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Come in...and be captivated...

Writers' Craft Box

What this section is intended to do:
Give writers suggested hints, resources, and advice.

How to use: Pick and choose what you feel is most helpful and derive inspiration from it- most importantly, **HAVE FUN!**

What a Writers' Craft Box is: Say you're doing an art project and you want to spice it up a bit. You reach into a seemingly bottomless box full of colorful art/craft supplies and choose only the things that speak to you. You take only what you need to feel that you've fully expressed yourself. Then, you go about doing your individual project adding just the right amount of everything you've chosen until you reach a product that suits you completely. So, this is on that concept. Reach in, find the things that inspire you, use the tools



"Arts and Crafts" N.M.B Copyright 2008

that get your writing going and see it as fulfilling your self-expression as opposed to following rules.

Writing is art and art is supposed to be fun, relaxing, healing and nurturing. It's all work and it's all play at the same time. A Writers' Craft Box is whatever your imagination needs it to be- a lifeboat, the spark of an idea, a strike of metaphorical lightning, a reminder, or simply the recommendation of a good book. Feel free to sit back and break out the crayons. Coloring outside the lines is heartily encouraged.

Writers' Challenge!

Writing What Counts

by WPWT Staff

So much of everyday life is built around the significance of numbers (time, commerce, communication, precision in technology, medicine, architecture...) with often only slight differences between functionality and malfunction, survival and peril. There is also a symbolic substance to numbers that ranges from personal realms of meaning (anniversaries, birthdays...) to broader spiritual, religious and numerological meanings. Even our words have numerical value in the sum of the numbers corresponding to the individual letters. The numerical values of names are said to influence their bearer's traits and fates. What's in a name, indeed.

In the preparation of our anniversary issue, we dove into the array of associated attributes for the number eight. Aside from the many meanings we came across for this number, which is said to be more multi-faceted than most, one of our favorite "fun facts" that we learned is how it takes the sun's light eight minutes to reach the earth. What struck us most in our research was how well the number suited this particular issue. As mentioned on the Home page, even the math of adding up the individual digits of how long we've been a publication as of May 22nd (2,879 days) came out to eight. Numbers can be stories in and of themselves.

For this edition of Writers' Challenge here at WPWT, we want you to embark upon your own journeys of discovery within the language of numbers. As we had done with a few past editions, we gave one of our contributors the opportunity to collaborate with us. Cheryl Somers Aubin shared a prompt she uses with students in her memoir writing classes and we share here an excerpt for you to derive further inspiration from: "Numbers are a unit of measure, a teller of truths." Whether in fiction, poetry, non-fiction, art or photography, we ask you to convey individual or universal "truths" centering around the numbers that measure and mark our existence.

Are there certain numbers that appear as patterns in your life? What numbers do you perceive as lucky or unlucky? Can you recall a period when a number held a powerful significance (a date, a goal, an amount, an increment of time, a calculation)? What role do you feel numbers play in the perception of who we are (be they literal, or symbolic, as in the numerology of a name)? How many times have you been in love, moved, traveled outside of the country? How many years has it been since you last participated in a specific action/event or saw a certain person/place? If you could express your love for a person, place or thing by the numerical details of their/its impact on your life (ex. *464 acres of the park where I saw the beginnings and endings of two loves, made life decisions at three different ages and enjoyed family picnics for decades*), how would you do so?

According to Wikipedia, a number is "used to count, measure, and label." Tell us what's in a number—according to *you*.

Entries should be sent to contests (at) thewriteplaceatthewritetime.org by August 15th.

Fiction and non-fiction should be 1,000 words or under.

Poetry should not exceed 30 lines.

If possible, please include both e-mail address and phone number for contact information.
No more than 3 submissions per entrant.
Winner will receive a \$20 Barnes & Noble giftcard.



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