

The Creative Writer

White County Creative Writers

www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org

Gary Breezeel discusses critique how to's

October's meeting continued the presentation Gary Breezeel previewed before, giving emphasis on critiquing versus editing procedures.

One of the first rules in critiquing is to be kind. It's right to identify errors and weak spots, but a fair critique will also cover the writer's strong points.

The A-1 thing most critiquers run into is "show, don't tell." It's easy to fall into the trap of writing simple, undefined verbs, as in "he walked to the door" but how did he walk? Did he amble, did he hop, skip and jump?

Breezeel also mentioned the problem of attribution in dialog. Most publishers want to keep it simple—"he said, she said." Some variance is allowed, but simple is better.

Some dialog, after a pattern has been established, doesn't need attribution. The voice you create for the character dictates who is speaking.

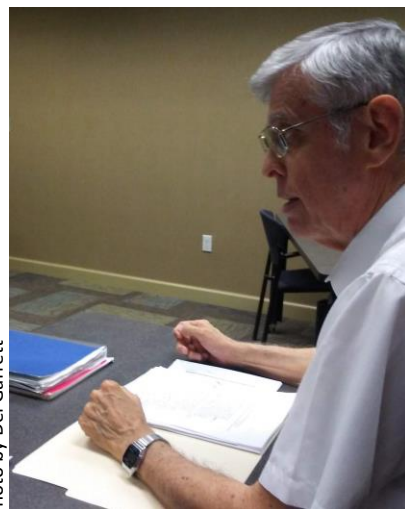


Photo by Del Garrett

Gary Breezeel

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

The Creative Writer

is a monthly newsletter for the White County Creative Writers of Searcy, Ark.

If you have news stories or photos to share, send them to del.garrett.s0ke@gmail.com.

Deadline for reader submission is seven days prior to each month's meeting. WCCW reserves the right to edit all submissions.

President

Dot Hatfield

Vice President

Press Agent/Editor

Del Garrett

Treasurer

Rhonda Roberts

Secretary

Amanda Partridge

Conference Chair

Kim Vernon

Webmaster

Steve May

Calling all members: Please attend this month's meeting to elect new officers for 2019

Nominations are due at this month's meeting. Volunteers to serve are always welcome.

This is especially helpful for newer members to give them a chance to see the inner workings of our community outreach, contact with our contest sponsors, and the preparations we make for our conferences.

In Memoriam

A note on the passing of Stan Lee, creator of the Marvel family of super heroes: "I never expected to write about super heroes. I always wrote about ordinary people with ordinary problems."

Think about it!

Next meeting
Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m.,
Simmons First Bank,
401 South Main Street
in Searcy.

November Homework

Idea Sketch

Remember that this mini-synopsis is used as an “idea starter” to open the door for a more in-depth (traditional) synopsis. Think of it as a Post-em Note or a napkin from the restaurant you had lunch at when the story idea popped into your head. If you don’t write it down, chances are you will not remember it later.

WORKING TITLE: Blood Kin

GENRE: Mystery/Police Procedural

PROTAGANIST: Derek Logan, age 26, 6-feet, 210 but he lies and says 195. Hair, brown with premature gray starting to show at the temples. Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. North Little Rock PD; rank, patrolman, 1-year on the job. Divorced; one child, an 8-year-old daughter named Mandy. Mother, Sarah, dates but is still in love with Derek, can’t take the worry of being a policeman’s wife.

- * Major good trait — Extremely family oriented.
- * One flaw — Extremely family oriented. (Yes, this is intentionally the same thing.)

ANTAGONIST: Randy Owen. Age 35, 6-feet, 2-inches, 225, all muscle. Hair, silver, thin mustache. High school only. Former Marine. North Little Rock PD; rank, sergeant, 8-years on the job, came up through the ranks (School of Hard Knocks). Divorced three times, no contact with ex-wives or his four kids (3 boys, 1 girl). Older cousin to Derek.

- * Major good trait — Treats Derek like a kid brother.
- * One bad flaw — He’s on the take from local gangster.

ACT I — THE PROBLEM

While on patrol, Derek and Randy respond to a burglary in progress. They engage in a fire fight and kill one of the thieves. Randy recognizes him as a soldier for Vincent Luchesa, Randy’s criminal “benefactor.” Don Luchesa doesn’t care about the stiff but he wants the stolen merchandise (furs) out of the police evidence room. He leans on Randy.

ACT II — ACTION

Derek and Randy are assigned to Detectives Martin Lugio and Paul Bartel who are the lead investigators, running errands, checking crime scene for clues, interviewing witnesses. Although Randy keeps quiet about the dead hood’s connection to Don Luchesa, Derek interviews an eye witness who provides a possible link to the mobster. Meanwhile, Randy steals the furs from the evidence locker and hides them in the trunk of their patrol car. Randy drops Derek off to get lunch at a restaurant across from Don Luchesa’s office. Pulling the patrol car into an alley, he removes the furs but gets into an argument with one of the gang and shoots him. Derek hears the shot and races across the street in time to see Randy administer a *coup de grâce*.

INTERNALCONFLICT — What does Derek think of his cousin now?

ACT III — RESOLUTION

While Derek is struggling over his beloved cousin killing a man in cold blood, even a bad man, Randy must face Don Luchesa. This time, the dead hood was a nephew and Don Luchesa wants blood. EXTERNAL CONFLICT —The plot thickens because Don Luchesa thinks it was Derek who killed his nephew and he orders Randy to “fix the problem” but Randy can’t kill Derek, so when Derek discovers the truth, that Randy is on the take, he tries to talk Randy into surrendering. Instead, Randy kills Don Luchesa and winds up shot himself. Randy rushes to the scene and kills the gangster who shot Randy. In a final scene, Randy tells Derek about the notebook he’s been keeping on the Luchesa crime family and says he’s sorry for dishonoring his and Randy’s family.

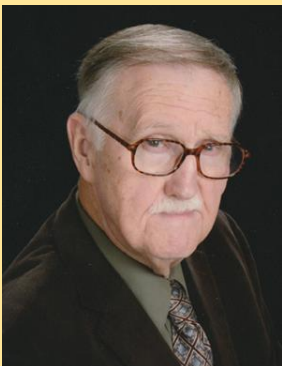
THE DENOUMENT

In the car at Randy’s funeral, Derek reads the notebook Randy kept on Don Luchesa’s operation and decides he can use that information to make arrests without revealing Randy was on the take. He joins his other officers and the traditional flag, taps, and rifle salute shakes him inside but he stands outwardly firm. Sarah approaches and locks her arm in his. “We need to talk,” she whispers and kisses him.

No need for Writers’ Block—Stories are all around you.



John McPherson garners mega-poetry awards



John McPherson

White County Creative Writers member John McPherson scored a 2nd Place poetry contest win at the Arkansas State Fair in October. He also won three 1st places; one 2nd place and two 2nd place Honorable Mentions at the 2018 Arkansas Roundtable Poetry Day Conference.

McPherson moved to Searcy in December 2012 from Russellville, Ark. He is a member of the White County Creative Writers in Searcy. Three of his short stories and two poems were featured in the 2018 WCCW Anthology published earlier this year.

WCCW welcomes new members interested in writing. The group meets the third Monday of each month at Simmons First Bank, 401 South Main Street in Searcy.