Creative Writing 1

Day 29
November 19th

- Fiction Starter: Silvery flakes drifted down, glittering in the bright light of the harvest moon. The blackbird...

- Agenda:
  - Fiction Starter
  - Setting
  - Moe’s Café
  - Pass the Plot (Continuation)
Today’s Objectives

• I will know what setting is.
• I will be able to write an interesting and vivid setting description.
Setting

• The setting of the story is not just the where of the story, but also the when.
  – A story written about the beaches of Normandy would be very different if the story was set on June 6, 1944 than if set June 6, 1929.

• The setting needs to try and make the scene as real as possible.
  – The better the reader can picture the scene, the better they can see the story.
Setting

• Since these are SHORT stories, the writer has few words to use in order to create a setting.
  – The choice of words to use is vital throughout the entirety of a short story, especially the setting.
Practice

• Write your own opening paragraph.
  – Choose this classroom or another
  – Include details that would help your reader envision the setting
    • If you write about an earlier time and place – say the playground at your elementary school – be sure to use details that would help your reader place the setting in that time.

• After writing, we will have volunteers read their settings.
Practice

• Write an argument between two characters.
  – Setting #1 – a nicely decorated living room
  – Setting #2 – a crowded coffee shop
  – Setting #3 – on an empty street
You’re driving some place far from home when your radiator starts steaming. You manage to find a mechanic at a gas station who can fix your car, but it’s going to take a few hours. You ask him if there’s any place to get a bite, and he points across the road to Moe’s Café. You don’t have much choice, so you head inside and take a seat at the first booth on the left and look around in horror at the filth.
Answer the following questions...

• What does the floor look like?
• What’s on the menu?
• Who does Blanche, the waitress, resemble?
• What’s hanging on the walls?
• What’s playing on the jukebox? On the TV?
• What six specific smells can you identify?
• Moe is cooking behind the counter. What does he look like?
• You spot Barney, Moe’s dog, in the corner. What is he doing?
• Who are the people sitting in the next booth? What are they talking about?
• Blanche brings you your food. What does it look like?
In a few sentences, capture the look and feel of Moe’s Café.
Now that you’ve visited Moe’s Café, write three ninety-word mini stories. You’ll have to decide who will tell the story, where it will start, and if the tone will be serious or comic.

• Here are some possibilities:
  • Moe comes to your table and offers to sell you the place for $200.
  • The waitress whispers to you that she is being held captive.
  • The police charge in and break up an illegal gambling operation in the back.
  • You find a treasure map on the floor.

• The lady at the table next to you turns out to be your long-lost sister.
• You play a song on the jukebox and a woman at the counter starts screaming.
• You suddenly discover a solution to a problem that has been bothering you for months.
• Or come up with your own idea for a mini-story.
Write Away!

• Pick the mini-story you like most and make it longer. Consider flashing back to relevant events in your narrator’s earlier life.

• Study your new draft and consider the following: Do the characters seem real? What motivates them? Is there some suspense? Does the setting contribute to the story line?

• Write the final draft.