



LitChat January 18-20, 2010

Topic of the Week: Fictionalizing Real People

Monday and Wednesday: Open chat

MONDAY: January 22, 2010

LitChat: We're here for another week of #litchat, topic is FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE. Introduce yourself and join the convo. 4 days ago from TweetDeck

mariblasers: Evening! No wine, but here for #litchat too. :) RT @LexxClarke: I have a glass of wine and now settling in for #litchat

mciddangelo: @sharifwrites I actually have Lara Spencer of The Insider interviewing my MC in the second chapter of my new Artemus Dark novel. #litchat 4 days ago from web

LexxClarke: @mariblasers Boa noite Mari :o) #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

DavidRozansky: I am settling in for #litchat. David Rozansky, publisher, Flying Pen Press. Looking to publish novels based on real people. 4 days ago from TweetDeck

LexxClarke: @mariblasers Boa noite Mari :o) #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

DavidRozansky: I am settling in for #litchat. David Rozansky, publisher, Flying Pen Press. Looking to publish novels based on real people. 4 days ago from TweetDeck

dosankodebbie: Good morning from Japan. I'm here for #litchat 4 days ago from web

mariblasers: @DavidRozansky Hello! Good to have you back at #litchat! It's been a while no? :) 4 days ago from TweetDeck

techtigger: here for #litchat with a glass of water ;) that leaves more wine for the rest of you! #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

MelanieBen: Am eavesdropping in preparation for my Friday chat; I've never used Tweetchat before! #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

sharifwrites: @mciddangelo My characters show their fandom, but I haven't put in celebrities yet. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

KrissiDallas: Hello! First time in #litchat... interesting topic today! :) #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

mariblasers: Morning! Debbie! Glad you made it today. How are you? :) RT @dosankodebbie: Good morning from Japan. I'm here for #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

DavidRozansky: @mariblasers I mostly hang out on Fridays and the last few #followreader topics pulled me over #litchat. Happens about 50% of time. 4 days ago from TweetDeck

LexxClarke: Now where is @LitChat?? #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

mciddangelo: @sharifwrites my MC gets to sleep in a bungalow owned by Jack Nicholson in Las Vegas. It's fun. #litchat 4 days ago from web

mariblasers: Do be welcome. then. :) RT @KrissiDallas: Hello! First time in #litchat... interesting topic today! :) #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

KrissiDallas: Is everyone here? Or is there a tweetchat problem? "Testing, testing..." #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

KrissiDallas: @mariblasers Thanks! :) #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

mariblasers: @DavidRozansky Yeah, I get it. I tried to follow both #followreader and #litchat once, but was impossible, heh. 4 days ago from TweetDeck

LexxClarke: The MC in my wip is based on a real person but only in the sense that I used their physical identity #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

DavidRozansky: @KrissiDallas I read you loud and clear in #litchat. 4 days ago from TweetGrid

Topic of the Week:

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| sharifwrites: @MCidDAngelo S/he sounds like s/he's having fun. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck |
| DavidRozansky: I've been asking for novelizations of Colorado characters, especially Soapy Smith. No takers yet. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetGrid |
| cowgirlwriter: 2 screenplays: Being John Malkovich & Adaptation (both Charlie Kaufman) took real people & fictionalized them. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| sharifwrites: @LexxClarke I get caught up on ppl's mannerisms, speech, and physicality that I want to borrow the featurues, not the whole person. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck |
| megsterr: RT @sharifwrites: RT @LitChat: Topic of the week in #litchat is FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE. Join us today and Wednesday for open chat at ... 4 days ago from web |
| KrissiDallas: So we're talking about fictionalizing real people today? My 3 MCs are based on real people in my life-keeps their behav. consistent #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| dosankodebbie: RT @LitChat: Topic of the week in #litchat is FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE. Join us today and Wednesday for open chat 4 days ago from TweetDeck |
| LexxClarke: @sharifwrites yes indeed,I've only taken elements as it seems you sometimes do,I don't even know the person! #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| PennyAsh: @DavidRozansky From the Hopalong Cassidy movies? #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck |
| LexxClarke: @KrissiDallas do you think those people will recognise themselves? #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| mciddangelo: @sharifwrites heh - well, actually its a guy and Jack allowed him to stay there 'cuz they both had a work detail for the CHP. :D #litchat 4 days ago from web |
| KrissiDallas: I honestly don't know how an author completely ignores real life people in their writing-has to come from somewhere... #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| nchsmith: Also have main characters who are based on real characters - some still on this mortal coil #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| techtigger: most of the books I read have historical figures fictionalized -i think it's easier for the author, less risk than with live person #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| sharifwrites: @LexxClarke A part of creating real characters is observing real people. No one wants to read characters who don't seem authentic. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck |
| KrissiDallas: @LexxClarke Well, they actually know about it and yes, it is part of the fun when they read & see themselves so clearly :) #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| DavidRozansky: @PennyAsh No, teh real Sopay SMith, the one who ruled #Denver's Saloon politics and died in Skagway. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck |
| nchsmith: Unfortunately, some of them know there are characters based on them, but fortunately some don't seem to mind. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| scgreen: I only use physical descriptions of real people. This helps keep them in my minds eye. Traits are all fictional. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck |
| KrissiDallas: Kind of immortalizes in a book the people I love so much... but they are still characters bound to their own set of circumstances #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |
| dosankodebbie: @DavidRozansky Is your interest limited to American characters? #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck |
| LexxClarke: @sharifwrites very true,that's part of what keeps a reader turning the pages,they can possibly relate them to people they know too #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat |

Topic of the Week:

KrissiDallas: @scgreen I'm the total opposite - it's the little nuances of people that I gain from real life and put in a character. :) #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

cowgirlwriter: I think most characters end up being composites of a few people I know. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

mariblaser: Hey @danish_novelist , #litchat topic is about fictionalizing real people. Your area of expertise, no? :) 4 days ago from TweetDeck

KrissiDallas: My characters' experiences/conflicts dictate plot, but the real people they're based on help me keep them a consistent character... #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

DavidRozansky: @dosankodebbie Depends on character. We do have a Colorado regional imprint. But our general imprint is more international. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

LexxClarke: @KrissiDallas that can be very helpful,gives a set of parameters :o) #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

scgreen: @KrissiDallas Sure, but do you keep all of the traits of one person in the fictional character? #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

PennyAsh: @DavidRozansky Ah, that could be interesting, is there a lot on him? #Denver #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

KrissiDallas: @scgreen No, not all traits... just the ones that make them a unique or lovable character if that makes any sense... #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

scgreen: All things we write are made up of our life experiences. It's how we piece them back together that makes a good story. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

DavidRozansky: @jenniferBrozek has a anthology where she murders off her coworkers (they ask to be included!) or she has them commit the murder. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

KrissiDallas: The BFF of the MC is based on my BFF and I asked her permission to include certain things about her in the book-like her backstory #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

KrissiDallas: She felt that it was a cathartic experience for her to watch the character based on her deal with circumstances... #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

LitChat: @LexxClarke Dang, got lost in blog updates and lost track of time. RT @LexxClarke: Now where is @LitChat?? #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

sharifwrites: RT @scgreen: All things we write are made up of our life experiences. It's how we piece them back together that makes a good story. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

LitChat: Apologies. Was so engrossed in writing history of #litchat to commemorate 1st year, I completely lost track of time. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

KrissiDallas: I would never have done it if she didn't give me permission... writing from real life is a double-edged sword, too. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

DavidRozansky: @PennyAsh Soapy Smith's life is well documented. A couple of biogrpahies. Bad movie or two. No novels yet. <http://is.gd/6xHv2> #litchat 4 days ago from TweetDeck

LitChat: We're discussing this week, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE today in #litchat. Who wants to join the convo? 4 days ago from TweetDeck

KrissiDallas: RT @scgreen: All things we write are made up of our life experiences. Its how we piece them back together that makes a good story. #litchat 4 days ago from TweetChat

WEDNESDAY, January 20, 2010

LitChat Welcome to Wednesday's #litchat. For the next hour we'll be talking about, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE. Join us and introduce yourself. -12:57 PM Jan 20th, 2010

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| nchsmith I'm a novelist and I am a strong supporter of fictionalizing real people - #litchat -12:58 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| BookEditorLM Are some MEMOIRS BETTER AS NOVELS? http://bit.ly/7GltkC #Memoirs #Authors #Novels #Writing #Writers #litchat #Writechat -12:59 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ficwriter RT @LitChat: Welcome to Wednesday's #litchat. For the next hour we'll be talking about, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE. Join us and introduc ... -12:59 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| agnieszkasshoes RT @LitChat: Welcome to Wednesday's #litchat. For the next hour we'll be talking about, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE. Join us and introduc ... -1:00 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JennJArceneaux Great topic! I'm working on fictionalizing two historical figures right now, one of which has been largely mythologized - #litchat -1:00 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| anthonylevings Agree -> @nchsmith I'm a novelist and I am a strong supporter of fictionalizing real people - #litchat -1:00 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers Interesting #litchat topic! Looking forward to it. Haven't dropped in to a #litchat before. -1:01 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat Before we begin today, just want to clarify topic. By real people, we mean actual people from historyeg, historical fiction. #litchat -1:01 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| jocastalizzbeth I'm an aspiring author & I should be writing an essay for uni instead of reading this, but it seems like an interesting discussion #litchat -1:01 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Saffy RT @LitChat: Welcome to Wednesday's #litchat. For the next hour we'll be about, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE. Join us & introduce yourself. -1:01 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana @LitChat Good thing you clarified. I thought you meant my great aunt Bessie! #litchat -1:02 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers I'm about to write a novel which will, in part, feature the real life Jane Austen. I'm terrified. #litchat -1:02 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| TracyClark_TLC Shhhh. Don't tell anyone, but my MC is totally me as a teen. #litchat -1:02 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| danish_novelist @nchsmith When we fictionalize real people we have one moral obligation: To stay true to the their character #litchat -1:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| CarolyBurnsBass #litchat @JennJArceneaux Who are you writing about? Do you mind sharing here? -1:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| agnieszkasshoes @stujallen thanks, Stu. Maybe see you at #litchat - talking fictionalising real people -1:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| corb21 Hello #litchat! I'll be in and out..... but this sounds like a very interesting topic. -1:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JennJArceneaux @CarolyBurnsBass Not at all - Delphine Lalaurie and Marie Laveau. Working on 6th draft of novel set in 1834 NOLA. #litchat -1:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| krisriggle <---Author of Real Life & Liars, and today mostly lurking as I've got kids to wrangle and dinner to prep. #litchat -1:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| nchsmith @anthonylevings - disclaimers and lawyers are good because the people for many of my fictional characters are living. #litchat -1:04 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat Welcome! RT @janetravers: Interesting #litchat topic! Looking forward to it. Havent dropped in to a #litchat before. #litchat -1:04 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| TracyClark_TLC In other news, I've had real historical figures make cameo appearances. #litchat -1:04 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

ficwriter I'm collaborating with someone on a memoir about her life, so for me it is like writing fiction. #litchat -1:04 PM Jan 20th, 2010

agnieszkasshoes the most talented fictionaliser I know is Oli Johns
<http://gupterpunchermagazine.wordpress.com/> #litchat -1:04 PM Jan 20th, 2010

krisriggle I just finished HOMER & LANGLEY by E.L. Doctorow and LOVED it. #litchat -1:04 PM Jan 20th, 2010

allisondavis531 #litchat I have both real & "fictionalized" folk in 1958. I am concerned that people will mix that up. Where's the fiction line? -1:04 PM Jan 20th, 2010

JennJArceneaux #litchat @danish_novelist What if there is very little evidence of their character? (at least from trustworthy sources) -1:05 PM Jan 20th, 2010

scgreen @danish_novelist Sometimes that "moral obligation" isn't as fun to write or read. #litchat -1:05 PM Jan 20th, 2010

LitChat Great point. RT @ficwriter: Im collaborating with someone on a memoir about her life, so for me it is like writing fiction. #litchat -1:05 PM Jan 20th, 2010

brownies1 Welcome to Wednesday's #litchat. For the next hour we'll be talking about, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE. Join us and introduce yourself. -1:05 PM Jan 20th, 2010

nchsmith @danish_novelist I agree with keeping true to the characters of the models, but am limited by my capacity to know others. #litchat -1:06 PM Jan 20th, 2010

LitChat If anyone has a question to pose to topic, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE, please send it to @LitChat w/o hashtag. #litchat -1:06 PM Jan 20th, 2010

stujallen @LitChat evening interesting topic tonight with books like langley and homer just out #litchat -1:06 PM Jan 20th, 2010

GLHancock One of the most common questions from beginning writers concern this issue. "Can I write about my ...?" #litchat -1:06 PM Jan 20th, 2010

KellyRailton I'm partly fictionalising v interesting close relative #litchat Can't rid myself of worry that people will identify + think it's all real... -1:07 PM Jan 20th, 2010

krisriggle @stujallen I just finished that book and adored it. #litchat -1:07 PM Jan 20th, 2010

lisamarie20010 I even make up places so that no one can say it's wrong; I'd be really nervous about using actual historical figures... #litchat -1:07 PM Jan 20th, 2010

anthonylevings @nchsmith 'all characters are fictional' and 'based on a true story' are two of the most common lies ever told by writers #litchat -1:07 PM Jan 20th, 2010

danish_novelist @scgreen But is it historical fiction if you turn Hitler into a Jehova Witness or Napoleon into a pedophile? #litchat -1:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

agnieszkasshoes @janetravers lovely to see you at #litchat -1:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

DavidRozansky Sorry to be late to #litchat. David Rozansky, publisher, Flying Pen Press <http://flyingpenpress.com> #litchat -1:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

GLHancock @KellyRailton Yes, people will figure it out and probably think you really mean all that you write. It's a danger. #litchat -1:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

TracyClark_TLC Re: writing about real people still living, aren't we each entitled to our own story, our version of events? Thin ice, I guess. #litchat -1:09 PM Jan 20th, 2010

DavidRozansky I am looking for novelizations of historical people, especially in Rocky Mountain West lore. #history #books #writing #authors. #litchat -1:09 PM Jan 20th, 2010

ThoughtfulPen I think It's important to portray historical characters correctly. #litchat -1:09 PM Jan 20th, 2010

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| GLHancock No characters are fictional. Writers are limited to their experiences, including what they read, see and hear about. #litchat -1:10 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ThoughtfulPen ...still having the freedom of stretching the truth that fiction gives you without ruining the feel of the era. #litchat -1:10 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers I have massive fears about writing about a much-loved historical, literary character - Jane Austen. Any tips? #litchat -1:10 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JennJArceneaux Assuming it's in the hist record? RT @ThoughtfulPen I think It's important to portray historical characters correctly. #litchat -1:11 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @danish_novelist That's a very good point. I am so mired in research, I don't know where or when to begin writing. #litchat -1:12 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| TheNewAuthor There are legal considerations to keep in mind when writing about historical figures that could decide your approach to them. #litchat -1:12 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| smolderingink @danish_novelist I think that moves a story from historical fiction into alternate history #litchat -1:12 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| anthonylevings Historical characters can be (biographical) points of projection and amalgamation as with any other character #litchat -1:12 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ficwriter Half-Broke Horses by Jeannette Wells is a true-life novel based on her grandmother. Mostly true, but gaps were filled with fiction. #litchat -1:12 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JennJArceneaux #litchat @danish_novelist Well phew for me then! My characters are largely mythologized - not much to support any of it in hist record! -1:13 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana I seriously doubt Shakespeare worried about making stuff up about his hist. characters, witness Dick III's supposed hump. #litchat -1:13 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Jaybezo RT @LitChat: Welcome to Wednesday's #litchat. For the next hour we'll be talking about, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE. Join us and introduc ... -1:13 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| danish_novelist @ThoughtfulPen Just the fact that we put OUR take on a historical character means we have removed ourselves from the "truth" #litchat -1:13 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @TheNewAuthor What legal considerations could there be about a character long dead? #litchat -1:14 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat Q1 fm @allisondavis531 #litchat I have both real & fictionalized folk in 1958. Am concerned people will mix up. Where's the fiction line? -1:14 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick Aloha #litchat! I'm chiming in from Oahu's North Shore. I wrote a memoir, Love Junkie. Had to deal w/fictionalizing real people per lawyer. -1:14 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| salenagodden @litchat always amused at the way writers swap sex...when i write fiction as man version of me i'm so ray chandler, chicks & cigars!#litchat -1:14 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat @agnieszkasshoes Will get to your question next. #litchat -1:15 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ThoughtfulPen @JennJArceneaux I think with either a well known or fictional person of specific era, good research makes a story. #litchat -1:15 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb I don't like it when I read a historical novel and then learn things in it about a real person weren't true. I'm a lazy historian. #litchat -1:15 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick #litchat However, I see in jamming thru the thread, that u're focusing more on historical figures & fiction. Is my input relevant then? -1:15 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DavidRozansky @janetravers Ahh, dead people have rights. Families have sued for defamation, all sorts of things. #litchat -1:15 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JennJArceneaux #litchat @danish_novelist Good point - & look at all the diff versions out there re: Anne Boleyn, Henry 8, etc, etc. -1:15 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

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| ThoughtfulPen @JennJArceneaux But, yes, IF there are records (assuming who your writing about is a real person). #litchat -1:16 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat @ScottKellyBooks Your question is Q3. Thanks. #litchat -1:16 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| danish_novelist @smolderingink Everything goes. We can kill Hitler in a French cinema like Tarantino does. Great fun but his fiction it ain't #litchat -1:16 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick #litchat When I think of fictionalized historical figures, the most brilliant example is Marguerite Yourcenar's The Memoirs Of Hadrian. -1:16 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| TheNewAuthor I read an article about this, if the character is long dead then the author pretty much has the greenlight to write what they want. #litchat -1:16 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @allisondavis531 Your book is either fiction or nonfiction. If you call it a memoir sometimes you can get away with adding to truth #litchat -1:16 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ThoughtfulPen @danish_novelist Very true. #litchat -1:17 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Jean_Levasseur @DavidRozansky Hey David, joing #litchat today! -1:17 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| CEMcKenzie1 Malcom Gladwell has some really interesting points on this in his latest book #litchat -1:17 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| danish_novelist @JennJArceneaux When I wrote The Tsar's Dwarf I read 3 biographies on Peter The Great. Those were 3 different men #litchat -1:17 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| TheNewAuthor It's the historical figures with relatives still living that authors have to be cautious with. Such as Elvis or Dr. King. #litchat -1:17 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana @GLHancock Then there's narrative non-fiction which sometimes blurs the lines a bit. #litchat -1:18 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HooklineBooks @LitChat #litchat delicate matter, especially for recent history, some involved in story may still be alive and disagree with depiction -1:18 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick #litchat Yourcenar, tho, maybe more than fictionalizing, fully imagined Emperor Hadrian - after decades of research, & dreaming vividly. -1:18 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| CEMcKenzie1 & you can't copyright ideas, only the execution (my lawyer side talking) #litchat -1:18 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| agnieszkasshoes @salenagodden and when I write as a woman, whether it's 17 or 32 years old I always end up emo and tattoos #litchat -1:18 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ThoughtfulPen @TheNewAuthor But they have to be gone for a certain amount of time, right? #litchat -1:18 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @maggiedana a.k.a. "creative nonfiction". Brrrr! #litchat -1:18 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| CarolyBurnsBass RT @anthonylevings: 'all characters are fictional' and 'based on a true story' are two of the most common lies ever told by writers #litchat -1:19 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Christopher_R @anthonylevings Having written a narrative history book that is part biographical I'd say this is also true of 'non-fiction'. #litchat -1:19 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb How did you handle this issue in TSAR's DWARF, @danish_novelist? #litchat -1:19 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| nchsmith @allisondavis531 if it's from 1958, unless the real people are really, really famous, I probably wouldn't know the difference #litchat -1:19 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JennJArceneaux #litchat @danish_novelist Yes - I have found that too! Historical documents are open to interpretation by historians... -1:19 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| danish_novelist @DavidRozansky Dead people DO have rights. They're all out there in spirit trying to influence the writer. Has happened to me #litchat -1:20 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

Topic of the Week:

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| smolderingink @danish_novelist Maybe Tarantino does stuff like that because "Everything goes" is an exciting proposition. #litchat -1:20 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @ThoughtfulPen I don't think there is any sort of time standard protecting writers from themselves. #litchat -1:20 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| chiddle84 @janetravers I would say,as long as u don't take her completely out of her context,i.e. make her sex goddess,etc. I would be happy! #litchat -1:20 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| CEMcKenzie1 But also, fiction has to be true to its time. If it's not capturing the sights and sounds of its age, it's not believable. #litchat -1:20 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Hayley_DM #litchat - Think sometimes ppl can confuse the real with the fiction - giving an untrue reflection of the time/characters? -1:20 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @DavidRozansky Sure, in recent history; but what about someone dead the best part of 200 years? #litchat -1:20 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb Didn't I read in the news recently that someone sued a novelist for portraying them, completely fictionalized, but in a poor light? #litchat -1:20 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| MrsSarahSiddons @janetravers are you featuring JA as herself or as a fictional entity?If latter, take what you know but put diff angle... Cont #litchat -1:21 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| CEMcKenzie1 @wendykwebb they would likely only win if they can prove defamation #litchat -1:21 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ThoughtfulPen @wendykwebb If names are changed, then isn't that why authors/publishers put that disclaimer at front of book? #litchat -1:22 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| agnieszkasshoes @danish_novelist that's not rights you need to worry about, it's rites! :p #litchat -1:22 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| danish_novelist @wendykwebb I simply tried to write an honest take on Peter The Great, but obviously lots are gonna say: "That's not MY Tsar" #litchat -1:22 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| TheNewAuthor @ThoughtfulPen If they have been dead for 200 years (for example) then authors should be in the clear to write more freely. #litchat -1:22 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @MrsSarahSiddons I'll be featuring Jane Austen as herself. Hence terror, palpitations, dry mouth, etc. #litchat -1:22 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| salenagodden #litchat ...an author, an ex, used me as a character in his latest novel, the sex scenes were hilarious, VERY fictionalised in his favour... -1:22 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DavidRozansky @janetravers As long as your copyright page bears the words "This is a work of fiction. All characters are fictional. yada yada" #litchat -1:22 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @MrsSarahSiddons Though it will be a work of complete fiction. #litchat -1:23 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb @ThoughtfulPen The woman who sued said the character was enough like her to be recognizable to people they knew. #litchat -1:23 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| CEMcKenzie1 Check out Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall for an excellent example of this #litchat -1:23 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| TheNewAuthor If the historical figure still has relatives walking the earth then it becomes a little tricky. #litchat -1:23 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick @agnieszkasshoes @salenagodden all emo & tats, chicks & cigars, channeling ray chandler & swapping sexes -- my kinda writers! #litchat -1:23 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| MrsSarahSiddons @janetravers ... Try to get inside her mind & put own construct.Can't advise re JA, not aficionado,risk of offending pple ... cont #litchat -1:23 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ThoughtfulPen @TheNewAuthor That's what I was thinking. #litchat -1:23 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

Topic of the Week:

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| CEMcKenzie1 @salenagodden a complaint all exs could make if their exs happen to be authors. #litchat -1:24 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @TheNewAuthor Where are you getting this info about "200 years"? And what is "write more freely"? You can be as free as you wish. #litchat -1:24 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana @CEMcKenzie1 I like Anne Lamott's take on using real people (eps. old boyfriends) in fiction. #litchat -1:24 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DavidRozansky The problem is when you purposefully slander someone or violate privacy. But "public" people can be fictionalized easier. #litchat -1:24 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat Q2 fm @agnieszkasshoes: How obvious do you have to make it that you're fictionalising to avoid libel, esp where it's close satire? #litchat -1:24 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| smolderingink aaaaand the kid is awake. Adios #litchat have fun w/out me. -1:24 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| techtigger unless you are writing a dry, factual textbook on a historical figure, I think most will assume character is not 100% accurate #litchat -1:24 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| MrsSarahSiddons @janetravers ... Depends if you feel it (story) is good enough to take risk xx #litchat -1:25 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock Anyone can sue anyone else at any time. If a family feels affronted by your writing, you are not protected from being sued. #litchat -1:25 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Hayley_DM #litchat - Would you be liable if the person was still alive? How can you prove/disprove? -1:25 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick Changing names is not sometimes sufficient to protect people's privacy - & avoid litigation. I had to fictionalize real characters. #litchat -1:25 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ThoughtfulPen @wendykwebb WoW, that's crazy. the author needed to change a few things around just a bit more. #litchat -1:25 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| agnieszkasshoes @LitChat thanks! #litchat -1:25 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| danish_novelist @agnieszkasshoes Well, Peter The Great can't come back and sue me. I agree with that :-) |
| #litchat -1:25 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DavidRozansky @LitChat A2: If any single reader can confuse your writing for the truth about a person, you're getting into trouble. #litchat -1:26 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| jocastalizzbeth @LitChat Well it's an essay about Beatrix Potter and her effect on children's literature so I shall dip in and out of the chat. =) #litchat -1:26 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana @danish_novelist Ah, but Ivan the Terrible might. Better watch out. I hear he has a fearsome temper. #litchat -1:26 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock Using different models for different aspects of a character helps prevent recognition by readers (psych, physical, actions, sets) #litchat -1:27 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| salenagodden @rachelresnick hello to you! have you noticed that when men write fiction as women, they become cream-guzzling nymphos? #litchat -1:27 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| MrsSarahSiddons @janetravers Why not build persona, but flesh out what you know? Give her a dark side or an aspect outwith perceptions.Cld be fun #litchat -1:27 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick When I fictionalized in Love Junkie, I preserved their essence & the relational dynamics. But drastically altered their physicality.#litchat -1:27 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| mmj5170 I chose to fictionalize a story surrounding a local hero form the mid 1800's. I want to explore the personality, not the history. #litchat -1:27 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @DavidRozansky I know plenty of people who think Dan Brown's books are nonfiction! #litchat -1:27 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

wendykwebb @ThoughtfulPen Same occupation, looks, family. But the character cheated on husb rampantly, which is why the real person sued. #litchat -1:27 PM Jan 20th, 2010

HowDidUGetThere #litchat Sorry, doing bedtime duty, but noticed that there've been 222 posts here since you've started. Will catch up later! -1:27 PM Jan 20th, 2010

janetravers @MrsSarahSiddons I think it is. At least, I feel compelled to write it. #litchat -1:28 PM Jan 20th, 2010

AnneTylerLord I'm popping in to #litchat for awhile, good topic - be careful what you write about real people-being liable - haven't thought through that -1:29 PM Jan 20th, 2010

maggiedana Scary. RT @GLHancock: @DavidRozansky I know plenty of people who think Dan Browns books are nonfiction! #litchat -1:29 PM Jan 20th, 2010

salenagodden @CEMcKenzie1 #litchat too true! definately used all my ex's for fodder for lyrics that's for sure! -1:29 PM Jan 20th, 2010

wendykwebb Why we should make things up. @DavidRozansky If reader can confuse yr writing for the truth about a person, you're in trouble. #litchat -1:29 PM Jan 20th, 2010

TheNewAuthor @GLHancock 200 years was merely an example and if an author has to get prior approval from a living relative of a historical figure #litchat -1:29 PM Jan 20th, 2010

rachelresnick @salenagodden "cream-guzzling nymphos" ha! I have a ribald story appearing in new antho about sex written from male pov by women. #litchat -1:29 PM Jan 20th, 2010

janetravers @MrsSarahSiddons Yes, thanks Sheila, that's kind-of the plan. #litchat -1:29 PM Jan 20th, 2010

TheNewAuthor then, to a small degree, you may not be able to write everything you wish to. #litchat -1:30 PM Jan 20th, 2010

MrsSarahSiddons @janetravers I've not written stories abt real pple like JA but have done a version of Jane Eyre from Rochester's POV.Total tosh #litchat -1:30 PM Jan 20th, 2010

HowDidUGetThere Does anyone have a hard time with having to make their character 2D enough for a book, while wanting them more 3D, more complex? #litchat -1:30 PM Jan 20th, 2010

deannaschrayer @AnneTylerLord oh boy! hope I can find a min to join in - need this topic #litchat -1:30 PM Jan 20th, 2010

GLHancock @TheNewAuthor You never need "prior approval" to write about anyone. Are you thinking of lying about someone in print? #litchat -1:30 PM Jan 20th, 2010

danish_novelist @maggiedana If you're sensitive I think you DO get influenced by what & who you write about. Call it spirits, energy, whatever #litchat -1:31 PM Jan 20th, 2010

maggiedana @rachelresnick "Ribald" is such a great word. Must remember to use it more often. #litchat -1:31 PM Jan 20th, 2010

rachelresnick @GLHancock The lawyer I worked w/was expert in this form of litigation. If you disguise people's physicality, & career, u're safe. #litchat -1:31 PM Jan 20th, 2010

AnneTylerLord @deannaschrayer I'll be in and out getting kids, but I will definitely be reading through the posts, I don't know much about this #litchat -1:31 PM Jan 20th, 2010

janetravers @MrsSarahSiddons Yes, it's amazing how much more lee-way you would have with that! #litchat -1:31 PM Jan 20th, 2010

GLHancock How do you all think the new book that tells all the dirty laundry about the people in the last political campaign gets done? #litchat -1:31 PM Jan 20th, 2010

MrsSarahSiddons @janetravers if story is begging to be written then I'd go for it.You won't please everyone, but you may make them re-think #litchat -1:32 PM Jan 20th, 2010

Topic of the Week:

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| GLHancock @rachelresnick Yes, that is what I just wrote: use different models for different aspects of your characters. #litchat -1:32 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo I know this is a fiction topic, but nonfic writers have same challenges at times. Whether to change names, details for privacy. #litchat -1:32 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick @GLHancock As long as these characters are unidentifiable, unrecognizable from the text if they walk into a court of law. #litchat -1:32 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo @GLHancock True, you don't need permission; just understand what consequences may be - legal & other. #litchat. -1:33 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb But, given all of this, how did the Devil Wears Prada get away with it? Everyone knows that's Anna Wintour. #litchat -1:33 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @GLHancock So basically, are you saying it's reasonably safe so long as you don't slander anyone? #litchat -1:33 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deannaschrayer #litchat well dang it - ppl finally answering my ?s (work) so I've got to get back to it -1:33 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere What I mean is, that real people are so much more complex than we're able to write on the page, it becomes confusing to reader. #litchat -1:33 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @LisaRomeo Good point, Lisa about nonfiction writers changing details to protect someone. It's done all the time. #litchat -1:34 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick @GLHancock What I mean is it's rooted in the physical. Not all those other aspects. Also career, geography. Not personality. #litchat -1:34 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo @GLHancock True, you don't need permission; just understand what consequences may be - legal & other. #litchat -1:34 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deannaschrayer @LisaRomeo exactly what I need to know about - writing memoir cookbook w/ lots of fam members haven't seen in a while #litchat -1:34 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| agnieszkasshoes @GLHancock I'm asking because one of the writers I admire most writes incredible fictionalisations of celebs #litchat -1:34 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @MrsSarahSiddons At least there's a good track record of Jane Austen sequels etc. out there, so I'm not breaking new ground. #litchat -1:34 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @janetravers I'm saying that you can't prevent irate people from suing you. And you can't please all people all the time. #litchat -1:34 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| TheNewAuthor @GLHancock Absolutely not....Are saying we can write a book about anybody we want in history and not have to worry about one thing? #litchat -1:34 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana Good question? RT @wendykwebb: How did the Devil Wears Prada get away with it? Everyone knows thats Anna Wintour. #litchat -1:35 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere So I'm wondering if when writing about REAL people, we're still not presenting ALL their sides, to streamline our point. #litchat -1:35 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DavidRozansky The ulitimate defense: Your "facts" are provably true. "Provably" means documented and author has those documents. #litchat -1:35 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick Hi @maggiedana! I know. Isn't it fun? I'm sorry -- ribald fun! The power & pleasure of language. And a saucy word. Cheers! #litchat -1:35 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo @wendykwebb Maybe it was a gamb! Or they suspected Wintour would find it flattering in terms of amping her vast influence? #litchat -1:35 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| agnieszkasshoes @GLHancock check the latest on www.gufterpunchermagazine.wordpress.com to see what I mean #litchat -1:35 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

Topic of the Week:

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| danish_novelist @HowDidUGetThere The truly great writers always get the complexity of their characters. That's why their books become classics #litchat -1:35 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| MrsSarahSiddons @janetravers yes, and it's weird but I found the male POV easier - don't know why. #litchat -1:35 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat Great questions today. Will post Q3 in about two minutes. #litchat -1:36 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb @LisaRomeo Or, everything she wrote, other people also witnessed. Same thing with new political book. #litchat -1:36 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo @deannaschrayer Well, a lot of memoirists have a credo of: write, publish, and then duck! #litchat -1:37 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat Q3 fm @ScottKellyBooks Would you ever fictionalize a (deceased) writer that other people considered to be great? #litchat -1:37 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @agnieszkasshoes Yes, we can satirize public figures. Have you ever see "The Simpsons" on Bill Clinton (sex life)? #litchat -1:37 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deberryandgrant RT @LitChat: If anyone has a question to pose to topic, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE, please send it to @LitChat w/o hashtag. #litchat -1:37 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @MrsSarahSiddons Huh. Something about the ease of distance, I suppose. I'm just terrified about doing JA justice. #litchat -1:37 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers RT @LisaRomeo: @deannaschrayer Well, a lot of memoirists have a credo of: write, publish, and then duck! #litchat -1:37 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DavidRozansky @LitChat Dan Simmons put Ernie Hemingway into a mystery. #litchat -1:38 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana Well, we have yellow journalism, so I suppose it stands to reason we also have yellow books. #litchat -1:38 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo @wendykwebb Think you're right. Her "defense" (if she needed it) was that it was all corroborated by others & widely known. #litchat -1:38 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock Q3 Why not? There are novels about Arthur Conan Doyle. #litchat -1:38 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| molliebryan @deannaschrayer Even if what you write is true, some people don't like to see themselves in print. Talk to them about it first. #litchat -1:38 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| nchsmith @ScottKellyBooks I really liked Dan Simmons fictionalization of Dickens in Drood. Only wish I could do that well #litchat -1:38 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat @nchsmith Your question is next. Thanks! #litchat -1:39 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere @danish_novelist I know it's possible, but you see what I mean? the need to pick a side and stick to it, not to confuse reader. #litchat -1:39 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| agnieszkasshoes @GLHancock thanks. I worry sometimes bcos he's part of Year Zero & i don't want him 2 get himself (or us) in2 trouble #litchat -1:39 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @maggiedana And politics seems to be the worst (from my point of view) arena for your yellow books. #litchat -1:39 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DavidRozansky Hmm, what about fictionalizing yourself as the author? #litchat -1:39 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| hashtager # RT @LitChat: If anyone has a question to pose to topic, FICTIONALIZING REAL PEOPLE, please send it to @LitChat w/o hashtag. #litchat -1:39 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deannaschrayer @molliebryan that's what I was thinking, thanks much! #litchat -1:39 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| salenagodden @LisaRomeo too true! i wrote a memoir & to remember every name impossible! is fascinating - what we think we'd remember or forget #litchat -1:40 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

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| dougbremner @lisaromeo I struggled with these issues. Was told nonfiction is just that. All real names, no telescoping, no invented dialogue #litchat -1:40 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deannaschrayer LOL - good thinking! RT @LisaRomeo: @deannaschrayer Well, a lot of memoirists have a credo of: write, publish, and then duck! #litchat -1:40 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ficwriter @kristineb4 go to tweetchat.com and enter #litchat. When you sign onto tweetchat you'll have icons to easily reply. -1:40 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @DavidRozansky Fictionalizing yourself as author seems to be a practice that Coetzee is known for. #litchat -1:41 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JSLion How can you really cover all the facets of a person? I have facets to my self even I don't understand. #litchat -1:41 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| scgreen @DavidRozansky Heinlein did that in Number of the Beast. I found it quite entertaining. #litchat -1:41 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @dougbremner Surely you'd have to invent some dialogue, even in NF? Can't be a fly on the wall for everything. #litchat -1:41 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| nchsmith @GLHancock @DavidRozansky I've tried fictionalizing myself. It was excruciating at first, but got easier #litchat -1:42 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo @molliebryan Right. Even people you write of in glowing terms may not want names in print; checking is good, but sometimes chancy. #litchat -1:42 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Livingbymypen RT deannaschrayer Even if what you write is true, some people don't like to see themselves in print. Talk to them about it first. #litchat -1:42 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @nchsmith And did you frame yourself in a pleasing light? #litchat -1:43 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| rachelresnick Another great book on topic is Nixon/Carver. About the imagined friendship between Richard Nixon and Raymond Carver. #litchat -1:43 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere @JSLion that's what I think, even if we know these aspects of the character in our notebooks, we can't put them ALL in. #litchat -1:43 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| salenagodden @DavidRozansky all the time! if i really did half of it i would be dead or..... worse! don't most writers fictionalise themselves? #litchat -1:43 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @janetravers You cannot "invent" stuff and call the writing nonfiction. It is one or the other. Or a memoir. #litchat -1:43 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb Shirley MacLaine's Out on a Limb. She wrote about a real relationship but fictionalized the man b/c he was a famous public figure. #litchat -1:44 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| danish_novelist @HowDidUGetThere I'm sorry, but I don't understand why readers should get confused by complexity? I get confused by black & white #litchat -1:44 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere That's an interesting exercise RT@nchsmith I've tried fictionalizing myself. It was excruciating at first, but got easier #litchat -1:44 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo @dougbremner Using real or fiction. names in nonfic often depends on editor, publisher, legal dept. NYT=No. Memoir book=often, yes. #litchat -1:45 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| nchsmith @GLHancock Not so much. That was the hard part - to face down my flaws and be comfortable to put them out there #litchat -1:45 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| NorthPrince Fantastic YA novelist @iainlawrence is now on Twitter! #litchat #yalitchat -1:45 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| agnieszkasshoes @DavidRozansky @GLHancock and Kundera makes a point of fictionalising himself as author #litchat -1:45 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

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| molliebryan @LisaRomeo True. Especially if it will prevent you from telling the story. But sometimes there are other ways. #litchat -1:45 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| dougbremner RT @janetravers: @dougbremner But I wrote dialogue and scenes for thing where I knew outcome but wasn't there, agent said take out. #litchat -1:45 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock Even in a memoir it is not Kosher to lie about provable facts. The disputable parts are your own opinions, feelings, view. #litchat -1:45 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb I'd be thinner. And smarter. @nchsmith I've tried fictionalizing myself. It was excruciating at first, but got easier. #litchat -1:46 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere @danish_novelist It's not the complexity, but the lack of a strong stream of story that must take priority. #litchat -1:46 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ficwriter @GLHancock What do you think of the term true-life novel? #litchat -1:46 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Livingbymypen RTGLHancockEven in a memoir it is not Kosher to lie about provable facts.The disputable parts are your own opinions,feelings, view. #litchat -1:46 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JSLion I think most writers fictionalise an ideal version of them selves. Ideally good or ideally bad, depending #litchat -1:47 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @ficwriter I have no knowledge of the term "true-life novel". Did you just make that up, or is it in use somewhere? #litchat -1:47 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @ficwriter Sounds anachronistic. #litchat -1:48 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| salenagodden @litchat bukowski now there's one that didn't fictionalise himself...or did he? #litchat -1:48 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere @danish_novelist Obviously there must be complexity, but unless it's a psych. drama something has to give, which is frustrating #litchat -1:48 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @JSLion Actually, all people see themselves as more handsome, wiser, smarter, etc. than they really are. #litchat -1:48 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| nchsmith @GLHancock @JSLion Actually, what really got me in fictionalizing myself was my agency, my role in how things transpired #litchat -1:49 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| marisabirns @GLHancock Sorry, if already addressed; just arrived. What about creative nonfiction? Factually accurate, literary style. #litchat -1:49 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @nchsmith Yourself as God? #litchat -1:49 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| marisabirns @wendykwebb I'd be taller. #litchat -1:50 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @marisabirns As long as it is using effective literary devices, I'm in favor, but don't think we need to create a new form. #litchat -1:50 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat Q4 fm @nchsmith: Have others here published stories based on real living people and do they have advice? #litchat -1:50 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat @janetravers Thanks for the question--it's next. #litchat -1:51 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere Aren't we all God, as writers? That's why I make up other worlds! RT @GLHancock @nchsmith Yourself as God? #litchat -1:51 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana @GLHancock Can only play god when writing fiction; for all other literary endeavors, one must be content w/role as peon. #litchat -1:53 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere Has someone already said this: Garrison Keillor said to make them REALLY fat and they'll never recognize themselves. #litchat -1:53 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb @Eugenia_Kim 's Calligrapher's Daughter talked about real family events, fictionalized. She let relatives read it first, I believe. #litchat -1:53 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock Q4: Haven't tried to publish, but I write shorts about relatives, people I've known--that's all I know about. #litchat -1:54 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

Topic of the Week:

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| scgreen @maggiedana So what happens when the characters take over the story as I've heard many writers say? #litchat -1:54 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ficwriter @GLHancock Jennette Walls latest publication Half-Broke Horses was released as a true-life novel. #litchat -1:55 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo I've seen that term - "true life novel". Sounds like an oxymoron to me. I mean, has to be one or the other! #litchat -1:55 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deberryandgrant @LitChat I tend to believe that most first novels are more than a little bit autobiographical-based on real ppl in author's life #litchat -1:55 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana Let them run w/it, then trip them up. RT @scgreen: So what happens when the characters take over the story? #litchat -1:56 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JSLion My mom wrote her autobiography and came out far more beautiful and wonderful than any of her siblings remembered #litchat -1:56 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| janetravers @LisaRomeo Agree. #litchat -1:56 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @ficwriter Isn't everything Walls writes about her life, her wretched family? #litchat -1:56 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| salenagodden q: have you published stories based on real living people? a: sometimes they'll only read my stuff if they think they are in it!!! #litchat -1:56 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| marisabirns @maggiedana Maybe we can describe as scribes rather than peons. Working conditions are better! :) #litchat -1:56 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere One view of God is to have set things into play. That's what writers do too. RT @scgreen when the characters take over the story #litchat -1:56 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb I hope not! Mine's a ghost story. @deberryandgrant I tend to believe most first novels are more than a little bit autobiographical. #litchat -1:57 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana Good point. RT @marisabirns: @maggiedana Maybe we can describe as scribes rather than peons. Working conditions are better! :) #litchat -1:57 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Hayley_DM #litchat - I think it has been called "faction"? -1:57 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| nchsmith @wendykwebb Thanks for the pointer. I'll check out @Eugenia_Kim's book and tweets #litchat -1:57 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Saffy @LitChat Q4 publish under a pen name - and don't tell your family and friends #litchat only problem with this is you can be tracked -1:57 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @deberryandgrant Most everyone's first novel is exquisitely autobiographical and good as a trial run. Only. #litchat -1:57 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat We may go overtime today with this terrific topic, but we have one more question in the queue. Stand by for final question. #litchat -1:58 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deberryandgrant @marisabirns @maggiedana The scribes always had better conditions (even if only marginally so) than the peons, serfs and slaves! #litchat -1:58 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| ficwriter @GLHancock Yes, but she barely knew her grandmother who is the subject of latest book. So she filled in the blanks. Wonderful read. #litchat -1:58 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat Q5 fm @janetravers: Question for @litchat - Are there any legal ramifications for writing about a deceased historical character? #litchat -1:59 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deberryandgrant @GLHancock Yes, b/c few folks have lives as fabulous and interesting to others as they believe. #litchat -1:59 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Saffy mix things up that works too - so one persons personality, in the body of another with the name of another - they really spot this #litchat -1:59 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

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| GLHancock Oh, @maggiedana , why do you have such a low opinion of us nonfictioneers? #litchat -1:59 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana @LitChat I love it when #litchat goes into overtime. #litchat -1:59 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| scgteen I'm with @maggiedana. I'd rather play Loki to my characters than God. Trip them & see what happens. #litchat -2:00 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JSLion @deberryandgrant remember the scribes got to write down what they wanted us to know. #litchat -2:00 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| Saffy Opps have I gatecrashed an author interview again? #litchat :(-2:00 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @deberryandgrant Oh? I always thought it was because they are so young and have not lived yet. All they know is all they know at 18 #litchat -2:01 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo @salenagodden Family members are in my published NONfiction; I don't let them read 1st. Only had one minor complaint. #litchat -2:01 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana @GLHancock My apologies. Was trying to be tongue-in-cheek but instead was foot-in-mouth. #litchat -2:01 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DebraMarrs RT maggiedana @LitChat I love it when #litchat goes into overtime. #litchat {good thing; I'm arriving SO late!} -2:02 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana @GLHancock I have utmost respect (and admiration) for non-fictioneers. No way could I begin to write the way they do. #litchat -2:02 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JSLion @GLHancock we All knew it all. from 16 - 19 i was all knowing and all wise. Thank God have gotten wiser since. #litchat -2:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| HowDidUGetThere @deberryandgrant Hi Ladies! #litchat -2:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DebraMarrs RT @GLHancock: @deberryandgrant Most everyones first novel is exquisitely autobiographical and good as a trial run. Only. #litchat -2:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| wendykwebb Write unto others what you'd have them write unto you, it sounds like this is a good rule of thumb. #litchat -2:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @maggiedana You're so full of it! We are the on-the-spot historians of Life. #litchat -2:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deberryandgrant @JSLion Yes, and leave out what they didn't want us to know... #litchat -2:03 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LisaRomeo Even my husband doesn't get a pass. The exception is writing about my kids now that they are teens; them, I check w/first. #litchat -2:04 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deberryandgrant @HowDidUGetThere Hi Kristi! #litchat -2:04 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana Does this mean I'm forgiven??? RT @GLHancock: You're so full of it! We are the on-the-spot historians of Life. #litchat -2:05 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| JSLion @deberryandgrant Absolutely. I saw quote by Churchill about how history would treat him well because he would write it himself. #litchat -2:05 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| maggiedana @JSLion That sounds like Churchill, all right. #litchat -2:06 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| DebraMarrs @LisaRomeo I agree w/vetting to teens who are sensitive to what's out there abt them. Interesting that u don't do with huz #litchat -2:06 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| LitChat Please continue as you like, but be sure to come back on Friday when @MelanieBen will take your questions about ALICE I HAVE BEEN. #litchat -2:06 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| GLHancock @maggiedana Have you, too, noticed that the older you get, the dumber you are. I, at least, have many more questions, fewer answers #litchat -2:06 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |
| deberryandgrant @JSLion hahaha--and people believe what they read...SMH #litchat -2:07 PM Jan 20th, 2010 |

Topic of the Week:

wendykwebb The pen is mightier than the sword. (That's the last adage I'm going to tweet for foreseeable future.) @JSLion @deberryandgrant #litchat -2:07 PM Jan 20th, 2010

deberryandgrant @GLHancock Not dumber. Wiser knowing there more questions than answers--always! #litchat -2:07 PM Jan 20th, 2010

LitChat Many new people in #litchat today. Let's all welcome @janetravers @jocastalizzbeth @TracyClark_TLC @allisondavis531 @KellyRailton -more- -2:07 PM Jan 20th, 2010

TheFirstCarol RT @DavidRozansky The ultimate defense: Your "facts" are provably true. "Provably" means documented and author has those documents. #litchat -2:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

janetravers Thanks for the chat, everyone! #litchat -2:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

LitChat Welcome to #litchat @lisamarie20010 @ThoughtfulPen @jaybezo @salenagodden @Jen_Levasseur @HooklineBooks @Christopher_R -more- -2:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

maggiedana @GLHancock Having more questions than answers means we are getting smarter, not dumber, as we age. Now, where did I leave my walker #litchat -2:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

ficwriter Must return to WIP. Thanks @LitChat. :) #litchat -2:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

LitChat Still more welcomes to #litchat @chiddie84 @HayleyDM @Mrs.SarahSiddons @deannaschrayer @LisaRomeo @ScottKellyBooks -more- -2:08 PM Jan 20th, 2010

scgreen @wendykwebb I shall counter by saying, "The keyboard is mightier than the pen." #litchat -2:09 PM Jan 20th, 2010

salenagodden @LitChat thanks x #litchat -2:09 PM Jan 20th, 2010

deberryandgrant @maggiedana We responded almost identically! Can't find my walker either. #litchat -2:09 PM Jan 20th, 2010

DebraMarrs @ficwriter Good to see you here. Your tweet stream is my reminder to join #litchat -2:09 PM Jan 20th, 2010

MrsSarahSiddons @janetravers you're welcome. Sorry I wasn't of much help #litchat -2:10 PM Jan 20th, 2010

GLHancock Thanks, @maggiedana and @deberryandgrant -- I feel better about having even more questions now. Sadly, not wiser, though. #litchat -2:10 PM Jan 20th, 2010

LisaRomeo @litchat Been great chatting with everyone. Now, time to cook the pasta! #litchat -2:10 PM Jan 20th, 2010

Hayley_DM #litchat - Thanks was very interesting - thx for the chat -2:10 PM Jan 20th, 2010

marisabirns @deberryandgrant Yes, wiser. We know how to go find the answers without tantrums and tears! #litchat Well, usually. -2:10 PM Jan 20th, 2010

maggiedana I bet yours got muddled up with mine. RT @deberryandgrant: @maggiedana We responded almost identically! Cant find my walker either. #litchat -2:10 PM Jan 20th, 2010

LitChat And more #litchat welcomes to @mollybryan @JSLion @@Livingbypypen. And to our regular troupe of readers & writers, you ROCK! -2:11 PM Jan 20th, 2010

Topic of the Week: