

How to Write a Novel



LESSON 13

Worksheets

HOLLY LISLE

<https://HollysWritingClasses.com>

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This week, you're writing active descriptions for inanimate AND animate things in your story.

Focus on giving your objects and characters important, meaningful reasons to justify you describing them... and to keep your reader engaged with your story.

Section One of the worksheets is for inanimate objects.

Section Two is for characters and animate objects.

Onward...

Holly

SECTION ONE: **Rule One:** If it doesn't matter to the story, don't describe it. If you want to describe it, make it matter.

Question: Why does _____ matter to my story?

SECTION ONE: **Rule Two:** If it does matter, figure out the context in which it matters.

Question: What interesting thing involving this item or object happens?

SECTION ONE: **Rule Four (optional):** Figure out what you want the reader to *forget* he's seen.

Question: What do I want the reader to forget he's seen?

Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

SECTION ONE: **Rule One:** If it doesn't matter to the story, don't describe it. If you want to describe it, make it matter.

Question: Why does_____matter to my story?

SECTION ONE: Rule Two: If it does matter, figure out the context in which it matters.

Question: What interesting thing involving this item or object happens?

SECTION ONE: **Rule Three:** Figure out what you want the reader to *know* he sees.

Question: What do I show the reader that is important in this scene?

SECTION ONE: **Rule Four (optional):** Figure out what you want the reader to **forget** he's seen.

Question: What do I want the reader to forget he's seen?

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the answer to the question above.

SECTION ONE: **Rule One:** If it doesn't matter to the story, don't describe it. If you want to describe it, make it matter.

Question: Why does _____ matter to my story?

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the answer.

SECTION ONE: **Rule Two:** If it does matter, figure out the context in which it matters.

Question: What interesting thing involving this item or object happens?

SECTION ONE: **Rule Three:** Figure out what you want the reader to ***know*** he sees.

Question: What do I show the reader that is important in this scene?

SECTION ONE: **Rule Four (optional)**: Figure out what you want the reader to *forget* he's seen.

Question: What do I want the reader to forget he's seen?

SECTION TWO: **Rule One:** If you want to describe the character, make him/her/it matter to your stor.

Question: Why does _____ matter to my story?

SECTION TWO: **Rule Two:** If the character does matter, figure out the size and scope of character’s part, and build in limitations.

Question: What limitations does this character have?

Horizontal lines for writing.

SECTION TWO: **Rule One:** Only describe characters who are essential to your story. And only describe the characteristics about them that matter.

Question: Why does_____matter to my story?

SECTION TWO: **Rule Three:** Figure out the part of the character the reader gets to *know* he sees.

Question: How do I show this quality in this scene?

SECTION TWO: **Rule Four (optional)**: Figure out what you want the reader to ***forget*** he's seen.

Question: How do I minimize and pull attention away from THIS quality?
