulkner was a .... How many of us can count ourselves so blessed? -1:40 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass RT @krisriggle: I think flair for writing is innate like other talent (dance, music, geometry proofs) but must be honed with craft. #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 16th, 2009
malenalott @21stCscribe I could use a glass of wine right about now actually #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @krisriggle Yes, there are some natural storytellers out there. #litchat -1:41 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe A reader has 2B able 2 read it assumes basic legibility RT @kashicat: I agree but if horrible spell/grammar overshadow emoti truth #litchat -1:41 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @LexxClarke Sorry -- "Your Mileage May Vary" :-) #litchat -1:41 PM Nov 16th, 2009
malenalott @x_indigodreamer how far have you gotten on #nano? It's tough to keep up with the daily wordcount #litchat -1:41 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana Hold out your glass. I'll pour. RT @malenalott: @21stCscribe I could use a glass of wine right about now actually #litchat -1:41 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe fair summation RT @CarolyBurnsBass: think flair for writing is innate like other talent but must be honed with craft. #litchat -1:41 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @LexxClarke It means "That may just be me," or "That's how I experience it, but not meaning you have to experience the same way" #litchat -1:41 PM Nov 16th, 2009
pmc6284 but they also both revised RT @badbadbad #litchat Faulkner was a .... How many of us can count ourselves so blessed? -1:42 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy @badbadbad or cursed the two sides of the same coin - its there in all creative endeavours sciecne, art, writing, parenting :/ #litchat -1:42 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @21stCscribe #litchat Once again, ahem, you're a man of rare superpowers, but... I always wonder about non-drinkers. Can y'all be trusted? -1:42 PM Nov 16th, 2009
malenalott @maggiedana I hope it's red. antioxidant power! #litchat -1:42 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @kashicat thank you,I like that,will remember it! #litchat -1:42 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LitChat @x_indigodreamer Your first tweet didn't appear in feed. Feel free to repost it. #litchat -1:43 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana Alas, no. A cheap Pinot Grigio? Still want it? RT @malenalott: @maggiedana I hope its red. antioxidant power! #litchat -1:43 PM Nov 16th, 2009
wwwgalelaurecom This is fascinating as always. GL #litchat -1:43 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @malenalott Glass o' wine. My kinda woman. But it's not even 2pm here in sunny California & I've got work, so... rain check? #litchat -1:44 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy Going off to look up some words in the dictionary will be back shortly #litchat -1:45 PM Nov 16th, 2009
pmc6284 well put! RT @scgreen Few adverbs are necessary. Most times you use an adverb because you didn't use the right verb. #litchat -1:45 PM Nov 16th, 2009
malenalott @maggiedana beggars can't be choosers! #litchat -1:46 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Fighting talk Sir! RT @pmc6284: well put! RT @scgreen Most times you use an adverb because you didn't use the right verb. #litchat -1:46 PM Nov 16th, 2009

21stCscribe I don't like 2much dialogue. I want to know what speaker doing with their hands for example. ADVERBS! #litchat -1:47 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @pmc6284 Re: Faulkner & Joyce - Absolutely, they revised. They were writers of colossal vision but they knew craft & discipline. #litchat -1:47 PM Nov 16th, 2009
malenalott @badbadbad I work better with a glass - relaxes me. :-) It's almost 4 here almost. #litchat -1:47 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana Am glad to share. Hold out your glass. Anyone else? RT @malenalott: @maggiedana beggars cant be choosers! #litchat -1:47 PM Nov 16th, 2009
milehighfool #Writers who tweet for book deals: <a href="http://bit.ly/3q45VK">http://bit.ly/3q45VK</a> Another good piece from @LydiaBreakfast #writechat #litchat #editorchat -1:47 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @21stCscribe you'd despair with my #NaNo effort then! #litchat -1:48 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @LexxClarke @21stCscribe you'd despair with my #NaNo effort then! #litchat No I wouldn't. Art of poss, whatever makes it work 4the writer -1:49 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @LexxClarke Yes, but the #NaNo is for breaking all the rules. Spraying the text with adverbs & other padding #litchat -1:50 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @malenalott I revise sometimes w/ a drink or a few. But for the crankin' 1st draft or new pages I need supreme focus & a.m. hours. #litchat -1:50 PM Nov 16th, 2009
krisriggle @21stCscribe You can show what a speaker is doing w/hands still using adverbs (ahem) sparingly #litchat -1:50 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat @LexxClarke My motto for #NaNo: "Never say 'now' when 'at the present time' will add three more words." Heehee! #litchat -1:51 PM Nov 16th, 2009
WritingAgain @21stCscribe Even Hemingway used adverbs when he wanted to (4 in 1 sentence in The Sun Also Rises!). Just don't be lazy with 'em. #litchat -1:51 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LitChat Q3 What are some of the most important editorial (writing craft) elements a writer must learn to succeed in publishing? #litchat -1:51 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @malenalott Of course, writing 1st draft in a month is pure insanity, but it must free up inhibitions big-time, which is valuable. #litchat -1:51 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @kashicat: @LexxClarke Yes, but the #NaNo is for breaking all the rules. Spraying the text with adverbs & other padding #litchat Hmmm -1:51 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @21stCscribe I guess that's part of the art isn't it? Learning what works for you as a writer not just for the reader! #litchat -1:51 PM Nov 16th, 2009
TwinkleChar Verbs. Adverbs. Outline. Pantser. I run for everyone who says, "You have to write (or not write) THIS way. #litchat -1:52 PM Nov 16th, 2009
TwinkleChar @LitChat Q3 Humility #litchat -1:52 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @krisriggle: @21stCscribe You can show what a speaker is doing w/hands still using adverbs (ahem) sparingly #litchat One can, I don't! -1:53 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke cynic! RT @kashicat: @LexxClarke My motto for #NaNo: "Never say now when at the present time will add three more words." Heehee! #litchat -1:53 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @21stCscribe I like description of hands, face, body to go along with dialogue. Makes the dialogue more realistic. #litchat -1:53 PM Nov 16th, 2009
TwinkleChar I'm meant to say run FROM anyone ... not for. Whew! Just about transformed my entire being with one typo. #litchat -1:53 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad I will repeat #NaNo is madness!!!! In a good way, though, not unlike Faulkner & Joyce... #litchat -1:53 PM Nov 16th, 2009

krisriggle Q3: I think it's discipline, which maybe doesn't count as craft. And now I have to go...must tend to kiddos. Bye #litchat -1:53 PM Nov 16th, 2009
scgreen Q3: Trust the reader. Don't over lead them. #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @LexxClarke: Learning what works for you as a writer not just 4reader! #litchat Think that's wrong way round? Has2 work 4 reader -1:54 PM Nov 16th, 2009
malenalott @badbadbad Yes I have to write with coffee in the mornings. mmm caffeine. bzzz #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 16th, 2009
amyknichols @badbadbad Today I was thinking about how Joyce revised and it made me realize I can still work a lot harder, like he did. #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad @LexxClarke Milan Kundera said a good book teaches the reader how to read it, or something like that. #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke Q3 a thick skin #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @21stCscribe yes,reading that back you're right #litchat -1:55 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @scgreen: Q3: Trust the reader. Don't over lead them. #litchat Very very important & true -1:55 PM Nov 16th, 2009
kashicat Q3 - maybe too general an answer: write so the reader will understand, & not have to decipher #litchat -1:56 PM Nov 16th, 2009
badbadbad It's been fun, yet again. But I gots to hop to work. Thanks for the memories. Stay tuned to the 3xbadlands, if ya like, por favor. #litchat -1:56 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Q3 - I'll It you know when industry has come round 2my way of thinking! #litchat -1:56 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy Ok Adverbs allow shades of meaning that verbs alone wouldn't muster - but it would depend on how long a piece and age range I feel #litchat -1:56 PM Nov 16th, 2009
KCBOOKS I 2nd that!! RT @badbadbad I will repeat #NaNo is madness!!!! In a good way, though, not unlike Faulkner & Joyce... #litchat -1:56 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @badbadbad interesting idea though #litchat -1:56 PM Nov 16th, 2009
tericoyne Q3 listen to feedback carefully and ask questions so you understand why changes are being requested #litchat -1:56 PM Nov 16th, 2009
rj_anderson Q3 Willingness to revise, revise, revise. Don't fall into the "But this is how it happened!" mindset. Everything s/b up for grabs. #litchat -1:57 PM Nov 16th, 2009
maggiedana Q3: Use 'said' as speaker attribution, or no attribution at all. Kill adverbs, ruthlessly. Don't over explain. #litchat -1:57 PM Nov 16th, 2009
scgreen @amyknichols Nice to see you here. It's been a while. #litchat -1:58 PM Nov 16th, 2009
malenalott I'm off to finish a video script. Thanks again #litchat -1:58 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @badbadbad My favorite books taught me a great deal about reading and writing. #litchat -1:58 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy Plus you just wouldn't right something that sounded awkward - at least after you've read it back to yourself - adverb use is valid #litchat -1:58 PM Nov 16th, 2009
amyknichols Q3: "Caress the detail, the divine detail." ~ Nabokov #litchat -1:59 PM Nov 16th, 2009
dosankodebbie RT @tericoyne: Q3 listen to feedback carefully and ask questions so you understand why changes are being requested #litchat -1:59 PM Nov 16th, 2009
tericoyne RT@rj_anderson Q3 Willingness 2 revise, revise... Don't fall in2 "But this is how it happened!" mindset. Everything s/b up 4 grabs. #litchat -1:59 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Q3 Kill your babies - nothing is scared, not one word. In plays, an actor just may not B able to say yr line...#litchat -1:59 PM Nov 16th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

amyknichols @scgreen Thanks. I fell off the Twitter planet for a bit. Time change didn't help. #litchat -1:59 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Q3 Follow your POV characters judiciously if you're writing fiction. Don't hop POVs from one head to another=confuses readers. #litchat -2:00 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Q3 Don't hop POVs from one head to another=confuses readers. #litchat 1st person avoids this! -2:01 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy @LexxClarke I have huge chunks of description, internal thought and then talking - may have to mix them all up a bit #nanowrimo #litchat -2:02 PM Nov 16th, 2009
scgreen @CarolyBurnsBass POV switches are ok if they're managed properly. Like w/ double space breaks or chapter breaks. #litchat -2:02 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LitChat We've come to the close of our hour, but fret not, we'll pick up the convo again on Wednesday. #litchat -2:02 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy RT @kashicat: @LexxClarke My motto for #NaNo: "Never say 'now' when 'at the present time' will add three more words." Heehee! #litchat -2:02 PM Nov 16th, 2009
tericoyne Q3 if u are lucky to get editorial feedback learn from it - makes you better writer - good editors show u economy of language #litchat -2:03 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @LitChat: We've come to the close of our hour, but fret not, we'll pick up the convo again on Wednesday. #litchat Thank you. Top stuff -2:03 PM Nov 16th, 2009
amyknichols @21stCscribe So true. I think a lot of writers think revising a piece will "break" it. But in reality, it makes it stronger. #litchat -2:03 PM Nov 16th, 2009
agnieszkasshoes Q3 listen to how every single comma, and & the SOUNDS in yr head. Make EVERY sentence the perfect rhythm. Every single one. #litchat -2:03 PM Nov 16th, 2009
WritingAgain Thanks for an interesting #litchat, folks. See you around. -2:03 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy @badbadbad but surely 50 k is not enough for a first draft? thats almost a short! (or is for me!) #nanowrimo #litchat -2:04 PM Nov 16th, 2009
scgreen @tericoyne a foray into poetry can do this too. #litchat -2:04 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LexxClarke @Saffy I've tried to do that, mainly cos I get bored of writing in one 'voice' for too long! #litchat -2:05 PM Nov 16th, 2009
sharifwrites @LitChat See you all then. #litchat -2:05 PM Nov 16th, 2009
amyknichols @scgreen And Flash Fiction, too. #litchat -2:05 PM Nov 16th, 2009
amyknichols @LitChat Thanks for the chat. Wednesday I'll remember the time change. *slaps forehead* #litchat -2:06 PM Nov 16th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @scgreen Yes, POV switches work when they're well crafted into the story. #litchat -2:06 PM Nov 16th, 2009
21stCscribe Better,,,,late,,,,thn,,,,never,,, RT @agnieszkasshoes: Q3 listen to how every single comma, SOUNDS in yr head.. #litchat -2:06 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy Dialog either with or without description can affect the pace of the peace so is a way of conveying the mood of a chapter etc... #litchat -2:07 PM Nov 16th, 2009
tericoyne @scgreen I totally agree -- poetry has so many great lessons for all writers. #litchat -2:07 PM Nov 16th, 2009
LitChat Thanks again, everyone. On Wednesday we'll talk more about those nasty adverbs, POV, dialog, narrative, and exposition. #litchat -2:07 PM Nov 16th, 2009
Saffy @LexxClarke I did some shorts in 1st person, 3rd etc mucked around with tenses to build the character etc... in my head #nanowrimo #litchat -2:08 PM Nov 16th, 2009

21stCscribe #litchat Personally believe dialogue shld be kept to minimum. To reveal character, not drive plot. @Saffy -2:09 PM Nov 16th, 2009
itChat Then on Friday is guest host @EditorialDept's Renni Browne, co-author of the writing bible: SELF-EDITING FOR FICTION WRITERS. #litchat -2:09 PM Nov 16th, 2009
<b>WEDNESDAY, November 18, 2009</b>
LitChat Continuing discussion of THE CRAFT OF WRITING today at 4 pm/est in #litchat. Join us. -9:22 AM Nov 18th, 2009
corb21 I missed the start of this convo....huh. RT @LitChat: Continuing discussion of THE CRAFT OF WRITING today at 4 pm/est in #litchat. Join us. -9:34 AM Nov 18th, 2009
deberryandgrant RT @LitChat: Continuing discussion of THE CRAFT OF WRITING today at 4 pm/est in #litchat. Join us. -9:51 AM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne RT @LitChat: Continuing discussion of THE CRAFT OF WRITING today at 4 pm/est in #litchat. Join us. -9:58 AM Nov 18th, 2009
editorialdept Bonus awesomeness on Friday..not only will Renni Browne be hosting @litchat/#litchat, but we'll be giving away signed copies of her book! -11:02 AM Nov 18th, 2009
BellaVidaLetty RT @LitChat Continuing discussion of THE CRAFT OF WRITING today at 4 pm/est in #litchat. Join us. #writingtips #writers #authors #books -12:04 PM Nov 18th, 2009
andymeisen @editorialdept I want a signed book through @litchat/#litchat, especially Self-Editing for Fiction Writers. Classic. -12:36 PM Nov 18th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass RT @LitChat Continuing discussion of THE CRAFT OF WRITING today at 4 pm/est in #litchat. Join us. -12:40 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat Join us in 10 minutes to discuss THE CRAFT OF WRITING during #litchat. 4-5 pm/est. Send Qs to @LitChat w/o hashtag. -12:51 PM Nov 18th, 2009
julichilliard RT @LitChat Join us in 10 minutes to discuss THE CRAFT OF WRITING during #litchat. 4-5 pm/est. Send Qs to @LitChat w/o hashtag. -12:51 PM Nov 18th, 2009
omara_croft Hi all...Brian O'Mara-Croft, Lost in the Hive (humorous essays)...nice 2 B back. Just finished a blog entry, and ready to chat #litchat -1:01 PM Nov 18th, 2009
scgreen I'm back #litchat. That's two in a row. Woo-hoo! Let's get the chat started. -1:05 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe Any crafty lit chatterers out there tonight? #litchat -1:06 PM Nov 18th, 2009
kathylwheeler I'm here. And interested #litchat -1:06 PM Nov 18th, 2009
herstorian RT @LitChat Continuing discussion of THE CRAFT OF WRITING today @ 4 pm/est in #litchat. Join us. [Followers warning: extra tweets!] #litchat -1:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne I'm here too! #litchat -1:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009
webook I am here teaching friend @Corey_Whaley about #litchat -1:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Writing_Is_Fun RT @kathylwheeler: Im here. And interested <-- Me too #litchat -1:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat Looks like my WELCOME to #LitChat didn't make it into the feed. Saying it again, please give a brief intro and join the convo. #litchat -1:08 PM Nov 18th, 2009
alisonwells Hello. I'm here in spirit if not in mind #litchat -1:08 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Trishryan Taking a break from HOW I BECAME A FAMOUS NOVELIST for #litchat on THE CRAFT OF WRITING. #litchat -1:08 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat We're discussing THE CRAFT OF WRITING today, in preparation for @EditorialDept's Renni Browne guest hosting on Friday. #litchat -1:09 PM Nov 18th, 2009
househomeauthor I'm here and ready to #litchat. -1:09 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

November 16-18, 2009

THE CRAFT OF WRITING -p 12

www.litchat.net

RightonMom How serendipitous to be on Twitter and find this! Here. #litchat -1:09 PM Nov 18th, 2009
herstorian Hi everybody. I write memoir & currently I'm doing #NaNoWriMo. Busy, but this topic looks very interesting! #litchat -1:10 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe 4 novels, just self-pubbed first one. Looking to take 200 year old novel form into our new century #litchat -1:10 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @LitChat I'm happy to join the chat today! #litchat -1:11 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy @herstorian as in your own or historical? #litchat -1:12 PM Nov 18th, 2009
corey_whaley Hello #litchat. Currently revising my debut YA novel. -1:12 PM Nov 18th, 2009
pmc6284 just published my first story. working on my 2nd #NaNoWriMo. #litchat -1:12 PM Nov 18th, 2009
RightonMom @herstorian Congrats on the Nano. I passed up this year. Good luck with it! #litchat -1:12 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat We began on Monday pretty much agreeing there are no absolute rules to writing, that writing can be studied and polished. #litchat -1:12 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @LitChat I write fantasy fiction and slice-of-life short stories #Litchat -1:13 PM Nov 18th, 2009
househomeauthor One novel out (published by Hyperion); one in progress (and close to done!) #litchat -1:14 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy I'm mainly a blogger - currently editing first novel and working on the second, in numerous poetry anthologies and had shorts pub #litchat -1:14 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat We can break writing craft into skill sets, such as word usage; rhythm, flow and beats; pace and timing; narrative and exposition. #litchat -1:14 PM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne If u think of it as a craft u can always get better - #litchat -1:14 PM Nov 18th, 2009
omara_croft I agree. Writing not only could be polished...it should. Few can create bookworthy prose on a first pass...not I #litchat -1:15 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb I definitely think of it as a craft that gets better with practice. #litchat -1:15 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy I'm taking part in #nanowrimo this year - historical cyberpunk though fist novel is a Romance/empowerment lit #litchat -1:16 PM Nov 18th, 2009
scgreen @omara_croft And those who can shoeld live in fear of being lynched by the rest of us. #litchat -1:17 PM Nov 18th, 2009
ckopphills Hi, all. Have joined #litchat for first time. Writing first novel. Can't stay long, but this looks interesting! -1:17 PM Nov 18th, 2009
househomeauthor The more time you spend honing your writing, the better it gets. But don't polish so much that you lose the emotional truth. #litchat -1:17 PM Nov 18th, 2009
kathylwheeler I cringe when I read the older stuff I've written, just because I learn so much as time goes by. #litchat -1:17 PM Nov 18th, 2009
herstorian RT @LitChat We can break writing craft into skill sets: word usage; rhythm, flow & beats; pace and timing; narrative and exposition #litchat -1:17 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat Q1: We broached word usage on Monday with some chatter about adverbs. Let's dig deeper into adverbs: do they harm or help? #litchat -1:18 PM Nov 18th, 2009
kathylwheeler I have 3 completed novels of 75k, just about to send out 3rd, and have 4th started. #litchat -1:18 PM Nov 18th, 2009
deberryandgrant @LitChat It is composition-much like music. Except that you must be skilled in both the music and the lyrics. #litchat -1:18 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

omara_croft I'm with you there. RT @kathylwheeler: I cringe when I read older stuff Ive written, just because I learn so much as time goes by. #litchat -1:19 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rj_anderson Adverbs can be perfectly legitimate, they just have to be used (ha) judiciously. #litchat -1:19 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @LitChat I think there are two elements that I constantly work on: Language and story mechanics #LitChat -1:19 PM Nov 18th, 2009
robinobryant following #litchat thread! Love these! -1:19 PM Nov 18th, 2009
RightonMom @LitChat Save the adverbs! Save the adverbs! They are useful. Or can be #litchat -1:19 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe Ooh don't get me started! We agree no rules RT @LitChat: Q1: Let's dig deeper into adverbs: do they harm or help? #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
kathylwheeler On the same note, I love the characters. They make me happy. #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Trishryan I used to defend the adverb. Then I went through a MS that needed words cut & deleted all endings w/"ly." Didn't miss them at all. #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
_ilo @LitChat Rule #1: Never use adverbs; Rule #2: Know when to use adverbs #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
deberryandgrant @kathylwheeler We did not cringe, but realized that the book would be been 75-100 pages shorter if written today. #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
househomeauthor Adverbs are like make-up on a beautiful woman; best used sparingly or not at all. #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
ckopphills Regarding adverbs, they can, as with most things in life, be useful in moderation! #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
alessandrovoce I'm agree{@omara_croft @kathylwheeler}: I cringe when I read older stuff Ive written, just because I learn so much as time goes by. #litchat -1:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @LitChat I think that depends upon when and how they are used. As general rule, I try to avoid them and choose stronger verbs...#LitChat -1:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Q1 Adverbs are like a crutch, something beginning writers lean on rather than develop strong description. #litchat -1:21 PM Nov 18th, 2009
scgreen Q1: Adverbs are like candy. They're good every now & then, but over doing it can make you sick. #litchat -1:21 PM Nov 18th, 2009
RightonMom RT @scgreen: Q1: Adverbs are like candy. Theyre good every now & then, but over doing it can make you sick. Good one! #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy What about the use of adverbs in #kidlit what do people think of that one? #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe Strong verbs, weak verbs ... caste system in language? No rules. #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @ckopphills Yes, I agree -- adverbs are useful in moderation #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan Best thing I learned about adverbs: only use them when they change the meaning of the verb. Ex: He partially severed the limb. #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Writing_Is_Fun Never use an adverb to modify the word "said" --- Elmore Leonard #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne Agree -- adverbs show up a LOT in my early drafts not so much in later ones but I need them when I'm drafting! @trishryan #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb I tend to think about why I'm using an adverb. #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

BrooksSigler What if you are Dolly Parton and you love adverbs? #litchat @househomeauthor -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy I like this :) RT @_ilo: @LitChat Rule #1: Never use adverbs; Rule #2: Know when to use adverbs #litchat -1:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Trishryan In early drafts I use adverbs galore. They're great for padding word count so I feel accomplished :) Later, out they go. #litchat -1:23 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe How many nouns have been converted into verbs? Grammar is pragmatic #litchat -1:23 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @caitlinconstan I was just typing that :) #Litchat -1:23 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @Writing_Is_Fun: Never use an adverb to modify the word "said" --- Elmore Leonard #litchat Don't use word 'said' instead -1:23 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan If your verb needs an adverb to get the point across, find a new verb. #litchat -1:23 PM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne RT@caitlinconstan Best thing I learned about adverbs: only use when they change meaning of verb. Ex: He partially severed the limb. #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy I like my older stuff - it is teenage fiction though and I plan to still finish those bits I never got round to finishing #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Writing_Is_Fun The road to hell is paved with adverbs --- Stephen King #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 18th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Q2 When I find adverbs in my prose, I look at the whole sentence to see how I can revise with picturesque or emotive words. #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan @Debs1 Great minds! #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 18th, 2009
BrooksSigler @househomeauthor @randomhouse I disagree. Adverbs are personal choice. #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 18th, 2009
househomeauthor I've searched through my ms and cut all words ending in "ly" and never missed them. Really! ;- ) #litchat -1:24 PM Nov 18th, 2009
kathylwheeler what about words like: with, should, could, and would? #litchat -1:25 PM Nov 18th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Good advice. RT @caitlinconstan Adverbs: only use them when they change the meaning of the verb. Ex: He partially severed the limb. #litchat -1:25 PM Nov 18th, 2009
webook RT @Writing_Is_Fun The road to hell is paved with adverbs --- Stephen King #litchat -1:25 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy @Writing_Is_Fun as in he said quickly? But that adds alot of meaning surely *grins evilly* #litchat -1:26 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe In same way nouns converted to verbs, I might convert nouns into adjs/adverbs. Language is plastic #litchat -1:26 PM Nov 18th, 2009
RightonMom Not saying the whole ms needs to be riddled with abverbs. There are no rules, remember? #litchat -1:26 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead off for a bit of #litchat chatter. -1:26 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 RT webook RT @Writing_Is_Fun The road to hell is paved with adverbs --- Stephen King #litchat -1:26 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe Partially severed the limb doesn't work - the limb was partially severed - it's passive. Oh dear, a rule ... #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Writing_Is_Fun King and Leonard.. Pretty decent authors uh? And they've got strong views on adverbs #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

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dsnestle Cut those adverbs! RT @webook: RT @Writing_Is_Fun The road to hell is paved with adverbs --- Stephen King #litchat -1:27 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb If I find myself writing "she said softly," I'll think, maybe "whispered" is better. #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Writing_Is_Fun Which I think can best be summarized by these warning, "Be careful with 'em" and "Use as little as possible" #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 18th, 2009
RightonMom @21stCscribe ha! #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @21stCscribe See -- I'd rather had the adverb than the passive voice in that instance #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rj_anderson The HP books are rife with adverbs. Most readers didn't even notice. Or care. Prose rules can help, but they aren't everything. #litchat -1:28 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @Writing_Is_Fun: King and Leonard.. Pretty decent authors uh? &they've got strong views on adverbs #litchat More than 1 way 2 skin a cat -1:29 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @Writing_Is_Fun Funny thing is -- King is kinda liberal with his adverbs ;) #litchat -1:29 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rj_anderson @wendykwebb And yet "said softly" and "whispered" are not the same thing. You can speak softly without whispering. #litchat -1:29 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Writing_Is_Fun @Saffy Why not say, "His reply was quick. To the point." ? #litchat -1:29 PM Nov 18th, 2009
cowgirlwriter And he should know. RT @Writing_Is_Fun The road to hell is paved with adverbs --- Stephen King #litchat -1:29 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan @21stCscribe There's a lot of ways to write, but I deliberately chose active voice. The beauty of language! #litchat -1:29 PM Nov 18th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @wendykwebb In this example, I would SHOW some physical hint to the lowering of her voice, rather than TELL the reader. #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
authorjane RT @Debs1: RT webook RT @Writing_Is_Fun The road to hell is paved with adverbs --- Stephen King #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
kathylwheeler yes..... RT : @21stCscribe See -- Id rather had the adverb than the passive voice in that instance #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
ckopphills @rj_anderson Great point! (And interestingly, Stephen King is a big fan of Rowling's ... but not a big fan of adverbs! ;-D) #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb @rj_anderson Very true. #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
RightonMom @rj_anderson Agreed. In the right hands, and if the whole story is good, it doesn't take away from the story only adds. I think. #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @wendykwebb: If I find myself writing ;she said softly I'll think maybe whispered is better. #litchat susurrated, purred. The words exist -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rj_anderson However, it's common for novice writers to overuse adverbs in a way that hurts their storytelling, so need to be careful w/them. #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
kathylwheeler quick but husky, sending shivers..... #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne I start to feel claustrophobic when discussing these kinds of craft issues -- it plunges me back to high school English #litchat -1:30 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rj_anderson @21stCscribe If I read a bit of dialogue that ended with "she sussurrated", I would put the book down. #litchat -1:31 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb @CarolyBurnsBass Being a career journalist before writing a novel, I had a hard time with showing vs. telling at first. #litchat -1:31 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

kathylwheeler I flunked hs english!!! #litchat -1:31 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan @cowgirlwriter LOL! I found his book on writing more helpful than his actual writing. (That said I enjoy his work.) #litchat -1:31 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat Q2: Let's take a look at SHOW vs TELL. Is it ever good to TELL? How do you recognize TELLing narrative from SHOWing? #litchat -1:31 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Trishryan @tericoyne Me too! I feel like we're one step away from debating the gerund. #litchat -1:32 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rj_anderson You can have flawless prose mechanics, but if you don't have a dynamic story and memorable characters, it won't help you sell. #litchat -1:32 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy @Writing_Is_Fun that's waffly & completely misses the grit of the scene. It would depend on the character the narration centered on #litchat -1:32 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe I'd prob write 'the leg partially severed' as if it did it itself somehow #litchat -1:32 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @LitChat I use 'telling' for backstory, only when needed to keep the real-time story clear #litchat -1:32 PM Nov 18th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @wendykwebb Yes, I have too. Still learning. (Still am journalist, but travel is much better suited for showing than hard news.) #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 18th, 2009
herstorian Some of us noticed, but its a minor irritation. RT @rj_anderson The HP books are rife w/ adverbs. Most readers didnt notice or care #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Writing_Is_Fun RT @Saffy: @Writing_Is_Fun thats waffly <-- No problem, just pointing out there R other ways of saying it #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 18th, 2009
deberryandgrant @LitChat By SHOWING you are telling. You are inviting the reader to participate. When you TELL you don't include them. #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @rj_anderson: If I read a bit of dialogue that ended with 'he said' so would I . #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rj_anderson Q2: Showing means using details, not just generalities -- can be just as short as telling, just more specific and vivid. #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb Q2 This gave me fits early on. Journalists tell a story and it was a hard habit for me to break with my first novel. #litchat -1:33 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy @Writing_Is_Fun I'd write that around a posh middle aged character - sorry heads full of my protagonist at the moment #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne @trishryan I would have NEVER gotten gerund right on the pop quiz! #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 18th, 2009
alisonwells Would anyone say there is a difference between a character telling and the narration telling? #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 18th, 2009
mmj5170 Q2- If the story demands the info to be shared= OK. If added for reader's sake= No OK #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rj_anderson @herstorian I noticed too, because I love beautiful prose and the HP books... don't really have it. But still loved the story! #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe What is the point of having such a rich language if we don't draw on it? #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 18th, 2009
kathylwheeler I think you have to have a balance between show vs tell. so the reader has some sense of what is going on. More emp on show #litchat -1:34 PM Nov 18th, 2009
scgreen Q1: Showing is ALWAYS better, but can sometimes slow the pace. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

<p>rj_anderson @21stCscribe You must put down every book you ever pick up, then! Most books use "said" more than any other tag. It's transparent. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>CarolyBurnsBass @rj_anderson: I would RT your tweet about flawless prose mechanics vs memorable characters dynamic characters, but it's too long. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>caitlinconstan @Trishryan I'm such a nerd that I'd debate the gerund. Surely I'm not the only one who hates it when I have 2 or 3 in a sentence? #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>ckopphills @tericoyne Yes! Rules are generalizations. Craft is personal development that requires rules but for guidance, not constriction. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>21stCscribe telling gives reader no room for imagination. Showing involves them actively in the creative vision #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>rebeccawoodhead @LitChat Always show, unless it ruins the pace, plot and character or looks false. #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>RightonMom Q2: Showing both much more fun to write and to read for me. Not saying there isn't a time to tell, just gotta know when #litchat -1:35 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>tericoyne Q2 -- sometimes telling is necessary 4 spanning blocks of time or summing up a lot of information - just don't want a lot of it #litchat -1:36 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>Debs1 @wendywebb I had a lot of problems switching from journalistic 'telling' to fictionalized 'showing' in the beginning too! It's a bear #litchat -1:36 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>rj_anderson @21stCscribe "Sussurated" is a lovely word in its place, just not as a dialogue tag! #litchat -1:36 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>caitlinconstan Q2: Telling: he's mad. Showing: he slammed his drink on the table. If I want the reader to see what I'm drawing, I show. #litchat -1:36 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>deberryandgrant RT @ckopphills:@tericoyne Rules are generalizations.Craft is personal development that requires rules for guidance,not constriction #litchat -1:37 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>caitlinconstan @Debs1 @wendywebb - that's why I like feature writing. You get to write fact-based stuff but with more literary style. #litchat -1:37 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>21stCscribe Try &amp; avoid back story period. It should come out between the lines. It always stops narrative otherwise #litchat -1:37 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>Trishryan @caitlinconstan Confession: I don't understand gerunds. Missed that day of HS English (flu) and it never came up again. #litchat -1:37 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>yeah_write @kathylwheeler I'm not in #litchat but I hated English in HS &amp; college. My teachers kept complimenting me, so I kept writing. -1:38 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>rebeccawoodhead If you picture a scene as if you are watching it in real life/film then describe what you see it is easier to find words to 'show'. #litchat -1:38 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>Debs1 @caitlinconstan Yes, Features leave room for flowery or meandering leads that the writer can really have fun with! #Litchat -1:38 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>tericoyne Agreed! RT@ckopphills Rules are generalizations.Craft is personal development that requires rules for guidance,not constriction #litchat -1:39 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>caitlinconstan What's the saying? Know the rules so you can break them? I like that, even though I am not at that point with my writing. #litchat -1:39 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>ckopphills Have to run. Looking forward to reading transcript w/ rest of your ideas later. Thanks, all! #litchat -1:39 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>
<p>rebeccawoodhead @Trishryan I had a car accident - severe brain injury - while all the major lessons on grammar were taking place. I just blag it! #litchat -1:39 PM Nov 18th, 2009</p>

Topic of the Week:

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LitChat RT @LitChat: Q3 fm @CarlaBuckley: Do you recommend following the 3 act structure? #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb Excellent point! RT @rebeccawoodhead Picture a scene as if you are watching it in real life then describe what you see. #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 18th, 2009
herstorian RT @Trishryan: Confession: I dont understand gerunds. Missed that day of HS English & it never came up again. [I must have too!] #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan @Trishryan Verbs that end in -ing. I don't know what it is about them, but too many in a sentence make my head hurt. #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe TAG? Diminishes the work straightaway. Every sentence should have a heft to it. RT @rj_anderson: Sussurated -not as dialogue tag! #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 18th, 2009
deberryandgrant Characters can TELL in dialogue with each other, b/c that's how ppl speak. But the narrator should SHOW wherever/whenever possible #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy @21stCscribe @rj_anderson she sussurated, sounds sort of sexual to me - I'm already trying to construct a poem around that one :) #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb What's the 3 act structure? #litchat -1:40 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan @Debs1 Yes! No inverted pyramid, no 5Ws in the lead - just good old fashioned storytelling. #litchat -1:41 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @caitlinconstan was and ing in a sentence is a sign of passive voice. I always get pulled out of a story w/ PV #Litchat -1:42 PM Nov 18th, 2009
deberryandgrant @LitChat Like a screenplay? No. A novel should have beginning, middle and an end but given the right story-can happen out of order #litchat -1:42 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe Books shld not try & compete with film imho RT @rebeccawoodhead picture scene as if UR watching it in film then describe =show #litchat -1:42 PM Nov 18th, 2009
herstorian @rebeccawoodhead Re: picturing a scene as if youre watching it like a film & then describing it. That's a technique I have to try! #litchat -1:42 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe onomatopaiec (or however it's spelt) RT @Saffy: she sussurated, I'm already trying to construct a poem around that one :) #litchat -1:43 PM Nov 18th, 2009
scgreen Q3: I find nothing wrong with a 3 act structure... unless it's totally wrong for the story. #litchat -1:43 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan @Debs1 Me, too. I had an editor who used to red-pen all PV. Hated it at the time but now I feel like I owe him a bottle of whiskey. #litchat -1:43 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat @wendykwebb 3-act structure draws from screenwriting, with acts: 1) intro of crisis 2) crisis builds/reverses 3) crisis concludes. #litchat -1:44 PM Nov 18th, 2009
RightonMom @deberryandgrant beginning, middle and end..So basic and yet it works everytime #litchat -1:44 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy @Writing_Is_Fun there are lots of ways of saying it - I like mucking around with styles & exploring the permutiations of a sentence #litchat -1:44 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @21stCscribe I don't think it is the same thing. To write a believable scene, you have to picture it in your mind first. #litchat -1:44 PM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne Q3 I would say a novel should have a structure - seriously. I've read lots of beginning manuscripts that don't. #litchat -1:44 PM Nov 18th, 2009
deberryandgrant @21stCscribe Don't think @rebeccawoodhead meant competing w/film. But that writing a scene visually offers readers the same pov #litchat -1:45 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 RT scgreen Q3: I find nothing wrong with a 3 act structure... unless it's totally wrong for the story. #litchat Agreed! -1:45 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

21stCscribe 3 act structure is for stage plays and catharsis. Novels have a totally different flow & dynamic with its reader. More intimate #litchat -1:45 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Writing_Is_Fun @Saffy Gotcha #litchat -1:45 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @caitlinconstan Funny, I had an editor that did the exact same thing! #litchat -1:45 PM Nov 18th, 2009
kathylwheeler Agree RT @Debs1: @21stCscribe I dont think it is the same thing. To write a believable scene, you have ...your mind first. #litchat -1:45 PM Nov 18th, 2009
herstorian It's just a writing technique. RT @21stCscribe: Books shld not try & compete with film imho RT @rebeccawoodhead picture scene ... #litchat -1:45 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @herstorian works every time for me. Glad you like it. #litchat -1:46 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb @LitChat In that case, I'm all for the 3 act structure! It gives the writer a starting point from which to build a story. #litchat -1:46 PM Nov 18th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Q3 The 3-act structure is popular in writing for mass market genres such as romance, mystery, thriller. Not so in literary. #litchat -1:46 PM Nov 18th, 2009
storywriter84 RT @webook: RT @Writing_Is_Fun The road to hell is paved with adverbs --- Stephen King #litchat -1:46 PM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne @21stCscribe novels can have a 3 act structure #litchat -1:47 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe Too regimented. Life & thus narrative does not flow this way. -3-act s 1intro of crisis 2crisis builds/reverses 3 crisis concludes. #litchat -1:47 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan @Debs1 They must take a class in that. :) #litchat -1:47 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead Q3 - Isn't that Act1: Put character up tree Act2: Throw stones at her Act3: Throw her a ladder ? :) #litchat -1:47 PM Nov 18th, 2009
cowgirlwriter If only life were a 3-act structure. Don't think life, or a novel, is that simple. #litchat -1:47 PM Nov 18th, 2009
deberryandgrant We made a collage of images of the 5 senses as a reminder to include ALL of them in showing what happens. #litchat -1:48 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe Too many books are written as if movie in mind. Reading is painting pictures with words, not frames #litchat -1:48 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 I'm a believer in starting the story at a point of change and taking the reader through the conflict to the end. #litchat -1:48 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @21stCscribe Just saw those tweets - you got the wrong end of the stick - it's a writing technique. #litchat -1:48 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @tericoyne: @21stCscribe novels can have a 3 act structure #litchat Course they can, I'm unlikely 2 read 'em tho #litchat -1:48 PM Nov 18th, 2009
BertaDi Hi. I write memoir-just finished #1. Thought I'd observe. #litchat -1:48 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @deberryandgrant You might like this - <a href="http://tiny.cc/literarysenses">http://tiny.cc/literarysenses</a> #litchat -1:49 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @21stCscribe But you still have to see the picture in order to paint it #litchat -1:50 PM Nov 18th, 2009
tericoyne The structure can be simple (3 acts) the story doesn't have to be #litchat -1:50 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe It's a technique that too easily slides over into filmic prose. I give you GritLit RT @rebeccawoodhead: it's a writing technique. #litchat -1:50 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Saffy @21stCscribe Serpentine supple, she sussurated. Sheets silken - slippery, sensation stirred subtly. Sighing - Sleep succumbed #litchat -1:50 PM Nov 18th, 2009

BertaDi @Debs1 I started my memoir like that #litchat -1:51 PM Nov 18th, 2009

herstorian RT @deberryandgrant: We made a collage of images of the 5 senses as a reminder to include ALL of them in showing what happens. #litchat -1:51 PM Nov 18th, 2009

21stCscribe 3 acts & filmic technique - fine, but I'm more interested in non-linear narratives #litchat -1:51 PM Nov 18th, 2009

wendykwebb Agreed. RT @tericoyne The structure can be simple (3 acts) the story doesn't have to be #litchat -1:51 PM Nov 18th, 2009

deberryandgrant @rebeccawoodhead Thanks will check it out. #litchat -1:52 PM Nov 18th, 2009

21stCscribe I am succused by your sepentine prose RT @Saffy: @21stCscribe Serpentine supple, she sussurated. Sheets silken - slippery, ... #litchat -1:52 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Writing\_Is\_Fun Afraid I've got to go.. Thanks for the interesting #litchat -1:52 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Debs1 @BertaDi You definitely have to 'see' the pictures to write a memoir! RT BertaDi I started my memoir like that #litchat -1:53 PM Nov 18th, 2009

21stCscribe RT @Debs1: @21stCscribe But you still have 2 see the picture in order 2 paint it #litchat No, I let the lyricism of the words paint #litchat -1:53 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Saffy @alisonwells that would depend on the type of character talking I think - or even thinking the telling #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 18th, 2009

BertaDi @Debs1 Of course that's after I threw out th 1st 3 pages #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 18th, 2009

21stCscribe damn, missed opportunity for 'sinuous, serpentine prose' @Saffy #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 18th, 2009

LitChat Q4: What is the difference between narrative and exposition? How does pace and timing affect them? #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 18th, 2009

rebeccawoodhead @21stCscribe Forgive me. I suffered extensive brain injury and need techniques. I bow to your superior IQ. Mine's only 98th %ile #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 18th, 2009

scgreen I write what I think is happening. I'm done when I can see it. #litchat -1:54 PM Nov 18th, 2009

21stCscribe RT @scgreen: I write what I think is happening. I'm done when I can see it. #litchat Nice -1:55 PM Nov 18th, 2009

LitChat @4evermore Can you repost your comment and be sure to use #litchat hashtag so it makes it into chat feed. Thanks! -1:55 PM Nov 18th, 2009

househomeauthor @BrooksSigler Re: adverbs. You're right; every writer needs his/her own voice, even if that voice includes adverbs. #litchat -1:55 PM Nov 18th, 2009

caitlinconstan @LitChat I am curious to see answers to Q4. I always think of exposition as big passages of "telling" but I am not sure. #litchat -1:56 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Debs1 RT herstorian @deberryandgrant We made a collage of images of the 5 senses: reminder to include ALL of them in showing what happens #litchat -1:56 PM Nov 18th, 2009

deberryandgrant @LitChat It's the difference between listening to a speech and listening to a storyteller. #litchat -1:57 PM Nov 18th, 2009

21stCscribe Whatever works for any individ writer. Art of the possible my nostrum RT @rebeccawoodhead: I need techniques. #litchat -1:57 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Saffy @21stCscribe @rj\_anderson I don't normally use said that much but my #nanowrimo novel is full of it - word padding I'm afraid #litchat -1:57 PM Nov 18th, 2009

deberryandgrant Narrative pulls you into the story. Exposition talks it at you. #litchat -1:57 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe IQ only measures how good u are at IQ tests. Writing is soul, passion & emotional intelligence. Not dry intellectualism #litchat -1:58 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy @21stCscribe hmmm I might have to add that to that to the sssss monster #litchat -1:59 PM Nov 18th, 2009
BertaDi RT @21stCscribe: IQ only measures how good u are at IQ tests. Writing is soul, passion & emotional intelligence #litchat -1:59 PM Nov 18th, 2009
scgreen I think of exposition as dry & can put me to sleep. Good narrative is hardly noticed as such. #litchat -1:59 PM Nov 18th, 2009
RightonMom @deberryandgrant And yet I've heard some amazing speeches.. Can u elaborate a bit here? TY! #litchat -1:59 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Trishryan Fun idea: RT @deberryandgrant We made a collage of images of the 5 senses: reminder to include ALL of them in showing what happens #litchat -2:00 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan RT @deberryandgrant Narrative pulls you into the story. Exposition talks it at you. #litchat // I use both in my long-form writing. -2:00 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy @21stCscribe you can train people to pass those tests too without them understanding what the tests are really about #litchat -2:00 PM Nov 18th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @deberryandgrant Oh, I thought the opposite. Narrative is a summary of events, while exposition can be showing/telling. #litchat -2:00 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan @scgreen I don't think exposition necessarily has to be boring. Not sure if it belongs in a novel, though. #litchat -2:01 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @21stCscribe I live to write. Having learnt my craft twice I think I understand passion and emotional intelligence. #litchat -2:01 PM Nov 18th, 2009
BrooksSigler @househomeauthor #litchat Something about adverbs make me laugh; they add something like melodrama. Maybe it's because I'm Irish/Italian? -2:01 PM Nov 18th, 2009
techtigger @LitChat re: Q4 - narrative: narrator tells reader what happens. Exposition: characters expose information to reader. #litchat -2:01 PM Nov 18th, 2009
21stCscribe RT @Saffy: @21stCscribe Ucan train people 2pass those tests too w'out them understanding what the tests are really about #litchat Absolutely -2:02 PM Nov 18th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Excellent. RT @techtigger: narrative: narrator tells reader what happens. Exposition: characters expose information to reader. #litchat -2:03 PM Nov 18th, 2009
RightonMom @techtigger Thanks. Your answer was too long to retweet. Think I get that. #litchat -2:03 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy Ok thick moment what does gerunds mean? #litchat never even seen the word :( -2:03 PM Nov 18th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @21stCscribe Shocked I managed to get into top 2%. Writing is nothing to do with IQ and everything to do with life. #litchat -2:04 PM Nov 18th, 2009
scgreen A narrative is being told by someone (doesn't necessarily have to be telling). #litchat -2:05 PM Nov 18th, 2009
wendykwebb Those straight As I earned in English seem to have been for naught. Didn't know difference between narr and exposition. #litchat -2:05 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat We're already at the top of the next hour. Do carry on if you will, but please mark your day for Friday with Renni Browne. #litchat -2:05 PM Nov 18th, 2009

deberryandgrant @RightonMom Yes, we've all heard amazing speeches, but the ones I remember are the ones that told me a story. #litchat -2:05 PM Nov 18th, 2009

RightonMom So now that I understand narrative v. exposition, that's a bit out of my league to do, well, that is. There's a place for both #litchat -2:06 PM Nov 18th, 2009

21stCscribe It would be boring if we all wrote the same way RT @rebeccawoodhead: Writing is nothing 2do with IQ and everything to do with life. #litchat -2:06 PM Nov 18th, 2009

wendykwebb @rebeccawoodhead Oh, I think good writing does have to do with IQ. Reading a passage from Sarah Palin's book illustrates this. #litchat -2:06 PM Nov 18th, 2009

LitChat Renni Browne (@EditorialDept) is co-author of writer's handbook, SELF-EDITING FOR FICTION WRITERS. #litchat -2:06 PM Nov 18th, 2009

mmj5170 You all are way too wicked smart for me. But thanks for the ideas that I will now steal and apply. TY @litchat. #litchat -2:06 PM Nov 18th, 2009

rebeccawoodhead Thanks for the chat Ms Litchat 2009 signing off. Not sure I'll be back for a while but all the best to my old chums. #litchat -2:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009

wendykwebb These chats always fly by. Thanks, everyone! #litchat -2:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009

RightonMom @deberryandgrant Right. And some of those speeches included great story telling. @techtigger gave a great explanation. #litchat -2:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009

deberryandgrant @CarolyBurnsBass Exposition: writing or speech primarily intended to convey information or to explain #litchat -2:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009

deberryandgrant @CarolyBurnsBass and IMHO Narrative is crafting, painting, sculpting a story. #litchat -2:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Saffy @rebeccawoodhead I'm top 2% IQ but was predicted fail for English GCSE got B (lit) & C (lang) I ignored the lessons in exam #litchat -2:07 PM Nov 18th, 2009

rebeccawoodhead @caitlinconstan Thanks for noticing. Won't be back to #litchat in a hurry. -2:08 PM Nov 18th, 2009

RightonMom RT @wendykwebb: Oh, I think good writing does have to do with IQ. Reading a passage from Sarah Palins book illustrates this. #litchat -2:08 PM Nov 18th, 2009

cherylktardif RT @LitChat Renni Browne (@EditorialDept) is co-author of writer's handbook SELF-EDITING FOR FICTION WRITERS. #litchat (My editing "bible"!)-2:08 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Saffy @rebeccawoodhead I spewed my heart out on the page instead - my grades were a shock to everyone #litchat -2:08 PM Nov 18th, 2009

rebeccawoodhead @Saffy I'm brain damaged. Was given no chance of reaching level of peers. Getting into top 2% is an accomplishment for me. Bye. #litchat -2:09 PM Nov 18th, 2009

LitChat We'll be giving away a signed copy of SELF-EDITING FOR FICTION WRITERS to a chat participant on Friday. #litchat -2:10 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Saffy Surely each story has a structure and length that is suited to it if you try and shoe horn it in it will ring false? #litchat -2:11 PM Nov 18th, 2009

BertaDi What time does #litchat begin? #litchat -2:11 PM Nov 18th, 2009

RightonMom Gotta scoot. G'day all #litchat -2:11 PM Nov 18th, 2009

deberryandgrant Thanks all-enjoyed the chat as usual. Must dash. #litchat -2:11 PM Nov 18th, 2009

techtigger okay, now that #litchat is officially over, don't feel bad about posting link to latest blog post on writing craft ;) -2:13 PM Nov 18th, 2009

alisonwells V Good points 2nite. RT @deberryandgrant: Narrative pulls you into the story. Exposition talks it at you. #litchat -2:13 PM Nov 18th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

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caitlinconstan @BertaDi 4 p.m. EST on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays. #litchat -2:13 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy @21stCscribe @Debs1 but scense can build as your writing and sometimes they are the stronger #litchat -2:14 PM Nov 18th, 2009
herstorian No way Palin wrote that; a ghostwriter did. RT @wendykwebb @rebeccawoodhead Good writing does have to do w/ IQ. See Sarah Palins bk #litchat -2:14 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Saffy Opps really behind in the #litchat timeline for some reason :( -2:15 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan Thanks, all, for #litchat. Off to do some laundry and dishes, then will be back to pound at the keys some more. #amwriting -2:16 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat @caitlinconstan Thanks for the schedule relay to @BertaDi. #litchat -2:17 PM Nov 18th, 2009
techtigger actually, wish I had been here for all of #litchat - I still don't know what a gerund is. Time to hit wikipedia! *lol* -2:18 PM Nov 18th, 2009
LitChat Thanks everyone for another great chat. See you on Friday. #litchat -2:19 PM Nov 18th, 2009
techtigger aha! Gerund is the dreaded ING! Well, at least I knew not to over-use them, even if I didn't know the official term ;) #litchat -2:20 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Ditchwalk #litchat "Narrative" as a noun is a synonym for story, not for narration/narrator. "Exposition" is usually explanatory: telling vs. showing. -2:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
BertaDi @caitlinconstan Thanks! #litchat -2:22 PM Nov 18th, 2009
caitlinconstan @BertaDi @LitChat No problem! #litchat -2:23 PM Nov 18th, 2009
JLichtenberg RT @LitChat: We'll be giving away a signed copy of SELF-EDITING FOR FICTION WRITERS to a chat participant on Friday. #litchat -2:25 PM Nov 18th, 2009
BertaDi RT #litchat Narrative as a noun is a synonym for story, not for narration Exposition is usually explanatory: telling vs. showing. #litchat -2:27 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 RT @Saffy: @21stCscribe @Debs1 but scense can build as your writing and sometimes they are the stronger #litchat Yes, I agree -2:31 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 RT @BertaDi: @Debs1 Of course that's after I threw out th 1st 3 pages #litchat C'est la Vie -2:32 PM Nov 18th, 2009
mariblaser @techtigger Hi, thanks! :-D How are you? I'm sorry I missed #litchat again... The subject is most important! -2:33 PM Nov 18th, 2009
Debs1 @rebeccawoodhead I valued your contributions to #Litchat today! -2:34 PM Nov 18th, 2009