



The Newsletter of West Texas Writers, Inc.

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**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 6, 2016
AT THE MIDLAND CENTENNIAL LIBRARY 2:00
PM**

We are going to try something new....We want you to bring something you have been writing and share it with us. Not a critique meeting...just a sharing opportunity with positive comments.

October speaker will be...Richard Bradbury... He will be showing us how to set up and explaining websites and other online musts for writers.

November speaker will be Rodger Manning...He will be speaking on self-publishing and E Books.

Terrie Reed was our speaker in June.

A copy of her hand out is available upon request. But just an idea of her topic: NOVEL REVISION/EDITING Plot and Structure, Character and Characterization, Setting and Style and Details.

Wish you could have been there, I learned a lot.

Here is what Jerry Rodgers subject was about when he was our speaker.

Adding Humor to Our Story

(without slipping on a banana peel)

The unexpected is a major element of humor in writing, particularly fiction. While humor is all about being funny, being funny in our writings depends on context. The intelligent use of humor can sharpen our work, lift us over bumps and bestow us with readers who pick out our books or stories with anticipatory smiles.

What's Not Funny

*Ridicule *Puns *Cheap Insults *Hammering on a Joke *Predictable Humor.

Using Humor in Fiction

Initially, humor happens by itself: rising from the author's perspective and personality. You don't need to be a natural-born comedian to learn the ingredients of humor to enrich your work. First and foremost, humor in fiction relieves tension.

12 Ingredients for Humor to be Actually Funny

*Irony *Sarcasm *Misunderstandings *Self-Deprecation *Self-Importance *Embarrassment *Absurdity *Earnestness *Point of View *Impossible Situations *Explicitness *Suspense

Chose a humorous line from a well-known story to share

One of mine is from Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory." After raising a ruckus to wake the relatives on Christmas morning, Capote writes, "One by One the household emerges, looking as though they'd like to kill us both; but its Christmas, so they can't."

Remember, humor is just one ingredient we have to spice without overpowering the rich taste of our story.

Jerry Rogers

Are your query submission documents outdated?

Dear Writer,

Industry Standards for query submission change frequently. This impacts you, big time! Keeping up with what's new can be challenging, especially when it seems to shift around, like sand under your feet.

Today's publishing world doesn't just march to a different drummer. It races in many different directions.

"Agentworld" is majorly impacted. The ease and economy of emailed submission create electronic "log jams" at every literary agency. Inboxes overflow (so to speak) with submissions from capable writers and writer wannabees alike, competing for agent attention.

Your challenge is to run the submission gauntlet as quickly and effectively as

possible. You have nano-seconds to prove you're the real deal: a writer of substance with a saleable manuscript.

Therefore, doesn't it make perfect sense to adhere to the most updated requirements for query submission?

Unfortunately, I meet very few writers who understand what these standards are or how to apply them correctly.

Like I've said before, mis-information has a long shelf life. I meet writer after writer who craft their queries and synopses according to yesterday's format. They read submission "how to" in a two-year old book or blog and assume it's useful and/or accurate. It's not!

Submissions formatted like they would be if created for "snail mail," are destined to end up in delete-ville, unread.

Writers who don't understand what agents want to know, or how to present submission materials, might receive the "thanks but no thanks" rejection email. Or, no response at all.

Is this frustrating? You bet.

As a publishing wizard who's spent over 30 years in the biz on the rejection side of the desk, I stay current with industry standards so I can share this information with all of you.

Which is why I'm teaching online in virtual classrooms and creating digital products (electronic tutorials) that can be updated at a moment's notice.

When you're ready to launch your query quest, begin by writing a slam-dunk query letter. Then, a synopsis that expands your story much more than you were able to (in the days of snail mail) when query and synopsis were separated by time and space. Since they now arrive in the same email, your synopsis is read immediately after the query. Therefore, don't repeat, word for word, everything you've written in your query letter. Definitely use *some* of this information, but *expand* on it. Take advantage of this golden opportunity to tell more of your story.

One issue from the old days of snail mail (prior to 2014) remains the same: the learning curve between completed manuscript and agent acquisition. Tackle this

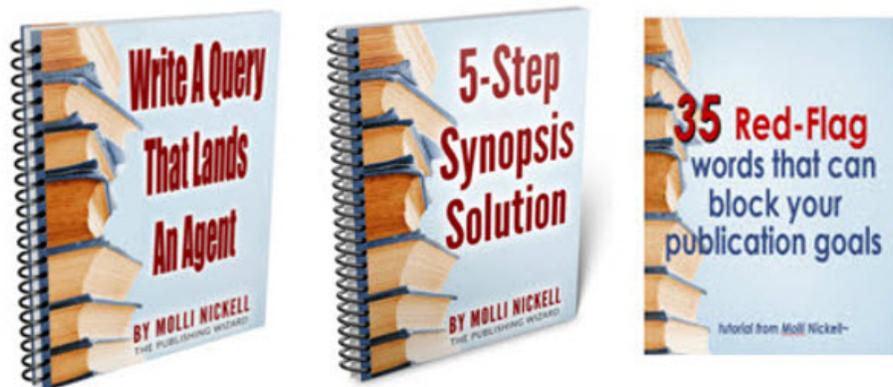
head on, knowing that it's intense, but shorter than the learning curve you've already traveled as you've developed story-telling skills.

You writers are a determined bunch. Most of you absolutely are willing to make the shift from "telling" your stories to "selling" them. Woohoo for you!

The challenge is finding the right tools to help you.

Since there is only one of me, and thousands of you, I've bundled three tutorials, and reduced the cost substantially to provide you with access to current information on how to update your query submission process.

Check out my **Triple Whammy Special Offer**: three information-packed tutorials for \$27. These will help you move through the "selling" learning curve and increase your potential to land an agent.



[Click here to read more](#)

Update~

My Quantum Leap Query Workshop is going well. Everyone has written and revised and revised and revised their query letters with remarkable results. They're developing the necessary "selling" muscles to help them land agents. The next query workshop doesn't yet have a start date, but if you're interested in participating, send me an email and request early notification.

FWA Workshops~

On September 10th, I'll be presenting a synopsis webinar, sponsored by the Florida Writers' Association (FWA). I'll be evaluating synopses, live, and responding to questions and comments. The minimal cost, less than \$20, helps support the FWA.

Submissions for possible evaluation are open to anyone. I'll notify you about how to submit your synopsis if you want to give it a shot.

In October, I'm presenting a synopsis mini-workshop for the St. Pete FWA writers' group. This meeting is open to the public. I'll notify you with sufficient lead time if you want to submit your synopses for a possible "cold" read.

Meanwhile, arm yourself with information. Write and revise your submission materials until they glow in the dark and attract the most perfect agent to guide you through the publishing maze toward the ultimate goal when you'll need to order these
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May the words be with you.



Write on!

Molli

Molli Nickell, the Publishing Wizard
www.getpublishednow.biz



BETTER DAYS AHEAD

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Finish that novel
at Storymind.com