Writing the Narrative

Creative Writing

Mr. Brocato

You have all written a narrative before. From your second grade one where you write about a sports figure or horse you loved, to your latest high school piece that centered on the divorce of your parents. They certainly do evolve, don’t they?

Your latest charge will be to write a narrative, but for creative writing. “Well, what’s the difference?” you say. Here are some differences:

1. A story about a divorce isn’t, in itself, inherently creative. A story about a divorce written in reverse order may be. Remember though, use the creativity of writing it in reverse because it would do wonders for the plot and NOT just because that stylistic choice itself is creative. It has to have a holistic purpose. So, play with CHRONOLOGY.

2. Point of view can also be toyed with to add creativity to a piece, but just as many people brutalize this method as utilize it. If I can tell that your story is written from the perspective of a pen, but I can tell this by the third line (mainly because, in your excitement to spill the beans, you just HAD to write “I’m a pen” or something along those lines) it will not work. Subtlety is beautiful.

3. Thick, memorable characters. Now, it’s a narrative so I would hope you aren’t making people up, but don’t just tell the reader your Uncle Jack is “unusual.” SHOW me what unusual looks like, sounds like, feels like, etc.

4. Lively dialogue, both internal and external, should be utilized.

5. Taking risks with both style, language, etc. Taking risks is hard to describe, but it’s one of those things where IF I have to tell you how to take a risk, chances are you cannot at this point. I’m sure Michael Jordan could not *teach* his greatness to someone. Something like risk taking in writing is pretty much a personal epiphany that needs to be *realized* rather than discovered, just like Jordan probably sensed his greatness at some point.

Remember, creativity isn’t just waltzing into the land of the bizarre. Strange isn’t necessarily creative. Weird isn’t necessarily creative. If nobody “gets it,” it doesn’t mean that it is creative. Creativity is often times beautiful in its simplicity.