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COLOR MY WORLD

By Arleen M. Kaptur

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If the world had no color, would you still want to live in it? You wake up in the morning to shades of black, grey and white. That is the full spectrum of tints, tones, and hues. Nothing else just variations on these three colors.

Your home would be decorated in these shades and if you stepped outside, there it would be again. A color range that only had three choices plus any derivatives. Dull, monotonous, and very unappealing.

But our world is made up of color. Lots of colors to choose from. You arrange your home around your favorites, and your garden just blooms with flowers that take your breath away. Wherever you look or travel, or happen to be, you are surrounded by shades of color that inspire, enlighten and make life worthwhile. Then, as writers, why don't we use colorful descriptions, conversations, and characters? Pick up a newspaper and you know basically how each story will start, the questions an interviewer will ask, and in some circumstances, how it will all turn out. Some stories resemble others so closely that if you are reading one of these colorless

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renderings your mind is probably ten pages ahead of your eyes. Sometimes you wonder where all the glitter and shine has gone in some of today's literature.

When you try to research any subject, there is a very good chance that half the articles or books you pick up will describe your topic in about the same way, even using the same words. When this happens, your mind takes notice and realizes that one of these writers either didn't really delve deep enough into the material or he/she just decided that all the other writers knew what they were talking about so it was all right to copy it, change it a wee bit, and sign their name to it. Ahem! how long do you think this deception would last?

Today the world is better educated, more in touch with the world than ever before, and are very well

read in whatever interests them. Today's writers, therefore, have to be a hop and a skip in front of their audience and present their material in a way that is fresh, new, and will excite or motivate the reader. This is especially true if you write for younger people and children. Using your imagination and your skills to render stories, articles, and novels (fiction and non-fiction) that will be "fresh and new" is your key to success. Don't copy what has been done and especially not in the same words. This is unforgivable and all your pens should be removed from your desk immediately!

In all fairness, some content will resemble what others may have thought or put to paper, but this should be happenstance and not intentional. Your mind is beautiful in its own way, your thoughts are an indication of who you are, and so should your writing let others know what you believe in, and how you interpret the world around you. If a reader wants a Hemingway story-line, then most assuredly, they will

seek out Mr. Hemingway. But if they want to know more about anything, discover a new slant to an issue, or investigate new courses, then color their world with your insight, talent, and interpretations.

Duplicating

someone else's work is not a form of flattery, in essence, it is an insult to your own writing capabilities.

There are a lot of colors to choose from in our world, and as far as writing is concerned, the supply of shades and tints is limitless. The only ceiling is the one we put up when we tap into someone else's methods and

musings. Definitely reading the masters and learning from authors who are experts in their fields is one step to good writing, but the challenge is to turn what you have learned into a whole new world. Give your readers the gift of color, and you will have a willing audience for anything you write. Paint in shades of black and white and your

words will fall on deaf ears. Shakespeare can never be duplicated, but he can be the central point to a

new realization or depiction. If you use someone else's words and thoughts then you will forever stand in the shadows. As a writer, there is enough sunshine for everyone to stake claim to a place of their own. The color of your world is what readers are looking for.

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Arleen Kaptur has written numerous articles, how-to books, cookbooks, and the novel: **SEARCHING FOR AUSTIN JAMES** Websites: <http://www.arleensite.com> <http://www.Arleens-RusticLiving.com> <http://www.webspawner.com/users/rusticliving/http://topica.com/lists/simpleliving>

Sign It With Your Signature Color - Tips On Finding The Color That Says You

By "Bridget P. Allen"

Everyone has that one color they favor. Whether it is your preferred color that has been your favorite since you were little or just a color that looks fabulous with your hair color and skin tone, consider creating this shade your signature. Whatever the color, make sure that it looks well with your skin tone, eye color, and hair color before you make the decision to call this particular hue your signature color. No one wants a signature color you are unable to wear due to it clashing with your natural appearance. Also, know when you limit using your signature color, because it can quickly turn from clever and classy to quirky and tacky. It is not necessary for you to dress head to toe in your signature color. Instead, consider using your signature color in the following ways:

Creating your signature

Once you have determined what color will be used as your signature, work to incorporate this color into your wardrobe. Again, not everything in your closet needs to be of your specific signature hue. Consider using this color as an accent to the neutral tones that should dominate your closet, including black, white, ivory, brown, gray, and navy. Use your signature color in unique pops in all aspect of your wardrobe and your surroundings.

Use your signature color in your home to express your real self

In addition to using your signature color to accentuate your wardrobe, also use this favored color to accentuate you home. Whether you paint an accent wall in this great hue, choose a rug with your favorite color, use decorator pillows in your shade of choice, or incorporate towels of this color into your design, your signature color can work in your home the same way it can work in your wardrobe.

Accentuate with accessories - Accessorizing with personal flair

Consider using your signature color in a few poignant accessories incorporated into your wardrobe. Consider purchasing a brooch or faux flower corsage in your favorite shade to affix to your jacket lapel, sweater, or shirt. Look into purchasing a fantastic pair of shoes in your signature color as a unique pop that will benefit any wardrobe. Look to include a killer purse in your favorite hue that is sure to complement any item in your closet. Furthermore, use a scarf with your signature color or choose to incorporate a pretty ribbon into your hairstyle, serve as a belt, or even be used as a choker!

Bridget Allen has worked for many years in the fashion industry, at a senior level, and she has written an amazing totally free fashionista minicourse that will thrill, entertain, and most importantly educate you about what you absolutely need to know about fashion. Get the free course " Fashionista Essentials" now at



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