

# **Flash Your Fiction**

**Ignite Your Creative Fire Through  
Micro Stories**

**Presented by Izolda Trakhtenberg**

# **Before We Go Any Further**

Got your head in the clouds?

Let's use that!

# Cloud Physics

Let's add a little science to our fiction.

What ingredients do we need to make a cloud?

# **Before We Go Any Further**

We need:

1. Water
2. Dust (or another irritant)
3. A change in temperature

# **Before We Go Any Further**

To Spark Our Creativity:

1. Water = Creative Flow
2. Dust = Our Frustration
3. Temperature Change = Release of Pressure (on ourselves)

# About Izolda

- MWA–MC chapter Vice President, 2014-2015.
- Conducted workshops and presentations for over 20 years.
- Two books: “Life Elements” and “The Fiddler’s Talisman.” “The Piano’s Key” will be released Spring, 2016.
- In 2011, wrote a micro-story from a prompt word every day for a year.
- Sparked creative fire! Revolutionized my writing!
- <http://IzoldaTWriter.com>.

# Our Creative Fire

- What is our creative fire?
- How do we access our creative fire?
- What are some techniques?
  - Improvisation
  - Journaling
  - Vision boards
  - Reading
  - Writing (especially focused yet quick, inspired work – Flash Fiction)

# What is Flash Fiction?

- Short-form storytelling, literature or fiction
- No official ruling on length of stories.
  - Some say a completed story should have no more than 75 words.
  - Some allow anything under a thousand or even fifteen hundred words
- Other names for it include: short-short stories, minute stories, micro fiction, or nano fiction



# What is Flash Fiction? (cont.)

- What else can we do with our short fiction?
- Incorporate many together?
- Make movies?
  - A Close Shave?
  - Let's watch!

<https://youtu.be/wX4tLLm5iPs>

# What is Flash Fiction? (cont.)

- What else can we do with our short fiction?
- Another example
  - Career Suicide
  - Let's watch.

<https://youtu.be/Co2yJ4Br07g>

# Career Suicide

“But this is career suicide,” Angelo screamed at Bobby.

“I don’t care,” Bobby said as he finished cleaning his Walther PPK. “It’s what I’ve always wanted to do.”

Angelo took a deep breath and tried to calm his nerves. Bobby was always the cool customer, and Angelo took his lead from his more experienced colleague.

“Bobby,” Angelo pleaded. “Hitmen don’t travel the Barbie Doll convention circuit showing their collections. It’s just not done.”

“It is done, Angelo,” Bobby replied. “It’s done, and I’m going to do it.” (prompt word: Suicide)

# Flash Fiction and Accessing Creativity

How Does Flash Fiction Access the Creative Spark?

- No time to plan
- Immediate
- Written work
- But don't do it all yourself. Use a prompt.
  - OneWord.com
    - Use one prompt word & incorporate it into a story.
    - Don't think. Just write (from oneword.com)
- Use an image

# One Word Challenge

- Take the next sixty seconds and write a story incorporating the word on the slide after next.
- Don't think. Just write. Let your mind open to the next sentence even if you write the current one.
- Remember to have at least one character doing something.
- Remember the beginning, middle, and end.
- Remember to include the word.

# One Word Challenge

- Don't edit a thing!

You never count your money  
When you're sitting at the table.  
There'll be time enough for counting  
When the dealing's done. - The Gambler

# One Word Challenge – The Word:

- Copper

# One Picture Challenge

Write a story incorporating this image.



<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>



# Our Flash Fiction Gamble (Dice!)

Let's write with prompt words to give us a springboard

- Object, Location, Profession
- First Story Gamble (Four Minutes)
  - Focus on writing compelling dialog
  - What makes compelling dialog
    - Conflict?
    - Emotions?
    - Others?

# Our Flash Fiction Gamble (Dice!)

Second Story Roll of the Dice

**If you want, continue with the same story but incorporate the new words.**

- Object, Location, Profession

Second Story Gamble (Four Minutes)

Focus on writing characterization

What makes compelling character development?

- Motivations, goals, desires?
- Emotions?
- Others?

# Our Flash Fiction Gamble (Dice!)

Third Story Roll of the Dice

Object, Location, Profession

Third Story Gamble (Four Minutes)

- Focus on plot development and resolution
- What carries a plot forward?
  - Conflict? Resolutions?
  - Characters' Goals?
  - Solving problems?
  - Dilemmas/Choices?
  - Others?

# Let's Share!

- Let's read our stories and get feedback.
- Constructive, Supportive, and Fun!

# Questions and Links

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(Click **60-Second Stories** from the main page)

OneWord.com

EveryStockPhoto.com