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HOW TO STYLE YOUR STORY

By **ARTHUR ZULU**

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HOW TO STYLE YOUR STORY

By Arthur Zulu

This is not a language course, nor is it a handbook of English grammar. You do not need to be a grammarian in order to write a best - seller. In fact you may even decide to write your story in a language other than English, and worry about translation later.

But know this: What you are, is what you write! In other words, your character as a person will show in what you write. That means you are a unique person, and your style should also be unique. Do not, therefore, start by aping another writer's style. It will show. You are sure to fail!

Now, let's consider a few things about the language and style of your work.

1.Sentence Structure

This is important because your story will be written in sentences. Your sentences should support your theme. They should say what you mean.

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It will also be nice to vary your sentence patterns. Mix short and long sentences, but not too long that your reader finds himself gasping for breath. Not too fancy expressions, or affected constructions.

There should be unity in your sentence structure and a smooth transition from one paragraph to the other.

The active voice (It is interesting) is preferred to the passive voice (It is being interesting).

2. Diction

Your choice of words and phrases matters. Do not use high sounding, impressive words. You will be writing like Tom Wolfe, or Winston Churchill. Try the Ernest

Hemingway approach. Simple expressions that your reader will understand.

Shun abstract diction and formulaic terms like clichés and jargons. It makes your work vague and makes you guilty of padding.

Instead, use concrete language. Say, "the boy, who stole my pen," not "the expropriator of my calligraphic material". Or, does that make sense to you?

It must be said, however, that some writers have broken the rules of English grammar. (I have read whole chapter of a book full of meaningless words without punctuation.) Even some have combined English and foreign passages without bordering to explain them to their readers. Would you like to write like that? Not if you want to excel.

3. Tone

The tone of your work should be personal and friendly. Yes, the informal style is recommended as opposed to the formal and impersonal tone. Refer to yourself as "I". Address your reader as "you". Use "we" or "us" to refer to your reader and yourself.

So, use the tone that you would use to speak to your friend. But do not be too informal or slangy. However, you should use appropriate tone for your characters — formal, semi - formal, informal, colloquial and slang, depending on their educational background.

Also, avoid offensive languages such as racist overtones. Remember that you intend your work to be read by all nations, tribes, people, tongues and sexes. If then the tone of your work is biased, you would lose readership.

4. Distance

Suppose you walked to an uneducated criminal and told him that he was under cardiac arrest. What would he think? I guess he would think a crack team of police was after him. And run!

But if you told him he had heart disease, and you are a doctor; would he run? No. He would come

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closer to get cure. So it is with writing.

It is not the language you use as a doctor in a seminar of the College of Surgeons or as a scientist in a space ship full of astronomers, that you use when talking to the common man. The tone of your language, therefore, dictates the distance between you, and your reader.

If the distance is far, your reader may feel you don't consider him; and put your book away. But if the distance is close, he will be happy to read on.

5. Figures of Speech

Figures of speech or imagery should be used with care as they tend to be abstract. But when carefully used, they enhance the beauty of your language.

You do not need to read a book of Figures of Speech to know them, because it is part of your daily expressions.

Let's look at the story of the fight scene again to see if we can find some there: The police and a madman could not stop the fight (irony), you were catapulted by a missile up the bridge (humor), you followed a snake to the river (hyperbole), and waited for the Queen (climax).

If you, therefore, write the way you speak, your peculiar language and style will be manifest.

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About the Author:

ARTHUR ZULU, The Most Controversial Writer in the World, is the author of the best - selling book, HOW TO WRITE A BEST-SELLER. Download your copy and FREE excerpt at :

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For FREE writing helps, [mailto : controversialwriter@yahoo.com](mailto:controversialwriter@yahoo.com)

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Do You Know What A Plot Is?

By Nick Vernon

Creative Writing Tips -

What a plot is and what a story is can be sometimes confusing. If you think they are the same... They are not. A plot is the outline of your story. The story is everything included.

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I will illustrate the difference by asking you to visualize two pictures...

1. Visualize a skeleton.

Then

2. Visualize a body.

The skeleton is your plot. It's the outline of your story. It won't be visible when we flesh it out but it will still be there, holding your story together.

The body is your story. It's everything, which our story will contain, including the plot. The story is the plot fleshed out.

What does it mean to 'flesh it out'?

Let me show you.

I'll take a brief plot...

A man meets a woman and they fall in love. They encounter great difficulties because their family are against the relationship.

This is the outline of the story.

Now we are going to flesh it out and make it into a story. Fleshing it out means adding things to make this basic plot into a story. To do this we will add the rest of the ingredients such as... Setting - Where will our story take place Dialogue - What will be said and by whom Characters - How many characters will our story contain? Who are they? What is their role? Problems - What and how many problems will the couple encounter Goal - What is the couple's goal? Conflict - What is the conflict? Climax - How is the conflict going to come to its peak? Ending - Will their love win in the end? And anything else I'll need in my story

Once we have written up all these ingredients, this will be our plot fleshed out into a story.

Besides his passion for writing, Nick Vernon runs an online gift site where you will find gift information, articles and readers' funny stories. Visit

Do You Know What A Plot Is?

Does The Title Reflect The Story?

If The Viewpoint Character Is A Secondary Character, Have You Established Who He is?

Blueprints Of Ranch Style Homes – Check Them Out

Have You Plotted Your Story Before Writing It?

The First and Second Adam
HIV/Aids Healed by the Power of God
If I Can, Anybody Can!
The Toaster's Handbook
Christmas Happy Package



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