

THE FRIENDLY READER

Let's start at the very beginning. I mean the VERY beginning.

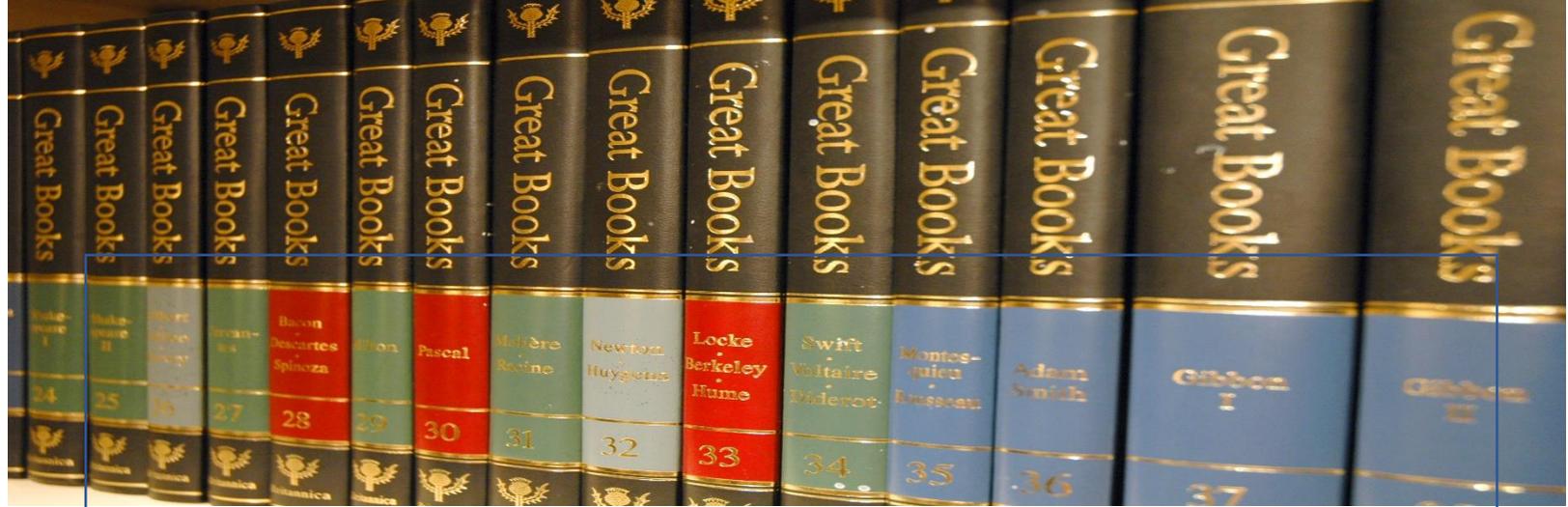


Why are you creating your story?

Asking yourself WHY you do what you do is extremely important. I know this is cliché and mentioned a million times in a billion different pieces of content. The reality is that things don't go smoothly, with anything. Anything desirable takes time, sacrifice and time (Yes, time gets mentioned twice, now thrice). I want you to think about this before you write your first word. If you have this ironed out (and it may change multiple times, that's life). You may save yourself some trouble in the long run. Your goals will become crystal clear, all stemming from your why.

Why are you writing your story? Really think about this. The beauty of this question is that there is no wrong answer. You get to decide, no one else gets a say. Maybe you have a story that's clawing its way out of you. Maybe you've experienced something that you want the world to know. Maybe you want to be come rich and famous (while I don't recommend this) I'm not here to get in your way. I'm here to help you along your unique path. As in stories and in life, intention is everything.

Have your why? Great. Let's move on.



It all begins with an idea.

Duh, right? Right. You obviously need an idea before you can start writing. You may have an amazing screenplay idea. Great, start writing. Perhaps you have a character, or a group of characters that you can't get out of your head. You can formulate a script around a character, most movies are about just that. The characters. Imagine what is the worst thing that can happen to your character, have it? Great. Start writing.

If you want to be a writer. You must do one simple thing. Write. Keep writing. Write every day. I'm serious. I am constantly trying to think of new creative things to write about. But I am going to be honest with you. The very first pilot I wrote. I just wanted to see if I could feasibly write a sixty-page document. A lot of people fantasize about "being a writer". Until you have sat down day in and day out. Until you have truly experienced what it is like, you have no context.

Let's take a look at two common mistakes beginning writers make.

2 COMMON MISTAKES

1. You don't actually write anything.

Yes. I am going to mention this a billion more times. It is the most common mistake. You spend too much time thinking of eighteen different ideas and scenarios without putting any of them down. If you truly want to be a writer, you have to experience all of it. The writers block, the hours of editing. The spurs of inspiration and what to do with them. I'll mention this again. I thought I wanted to be a writer; I wasn't sure. My first pilot took me about six months. Once I finally finished my multiple drafts, hours spent with a mentor I could look back at my first piece and say definitively "Yup, let's do that again." I started writing my next script the following week. The single best advice is the simplest. Always. Be. Writing.

2. You're afraid what you are writing isn't very good.

A couple things with this point. First you have to understand that no ones first draft is good. You are only going to get better as a writer. Each draft, story, script you write will improve. I don't think my writing is better or worse than anyone else's. All I know is that I plan on writing for the rest of my life, regardless of anyone's opinions. The belief must be internal; you've got to be your own number one fan. This all goes back to your why, hint hint, it's important.

Tangent over, back to re-writing. Revising and re-writing goes with the territory, or I should say, IS the territory. Re-writing is the only form of writing, making revisions is what will make your script truly solid. Even if you only write a page a week, that's more than most people. Always remember: You can't edit a blank page. By the way I completely stole that from someone, I did NOT coin that. It is great advice though. Basically, it's saying that the most important thing is getting the words onto the page.

You can ALWAYS edit, go back, make revisions, change everything. You can't do that if you haven't written anything.

Keep it simple! Let's look at our homework for next time.

HOMework

So, what are we going to do for the next section? We are going to discuss formatting. You have the idea, the concept in your head. Let's get it down on paper. Starting with the simplest steps. How to write action, dialogue, sluglines. What the margins look like, the spacing. Really going to dive into more of the technical aspects.

Before you move on to the next section, I want you to do this one thing:

Have an idea or concept in mind.

We are starting simple here. From the very beginning. If you have any questions send me an email at support@thefriendlyreader.com

See you next time!