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The Negative Trait Thesaurus-Angela Ackerman 2013 "So how can writers figure out which flaws best fit their characters? Which negative traits will create personality clashes and conflict while making success difficult? Nothing adds complexity like character flaws. Inside the Negative Trait Thesaurus you'll find a vast collection of flaws to explore when building a character's personality, advice on building layered and memorable characters from the ground up, an in-depth look at backstory, emotional wounds, and how pain twists a character's view of himself, and his world, influencing behavior and decision making, a flaw-centric exploration of character arc, relationships, motivation, and basic needs, tips on how to best show a character's flaws to readers while avoiding common pitfalls, and downloadable tools to aid writers in character creation."--

The Positive Trait Thesaurus-Angela Ackerman 2013 "Inside The Positive Trait Thesaurus, you'll find a large selection of attributes to choose from when building a personality profile, real character examples from literature, film, or television to show how an attribute drives actions and decisions, influences goals, and steers relationships, advice on using positive traits to immediately hook readers while avoiding common personality pitfalls, insight on human needs and morality, and how each determines the strengths that emerge in heroes and villains alike, information on the key role positive attributes play within the character arc, and how they're vital to overcoming fatal flaws and achieving success, and downloadable tools for organizing a character's attributes and providing a deeper understanding of his past, his needs, and his emotional wounds."--

The Emotion Thesaurus-Angela Ackerman 2019-02-14 "One of the biggest problem areas for writers is conveying emotion to the reader in a unique, compelling way. When showing our characters' feelings, we often grab onto the first idea that comes to mind, and our characters end up smiling, shrugging, nodding, and frowning far too much. Need some inspiration to get you beyond the basics? Inside The Emotion Thesaurus, you'll find: emotion entires that list body language, thoughts, and visceral responses for each, a breakdown of the biggest emotion-related writing problems and how to overcome them, body language and action cues that address both acute and suppressed forms of emotion, suggestions for each emotion that cover a range of intensity, from mild to extreme, description tips on emotion, dialogue, characters, and setting. Now expanded to include 55 new entries"--

The Emotional Wound Thesaurus-Becca Puglisi 2017-10-13 Of all the formative experiences in a character's past, none are more destructive than emotional wounds. The aftershocks of trauma can change who they are, alter what they believe, and sabotage their ability to achieve meaningful goals, all of which will affect the trajectory of a story. Enter The Emotional Wound Thesaurus, which explores over 100 possible traumatic experiences from a character's past and how they can impact the character in the present. Armed with this unique resource, authors will be able to root their characters in reality by giving them an authentic wound that causes difficulties and prompts them to strive for inner growth to overcome it.

The Rural Setting Thesaurus-Angela Ackerman 2016-05-22 Within the pages of a book lives a place of a writer's imagining, one that has the ability to pull readers in on a visceral level. But the audience's emotional fascination will only last if the author is able to describe this vibrant world and its inhabitants well. The setting is the unique story element that brings together characters and events. So much more than stage dressing, the setting is able to evoke mood, provide unique challenges that force the hero to acknowledge his faults and fight for what he wants, and hold a mirror up to his emotions, peeling back the layers of his most intimate feelings, fears, and desires.

The Urban Setting Thesaurus-Angela Ackerman 2016-05-22 Making readers care and feel like they're part of the story should be the number one goal for all writers. Ironically, many storytellers fail to maximize one of fiction's most powerful elements to achieve this: the setting. Not only can the right location become a conduit for emotion, it can also provide conflict, characterize the story's cast, reveal significant backstory, and trigger the reader's own emotional memories through sensory details and deep point of view. Inside The Urban Thesaurus, you'll find: A list of the sights, smells, tastes, textures, and sounds for over 120 urban settings Possible sources of conflict for each location to help you brainstorm ways to naturally complicate matters for your characters Advice on how to make every piece of description count so you can maintain the right pace and keep readers engaged Tips on utilizing the five senses to encourage readers to more fully experience each moment by triggering their own emotional memories Information on how to use the setting to characterize a story's cast through personalization and emotional values while using emotional triggers to steer their decisions A review of specific challenges that arise when writing urban locations, along with common descriptive pitfalls that should be avoided Downloadable tools to help you plan each setting so you can choose the right one for a scene, providing the biggest storytelling punch The Urban Setting Thesaurus helps you tailor each setting to your characters while creating a realistic, textured world readers will long to return to, even after the book closes.

The Occupation Thesaurus-Becca Puglisi 2020-06-19 What if there was a shortcut for helping readers get to know your characters? Would you take it? Characters are as complex as people and revealing their inner layers without chunky blocks of pace-stopping description is a challenge. The Occupation Thesaurus can help you unlock one of the best tools in your show-don't-tell writing kit: a character's job. Occupations are part of our everyday world, meaning they can be used to encourage readers to make associations between a type of work and the person doing it, shortening the "get to know the character" curve. Whether a person loves or hates what they do, a job can reveal many things, including their priorities, beliefs, desires, and needs. The Occupation Thesaurus will show you how a career choice can characterize, drive the plot, infuse scenes with conflict, and get readers on the character's side through the relatable pressures, responsibilities, and stakes inherent with work. THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX REGARDING CAREER OPTIONS Select a job that packs a powerful punch. Inside The Occupation Thesaurus, you'll find: Informative profiles on popular and unusual jobs to help you write them with authority Believable conflict scenarios for each occupation, giving you unlimited possibilities for adding tension at the story and scene level Advice for twisting the stereotypes often associated with these professions Instruction on how to use jobs to characterize, support story structure, reinforce theme, and more An in-depth study on how emotional wounds and basic human needs may influence a character's choice of occupation A brainstorming tool to organize the various aspects of your character's personality so you can come up with the best careers for them Do more with your description and choose a profession for your character that showcases who they are, what they want, and what they believe in. With over 120 entries in a user-friendly format, The Occupation Thesaurus is an entire job fair for writers.

Writer's Guide to Character Traits-Dr. Linda Edelstein 2006-08-09 From Sex to Schizophrenia: Everything You Need to Develop Your Characters! & break;& break;What makes a person commit a white-collar crime? Who is a likely candidate to join a cult? Why do children have imaginary friends? How does birth order affect whether or not a person gets married? When does mind over matter become a crippling problem? & break;& break;Writer's Guide to Character Traits, 2nd edition answers all of these questions and many others. With more than 400 easy-to-reference lists of traits blended from a variety of behaviors and influences, you'll gain the knowledge you need to create distinctive characters whose personalities correspond to their thoughts and actions - no matter how normal or psychotic they might be. In this updated and expanded edition, you'll also find: & break;& break; Comprehensive instruction on how to use this book& break; New statistical information to help you create true-to-life characters& break; Corresponding exercises that show you how to put the material to work in your stories& break; A quick-reference index to make cross-referencing a snap& break; Idea sparkers to get your thoughts out of your head and onto the page & break;& break; Plus, you'll learn about common - and not so common - psychological, physical, and relationship disorders; delve into the minds of criminals; find out what it takes to be a professional athlete, scientist, and truck driver; discover what life is like for a gang member, suicidal teen, and alcoholic; and more. & break;& break; In Writer's Guide to Character Traits, 2nd edition, note psychologist and author Dr. Linda Edelstein takes you beyond generic personality types and into the depths of the human psyche where you're sure to find the resources you need to make your characters stand out from the crowd.

The Writer's Idea Thesaurus-Fred White 2014-09-05 Endless ideas at your fingertips, and at the turn of a page... Need an idea for a short story or novel? Look no further than The Writer's Idea Thesaurus. It's far more than a collection of simple writing prompts. You'll find a vast treasury of story ideas inside, organized by subject, theme, and situation categories, and listed alphabetically for easy reference. Author and award-winning writing instructor Fred White shows you how to build out and customize these ideas to create unique plots that reflect your personal storytelling sensibilities, making The Writer's Idea Thesaurus an invaluable tool for generating creative ideas and vanquishing writer's block--for good. Inside you'll find: • 2,000 unique and dynamic story ideas perfect for novels and short stories of any genre or writing style • Twenty major idea categories, such as The Invasion of X, The Transformation of X into Y, Escape from X, The Curse of X, and more • Multiple situations that further refine the major categories, such as The Creation of Artificial Life, The Descent Into Madness, Love in the Workplace, The Journey to a Forgotten Realm, and more • Invaluable advice on how to customize each idea. The Writer's Idea Thesaurus is an interactive story generator that opens the door to thousands of new story arcs and plotlines.

Sorrow's Fall-Davonne Burns 2013-12-07 Used. Abused. Hated. All Sorrow wants is acceptance, to be seen as more than a weapon. She could save him... Or kill him. Emotions are a liability for an assassin. As a telepath, sixteen-year-old Sorrow is assailed by his target's fear and desperation as he closes in for the kill, the voices of his victims haunting him day and night. In defense, he has learned to shut off his own emotions... Until he meets her. Sarin is as powerful as she is beautiful, but there is something terrifying about her-something Sorrow knows could kill him.

Story Structure Architect-Victoria Lynn Schmidt 2005-07-12 Build a Timeless, Original Story Using Hundreds of Classic Story Motifs! It's been said that there are no new ideas; but there are proven ideas that have worked again and again for all writers for hundreds of years. Story Structure Architect is your comprehensive reference to the classic recurring story structures used by every great author throughout the ages. You'll find master models for characters, plots, and complication motifs, along with guidelines for combining them to create unique short stories, novels, scripts, or plays. You'll also learn how to: • Build compelling stories that don't get bogged down in the middle • Select character journeys and create conflicts • Devise subplots and plan dramatic situations • Develop the supporting characters you need to make your story work Especially featured are the standard dramatic situations inspire by Georges Polti's well-known 19th century work, The Thirty-Six Dramatic Situations. But author Victoria Schmidt puts a 21st-century spin on these timeless classics and offers fifty-five situations to inspire your creativity and allow you even more writing freedom. Story Structure Architect will give you the mold and then help you break it. This browsable and interactive book offers everything you need to craft a complete, original, and satisfying story sure to keep readers hooked! The Writer's Guide to Psychology-Carolyn Kaufman 2010-12-01 An accurate and accessible survey of modern psychological theory and practice, this reference offers professional writers practical advice for incorporating psychological elements into their work. With easy-to-understand explanations and definitions, this book is an invaluable resource for any writer wishing to add realistic details to scenes that depict psychologists, mental illnesses and disorders, and psychotherapeutic treatments. Designed around the needs of professional fiction and nonfiction writers, this is an easy-to-use resource that includes historical and modern psychological treatments and terms and refutes popularly held misconceptions.

Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases-Peter Mark Roget 2018-03-07 Excerpt from Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases: Classified and Arranged So as to Facilitate the Expression of Ideas and Assist in Literary Composition The first edition of Dr. Roget's Thesaurus was published in the year 1852, and a second in the ensuing spring. On the issue of the third, in 1855, the volume was stereotyped. Since that time until now, the work has been reprinted in the same form and with little alteration, in rapidly succeeding editions, the printing of which has worn out the original plates. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

Writing Screenplays That Sell-Michael Hauge 1991-08-16 Covers story concept, character development, theme, structure, and scenes, analyzes a sample screenplay, and tells how to submit a manuscript, select an agent, and market oneself

Character Development Journal-Sweet Harmony Sweet Harmony Press 2018-10-25 Character Development Journal for Authors! Awesome journal for beginner or experienced writers for creating characters that readers will love or love to hate! Detailed prompts allow authors to create full back stories for each character, including personal characteristics (age, sex, size, race, species) family background personal history (education, beliefs, occupation) personality characteristics (over 150 descriptive traits to consider) key role in the story character arc and more! This is a great gift for any new author just getting started. This is also a great journal for experienced authors to create character dictionaries for expansive stories or epic tales. Large, 8.5" x 11" format will fit perfectly with any other manuscript papers and folders. The Character Development Journal is a great way to finally start writing your novel!

Spellbinding Sentences-Barbara Baig 2015-07-10 Elevate Your Writing From So-So To Spectacular! Great writing requires more than an original idea, compelling characters, or a scintillating plot. An author needs all of these to be successful, but writing--and writing well--also demands an entirely different skill set. Spellbinding Sentences arms you with the tools you need to master the power of the English language. In this book, you'll learn the different qualities of words and the many ways those words can be combined to create sentences that hook readers. You'll emulate sentences from your favorite writers, practice proven techniques, and develop your skills one step at a time. The result? Your ability to craft excellent sentences will become second nature--and those sentences will hold your readers spellbound, page after page. "Barbara Baig's Spellbinding Sentences is a tribute to the pleasure and vitality of the English language. Never prescriptive and always clear, this enlightening book is sure to help all those wishing to add grace and strength to their writing." --Jane Brox, award-winning author of Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light, one of TIME magazine's top ten nonfiction books of 2010 "Spellbinding Sentences is sophisticated and down-to-earth at the same time. Barbara Baig has distilled decades of experience into this wise book." --Edward Dolnick, New York Times best-selling author of The Rescue Artist: A True Story of Art, Thieves, and the Hunt for a Missing Masterpiece

45 Master Characters, Revised Edition-Victoria Lynn Schmidt 2012-01-12 Create unforgettable characters your readers will love! Want to make your characters and their stories more compelling, complex, and original than ever before? 45 Master Characters is here to help you explore the most common male and female archetypes--the mythic, cross-cultural models from which all characters originate. Explore a wide variety of character profiles including heroes, villains, and supporting characters. Learn how to use archetypes as foundations for your own unique characters Examine the mythic journeys of heroes and heroines--the progression of events upon which each archetype's character arc develops--and learn how to use them to enhance your story. Complete with examples culled from literature, television, and film, 45 Master Characters illustrates just how memorable and effective these archetypes can be--from "Gladiators" and "Kings" like Rocky Balboa and Captain Ahab to "Amazons" and "Maidens" like Wonder Woman and Guinevere. Great heroes and villains are necessary to bring any story to life; let this guide help you create characters that stand the test of time.

The Amish Christmas Secret-Vannetta Chapman 2020-10-01 All she wants for Christmas is the truth. A struggling Amish woman. Her mysterious new neighbor. And a secret that could change everything... Becca Schwartz's curiosity is going to be a problem. When Amish secret millionaire Daniel Glick moves to Shipshewana for seclusion, he doesn't expect his pretty new neighbor to ask so many questions. Or to be so generous, despite her family's poverty. As Daniel falls for Becca, his secret looms between them. This Christmas, can he finally give her the truth...and his heart? USA TODAY Bestselling Author

Story Genius-Lisa Cron 2016-08-09 Following on the heels of Lisa Cron's breakout first book, Wired for Story, this writing guide reveals how to use cognitive storytelling strategies to build a scene-by-scene blueprint for a riveting story. It's every novelist's greatest fear: pouring their blood, sweat, and tears into writing hundreds of pages only to realize that their story has no sense of urgency, no internal logic, and so is a page one rewrite. The prevailing wisdom in the writing community is that there are just two ways around this problem: pantsing (winging it) and plotting (focusing on the external plot). Story coach Lisa Cron has spent her career discovering why these methods don't work and coming up with a powerful alternative, based on the science behind what our brains are wired to crave in every story we read (and it's not what you think). In Story Genius Cron takes you, step-by-step, through the creation of a novel from the first glimmer of an idea, to a complete multilayered blueprint—including fully realized scenes—that evolves into a first draft with the authority, richness, and command of a riveting sixth or seventh draft. From The Trade Paperback edition.

Men Explain Things to Me-Rebecca Solnit 2014-04-14 The National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author delivers a collection of essays that serve as the perfect "antidote to mansplaining" (The Stranger). In her comic, scathing essay "Men Explain Things to Me," Rebecca Solnit took on what often goes wrong in conversations between men and women. She wrote about men who wrongly assume they know things and wrongly assume women don't, about why this arises, and how this aspect of the gender wars works, airing some of her own hilariously awful encounters. She ends on a serious note— because the ultimate problem is the silencing of women who have something to say, including those saying things like, "He's trying to kill me!" This book features that now-classic essay with six perfect complements, including an examination of the great feminist writer Virginia Woolf's embrace of mystery, of not knowing, of doubt and ambiguity, a highly original inquiry into marriage equality, and a terrifying survey of the scope of contemporary violence against women. "In this series of personal but unsentimental essays, Solnit gives succinct shorthand to a familiar female experience that before had gone unarticulated, perhaps even unrecognized." —The New York Times "Essential feminist reading." —The New Republic "This slim book hums with power and wit." —Boston Globe "Solnit tackles big themes of gender and power in these accessible essays. Honest and full of wit, this is an integral read that furthers the conversation on feminism and contemporary society." —San Francisco Chronicle "Essential." —Marketplace "Feminist, frequently funny, unflinchingly honest and often scathing in its conclusions." —Salon

Naughty Words for Nice Writers-Cara Bristol 2015-02-16 If you've struggled to find the right tone for your romantic sex scene, stared at the computer for 15 minutes trying to come up with the perfect verb, become stymied because some terms are too crude while others are too flowery, or found yourself reusing the same words over and over, Naughty Words for Nice Writers, A Sexual and Spanking Thesaurus can help you break through those barriers. Cara Bristol, the author of 17 erotic romances, has written a guide to help you find the erotic words to write a sex scene that sizzles. Naughty Words for Nice Writers is packed with more than 1,200 usable, functional synonyms geared for romance, erotic romance, and erotica. Included are 28 different "erotic word lists" such as male and female anatomy, foreplay, orgasm, specific sexual acts and kink, sexual noises, spanking terminology, and much more. The guide offers suggestions on how to write a sex scene and how to tighten your writing so it sings. With an emphasis on verbs, this guide will help you "show" the intimacy between your characters rather than tell it. Whether you're writing a "fade to black" scene or a graphic and explicit one, Naughty Words for Nice Writers will give you the words.

Master Lists for Writers-Bryn Donovan 2017-10-24

Their Dogs Came with Them-Helena Maria Viramontes 2007-04-03 Award-winning author of Under the Feet of Jesus, Helena Maria Viramontes offers a profoundly gritty portrait of everyday life in L.A. in this lyrically muscular, artfully crafted novel. In the barrio of East Los Angeles, a group of unbreakable young women struggle to find their way through the turbulent urban landscape of the 1960s. Androgynous Turtle is a homeless gang member. Ana devotes herself to a mentally ill brother. Ermila is a teenager poised between childhood and political consciousness. And Tranquilina, the daughter of missionaries, finds hope in faith. In prose that is potent and street tough, Viramontes has choreographed a tragic dance of death and rebirth. Julia Alvarez has called Viramontes "one of the important multicultural voices of American literature." Their Dogs Came with Them further proves the depth and talent of this essential author. Helena Maria Viramontes is the acclaimed author of The Moths and Other Stories and Under the Feet of Jesus, a novel; and the coeditor, with María Herrera-Sobek, of two collections: Chicana (W)Rites: On Word and Film and Chicana Creativity and Criticism. She is the recipient of the 2006 Luis Leal Award and the John Dos Passos Award for Literature, and her short stories and essays have been widely anthologized and adopted for classroom use and university study. Viramontes lives in Ithaca, New York, where she is a professor in the Department of English at Cornell University.

Writing Fight Scenes-Rayne Hall 2011-09-11 This book will help you to write fight scenes that are entertaining as well as realistic, and leave the reader breathless with excitement. The book suggests a six-part structure to use as blueprint for your scene, and reveals tricks how to combine fighting with dialogue, which senses to use when and how, and how to stir the reader's emotions. You'll decide how much violence your scene needs, what's the best location, how your heroine can get out of trouble with self-defence and how to adapt your writing style to the fast pace of the action. There are sections on female fighters, male fighters, animals and weres, psychological obstacles, battles, duels, brawls, riots and final showdowns. For the requirements of your genre, there is even advice on how to build erotic tension in a fight scene, how magicians fight, how pirates capture ships and much more. You will learn about different types of weapons, how to use them in fiction, and how to avoid embarrassing blunders. The book uses British spellings.

Write for Your Life-Lawrence Block 2009-03-17 Based on Lawrence Block's extremely popular seminar for writers. Discover Block's tips for overcoming writer's block and unleashing your creativity.

The First 50 Pages-Jeff Gerke 2011-11-25 Seeking writing success? Start at the beginning... Whether you're looking to get published or just hoping to hook your reader, first impressions are vital. Compelling opening scenes are the key to catching an agent or editor's attention, and are crucial for keeping your reader engaged. As a writer, what you do in your opening pages, and how you do it, is a matter that cannot be left to chance. The First 50 Pages is here to help you craft a strong beginning right from the start. You'll learn how to: introduce your main character establish your story world set up the plot's conflict begin your hero's inner journey write an amazing opening line and terrific first page and more This helpful guide walks you through the tasks your first 50 pages must accomplish in order to avoid leaving readers disoriented, frustrated, or bored. Don't let your reader put your book down before ever seeing its beauty. Let The First 50 Pages show you how to begin your novel with the skill and intentionality that will land you a book deal, and keep readers' eyes glued to the page. About the Author Jeff Gerke is an editor and author of fiction and nonfiction including such books as the Operation: Firebrand novels and Plot Versus Character: A Balanced Approach to Writing Great Fiction. He is the founder of Marcher Lord Press, an indie publishing company dedicated to producing Christian science fiction and fantasy.

Roald Dahl Creative Writing with the Twits: Remarkable Reasons to Write-Roald Dahl 2020-01-23 Write interviews, play scripts, diary entries and instructions with the World's NUMBER ONE Storyteller! Get stuck in with The Twits and find your own remarkable reason to write. These super fun activities will help you to: · Improve language and vocabulary skills · Develop the tools you need to write your own stories · Learn how to use persuasive language, entertain your reader and add sparkle to non-fiction. Roald Dahl's Creative Writing will spark your creativity, build your confidence and inspire you through the wonderful worlds of Roald Dahl's best loved stories! Filled with top tips and ideas boxes, each book introduces techniques and methods to help you plan and write a phizz-whizzing story of your own!

The Body Thesaurus-Dahlia Evans 2016-07-13 "The Ultimate Thesaurus That Helps Fiction Writers Describe Characters With Ease!" If you're like most writers, you get sick and tired of endlessly searching thesauri looking for that perfect word to describe your character's physical appearance or the way they move their body. Wouldn't it be easier to have a book that gives you all these words without the hassle? If you answered 'yes', then this book is for you! Dahlia Evans has compiled a thesaurus specifically aimed at describing a character's physical appearance and movement. This unique sourcebook is filled to the brim with words and phrases gathered from thousands of published novels. Now, you will have no problem conjuring up words and phrases like a magician, bringing your prose to life. Inside You'll Discover: # An exhaustive list of over 30,000 words and phrases describing each part of the body. # 40 chapters, with each one including a list of adjectives, verbs, and noun phrases for that particular body part. # Numerous example sentences showing many of these words in use. # And best of all, words and phrases are sorted alphabetically, as well as by part of speech. 'The Body Thesaurus' is the ultimate fiction writer's companion; a resource that you'll want to keep close by for all your future writing projects.

Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Students-David Olsen 2014-03-18 The ultimate tool for students! Tired of using the same few phrases in all your presentations? Can't find the right expression to begin your college admissions essay?

Stuck with a drab, uninspiring conclusion at the end of your research paper? Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Students will help you find the perfect words and phrases for any writing assignment. Unlike other titles that simply list related terms for each entry, this volume offers a pronunciation guide, definition, and a sample sentence for every word you look up, as well as for each of the synonyms under that entry. It also features hundreds of useful terms every student should know, making it the most essential tool on your desk when you're working on an essay or presentation. With Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Students at your side, you'll impress your teachers and advance straight to the head of the class!

The Synonym Finder-J.I. Rodale 2016-04-22 Originally published in 1961 by the founder of Rodale Press, The Synonym Finder continues to be a practical reference tool for every home and office. This thesaurus contains more than 1 million synonyms, arranged alphabetically, with separate subdivisions for the different parts of speech and meanings of the same word.

Draft No. 4-John McPhee 2017-09-05 The long-awaited guide to writing long-form nonfiction by the legendary author and teacher Draft No. 4 is a master class on the writer's craft. In a series of playful, expertly wrought essays, John McPhee shares insights he has gathered over his career and has refined while teaching at Princeton University, where he has nurtured some of the most esteemed writers of recent decades. McPhee offers definitive guidance in the decisions regarding arrangement, diction, and tone that shape nonfiction pieces, and he presents extracts from his work, subjecting them to wry scrutiny. In one essay, he considers the delicate art of getting sources to tell you what they might not otherwise reveal. In another, he discusses how to use flashback to place a bear encounter in a travel narrative while observing that "readers are not supposed to notice the structure. It is meant to be about as visible as someone's bones." The result is a vivid depiction of the writing process, from reporting to drafting to revising—and revising, and revising. Draft No. 4 is enriched by multiple diagrams and by personal anecdotes and charming reflections on the life of a writer. McPhee describes his enduring relationships with The New Yorker and Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and recalls his early years at Time magazine. Throughout, Draft No. 4 is enlivened by his keen sense of writing as a way of being in the world.

The Writer's Lexicon-Kathy Steinemann 2017-03-21 You just read your manuscript and discovered that your characters nod like marionettes in every chapter. When they're not nodding, they roll their eyes. Time to slash the Pinocchio strings and turn them into real people. Award-winning author Kathy Steinemann provides the tools. She cuts through the so-called rules and offers simple solutions. Too many repetitions of "little"? There's a cure for that. Do you rely on "very" too often? There's a cure for that too. You'll find the remedies in this book's dispensary. Should you ever use anything other than "said" to attribute dialogue? Are exclamation points taboo? The answers might surprise you. Learn how to harness body language, purge hackneyed adjectives, and draw on the environment for ambience. No more wooden characters. You'll transform them into believable personalities that your readers will learn to love. Or hate. Get in the driver's seat, relax, and enjoy your journey-with Kathy Steinemann's book as your GPS.

The Thinker's Thesaurus: Sophisticated Alternatives to Common Words (Expanded Third Edition)-Peter E. Meltzer 2015-08-03 With over twenty percent more material, a must for any lover of distinctive words. This entertaining and informative reference features sophisticated and surprising alternatives to common words together with no-fail guides to usage. Avoiding traditional thesauruses' mundane synonym choices, Peter E. Meltzer puts each word—whether it's protreptic, apostrophize, iracund, or emulous—in context by using examples from a broad range of contemporary books, periodicals, and newspapers. His new introduction makes the case for why we should widen our vocabulary and use the one right word. This groundbreaking thesaurus remains a unique venture, one that enriches your writing while helping you find the perfect word.

The Well-Spoken Thesaurus-Tom Heehler 2011-01-01 If you've ever fumbled while trying to use a big word\* (\*lofty, pretentious word) to impress a crowd, you know what it's like to\* (\*what it is to) be poorly spoken. The fear of mispronouncing or misusing complex words is real and leaves many of us consigned to the lower levels\* (\*lower echelons) of the English Language. The Well-Spoken Thesaurus is your guide to eloquence, replacing the ordinary with the extraordinary.

The First Five Pages-Noah Lukeman 2010-02-11 Language, literature and biography.

Dynamic Characters-Nancy Kress 2004-06-01 A truly unforgettable story is defined by its characters. Their motivations, their changes, their actions compel us to read on, anxiously trying to discern what will happen next. In Dynamic Characters, award-winning author and Writer's Digest columnist Nancy Kress explores the fundamental relationship between characterization and plot, illustrating how vibrant, well-constructed characters act as the driving force behind an exceptional story. Kress balances her writing instruction with hands-on checklists to help you build strong characters from the outside in. Blending physical, emotional and mental characterization, you'll learn to create characters that initiate exciting action, react to tense situations, make physical and emotional transformations, and power the plot from beginning to end.

101 Writers' Scene Settings-Paula Wynne 2016-03-17 Don't Just Write A Scene ~ Create A Memorable SettingWrite a compelling scene and create a vivid setting that readers won't forget.Find out how to make your novel's scene settings come alive to your readers with mood, senses, atmosphere and vivid descriptions shown through the point of view of your characters. This book will guide you through choosing settings with mood, atmosphere and sensory details that will influence your characters.In films like Bourne or Bond you see baddies chasing the hero through crowded towns with tight corners and narrow streets or racing across roof tops. In other classic films you may see the most unusual places on earth and wonder how the studios found those places to feature in their films.Clearly they have endless budgets with numerous bodies to scout for locations. But what if there was a resource where writers could dip in and out to find these special types of locations for setting their scenes? Now there is!Inside, bestselling author of Pimp My Fiction, Paula Wynne guides you through:\* Creating a novel setting in order to write a vivid scene \* Finding unique locations for different scenarios in your plot\* Creating vivid setting descriptions\* Weaving them together seamlessly through the character's actions and reactions\* Develop location elements to write realistic, intriguing descriptions from the character's POV\* Using sensory details that bring your setting to life\* Layers of details that make a reader feel like they are right there with your character\* And you will get a free download copy of the Settings Checklist!Filled with ideas for categories such as crowded towns, tight and narrow streets, adventure locations, places up high and down below, mountains and valleys, seascapes, abandoned places, modern techno, scary and spooky, and unusual work places, homes and fight scenes.It also includes scene setting advice from successful authors: Linda Abbott, Steve Alcorn, James Becker, Glenn Cooper, Mark City, Dean Crawford, Nicole Evelina, Jeff Gerke, CS Lakin, Marti Leimbach, Rayne Hall, Angela Marsons, Allison Maruska, Alex Myers, Jodie Renner, Douglas E. Richards, Joyce Schneider, Kevin Wignall and Vincent Zandri.

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