



## THE ART OF WRITING NOVELS

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### Abstract

Man has established to communicate his thoughts, feelings and ideas by means of actions, sounds, symbols and writing. Writing was first created by the primitive man like symbols and drawings in caves, rocks and sand to express their stories of hunt and conquest. It has changed greatly in the course of its long history and turned out to be 'letters' and was acknowledged into a verbal language. I.J. Gelb says that "Writing began at the time when man learned how to communicate his thoughts and feelings by means of visible signs; understandable not only to himself but also to all other persons more or less initiated into the particular system" (A Study of Writing.11).

We can perceive that writing a book is a big deal. One easy way to become a writer is to read many successful authors work and to approach how different they are in their style and story. This article offers a brilliant overview of styles of writing employed by various authors and their views to write a successful novel.

**Keywords: Writers' Responsibilities, Skills, Knowledge and Style for Writing Novels.**

### INTRODUCTION

Great writers wrote stories to share experiences, to show off, and to leave their own inimitable mark on the world. We cannot become a writer by simply reading the authors of the book we enjoy or by just dreaming to be writer one day. A writer has many responsibilities. First, he has to select the genre, the plot, the characters, language etc. Everything should be merged in a proper way to give a wonderful piece of work. Robin Cook, a famous novelist, said that before he started writing fiction, he picked the top hundred popular novels and read them to understand story and structure. The idea is that when one understands the normal structure of a story, it will be a coherent and marketable novel. Each author should have a unique writing style which is made possible by discovering and using new words, new characters, new themes and so on. Through this, they have to appeal their readers to enjoy the novel.

In writing, the toughest part is to have a good beginning. It is a big challenge to an author to demand the readers with twist and turns, making his protagonist visible and himself invisible throughout the novel. All has to do is to write one true sentence that they know quoted Hemingway in his wise and eternal words. A good writer is also a good observer too. He gets many ideas in his observation. Mark D. Niehus in *Editor's Note* of an article says that "David Morrell teaches the writers are astute observers, always ready with a keen eye and an open ear for bits of real life that they can blend into their novel. It could be snippets of conversation between bickering couples in an airport you overhear, or a great idea for a plot twist that comes to you from nowhere" (Article on 'How to write a novel').

Writing requires a skill. Utilizing proper time, knowing the structure of the plot, characterization, atmosphere (mood), tone, style, theme, rewriting and adding creativity will improve the skills of an author. Regarding the narrative style, the narration includes proper implementation of a beginning, arrangement, progress and a definite ending. Narrative style identifies who is telling the story, that is, through whose eyes the readers see the action. It also consists of the person's point of view (first, second or third person). Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* is an example for first person point of view where the readers feel like directly hearing the dialogue from the characters. *Bright Lights, Big City* by Jay McInerney stands for second person point of view and the famous novel of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* stands for the third person point of view narration.

More than the author's knowledge, his skill lies in the presentation of his characters. Aristotle in his *Poetics* says that character and action are the essential elements in the story. Characters can be of mere caricatures, expressing some real or significant persons in a real life or an imaginary one. The main characters and secondary characters should be presented in a way to secure interest. It is important for an author to use subjective or objective method. Objective - in the sense representing a life and character without bias. Subjective - means make up the work with personal tastes, feelings and impressions. Besides, there should be unity of intellect, emotion, imagination and other related qualities.

Every author selects a particular style to show their uniqueness. Writing in a peculiar style requires the proper application of words to their contexts. In the words of Hazlitt,



The proper force of words lies not in the words themselves, but in their application. A word may be a fine – sounding word, of an unusual length, and very imposing from its learning and novelty, and yet in the connection in which it is introduced may be quiet pointless and irrelevant. It is not pomp or pretension, but the adaptation of the expression to the idea that clenches a writer’s meaning; as it is not the size or glossiness of the materials, but their being fitted each to its place that gives strength to the arch. (A Book of English Essays.158).

One important key-note of writing style is precision. Unnecessary usage of long words and explanation occupies more space than it is worth. There is no meaning in using rich words and phraseology. It is fully loaded with archaic expressions and obsolete words if an author prefers such a style in his writing. The author should keep the readers in mind while creating his work. It is an art to keep the readers in contact with the book till the end. If there are words and only words and there is no substantial matter then the style is gaudy. Words without meaning are like life without soul. Applying dialogue format, slang and clichés, literary terms and even punctuations enhance the writers’ image.

The author using a particular style has to show a personal care on verbose, theme, plot, etc. It is a difficult task to write a particular genre in such a way to kindle interest among the readers. The style of writing differs from a writer to writer. We can observe that writers from centuries flourished very well in literature because of their writing style. People remember certain poets, dramatists, novelist in their hearts since they wrote according to the reader’s mood. Galsworthy’s personality determines the special character of his plays. Philip Roth is similar to Galsworthy. The basic characteristic feature of Roth’s plays is that each of them deals with a social concern. He took the themes for his novels from the life that he saw around him. He saw the society with its unjust laws and powerful institutions, its distinction of wealth and power, crushed down a large number of poor and helpless individuals. Some of his novels like *Goodbye Columbus*, *Everyman*, *The Human Stain* deals with a problem that an individual faces in his everyday life.

The foremost thing, readers notice in reading the plays, is the evident sincerity of the writer. The writer’s desire is to maintain artistic integrity of soul. Likewise, Roth being such an author who sets down without fear favour or prejudice the problem and leaves the public to draw the moral in any way independently. He tries to remain strictly impartial in his presentation like Galsworthy. Galsworthy himself says “Let me try to eliminate any bias, and see the whole thing as one should, purged of all the prejudices, passion and predilections of mankind” (The Balance Sheet of the Soldier – Workman. 842)

## CONCLUSION

The art of writing belongs to the work of an artist. It is the author who makes it successful by keeping his motto and bringing the content of his writing clearly, convincingly and more effectively before the readers. The true essence of writing lies in the hands of none other than the writers only.

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