

## Of Special Interest

The logo to the right is by Lilyy03.

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Nate (the webmaster) will be gone for the Summer.



## Inside

PerforatedxHearts talks about the Zen of Writing on page 2.

Incandescence tells you how to become a good poet on page 3.

Tyd has some suggestions on how to deal with possible dead characters in the new Harry Potter on page 4.

Reviews & Recommendations on pages 5 & 6.

May Contest results on page 7.

And more...!

## General Announcements

### User Run Contests

Whence and Poor Imp are running contests over in the Contests forum. Whence is running "Poetry: The Villanelle," and "Art: Alternative Interpretation." Poor Imp is running "Fiction: Detective." Be sure to check out both!

### More Private Messages

You can now have up to 250 private messages in your inbox!

### Submit To Squills

To submit to Squills, simply click on the "Submit to Squills" link in the sidebar on the main page. It's fast and easy!

### The YWS Blog

If you haven't already, go over and check out The YWS Blog. You'll find the link under "Blogs" in the sidebar on the main page. Be sure to visit often as

announcements will be made there, as well as a number of helpful articles.

### Star Ranking System

Now you can earn stars for reviewing! Earn 1 star for making 5 reviews, and 2 for making 25 stars. Depending on how many you have, the color of the stars will change. Check out the Information Desk forum for more info!

## Editor's Note

Hey all!

Since it's the Summertime, and since I'm leaving until early August to go work at a Camp in Southwestern Virginia as the Waterfront Director, this will be the last issue of Squills until September 1, 2007.

However, while I am busy sailing, canoeing, and swimming, Firestarter and Meshugenah will be running the site!

That means anything that you would send to me should go instead to Firestarter or Meshugenah. In fact, that's kind of how things have always worked, but now it's imperative you do not send anything to me. Otherwise, no one will look at it until August.

Also remember, if you have any questions or run into any problems, you can always PM a Junior Mod or a

Mod with your issue. Most everyone responds very quickly, and everyone on the Mod squad is friendly and helpful! Otherwise, they wouldn't be a mod.

So until September, enjoy this great issue of Squills! It's chocked full of stuff to read, and I included a few games to check out on page 11 as well.

See ya!

- Nate

## Featured Article: The Zen of Writing, Part I of III

by PerforatedxHearts

*The Zen of Writing is Part I of a three part series by PerforatedxHearts.*

### Making It Write

As a young boy of a British politician, you'd think that he'd be adept at the instruction of the finest boarding schools with their competent professors. However, Winston Churchill, who grew up to be one of Britain's most prized prime ministers, often struggled with grammar, spelling, and just the concept of writing in general- the failure of his teachers. And yet he grew up to become an addition- a successful addition, to say the least- to the writer's Hall of Fame, known for his poignant and cunning way with words.

So what? A lot of writers start out this very way- as an underling in the cruel and alien world of writing. This essay targets many of the stumbling blocks in the life of an average, as well as growing writer, such as correct grammatical objectives, plots in the typical fiction novel, dialogue, and why the heck you're writing.

When it comes down to grammar, you either know it or you don't. Grammar is essentially the logic of writing: being able to organize your ideas in such a way that the reader is able to grasp the meaning of what you are trying to say. You want to be able to let each word settle snugly in its little nest, yes, but you also want the sentence as a whole make sense- which is why your old English teachers toiled for so long, drilling the anatomy of sentence structure, subordinate conjunctions, etc. into your little head. It really is important to be able to know or be familiar with these objectives so that [a] you can express yourself to the clearest ability possible – “[Robert] Lowth declares why it is important to know the rules of grammar: “every person of a liberal education . . . should be able to express himself with propriety and accuracy.” And

grammar is essential when filling out a resume (Oops, you forgot that glaring mistake about your major accomplishments!) or a research report (When one such as myself just ain't bothering with this...) (*“Writing Science”, 1*)

“I” before “E” except after “C”

Grammar and spelling are two hands closely linked together. You have sentence structure and the rule such as the title above on one hand, and then you have...spelling. With grammar, you can memorize simple little acronyms such as the famous “I” before “E”, except after “C”. But what about spelling?

*“I can't spell.”*

*“The word's too big.”*

*“How do you spell ‘hieroglyphics?’”*

When one is faced in such a ‘terrible’ situation, the best and often-used way to improve your spelling is to just practice with a dictionary. Oftentimes you find yourself browsing through so many pages, and your eyes just glance past a few words that you needed help with anyways...

If you don't know how to figure out the first 3 letters or so of the word, then maybe you shouldn't be using it in the first place. There are few ridiculously-hard words that don't give a hint of a vowel or a consonant in the beginning, and if you are using a word such as that, maybe you shouldn't be using it in the first place.

Easy-to-read dictionaries such as the popular “Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary” make it even easier to browse through that thick book you dread.

Practice really does makes perfect.

According to Christopher Paolini [Eragon, Eldest], [professional] editing is basically a person “tearing apart your manuscript with

a big smile and telling you all the while it's good for you”. (*“Writer's Digest”, 1*)

But he's right. Editing and revising, even if it's not your most favorite thing in the world, is good for your story or essay. Why?

*Number 1:* It gets rid of silly little mistakes on your rough draft, grammatical or spelling. Some people write as they are thinking, so there's not enough time for them to pay attention for correct spelling or grammar. When you go back to reread over your piece, then usually the mistakes come up. It's helpful to read backwards for spelling mistakes so you can concentrate more on each specific word. When you are scanning over your story from left to right, you're so accustomed to all the words you wrote down, so familiar to the flow of your story- whether it's lurching and halting along, or whether it flows smoother than yogurt- that everything just passes by you quickly. But reading backwards helps pick out certain spelling and grammatical mistakes that you wouldn't have found out otherwise.

*Number 2:* Most of the reason for revising and editing is because of number one, but when you have a fictional or narrative story, whether it's on the TAKS writing test or on your own time, it's vital to go back through your story and really edit. By editing, I mean by tightening plot lines, going back and making sure your characters stay within their personality, etc. Most writers just stay within safe, shallow revision: changing a few words here and there...maybe even changing a whole sentence or so. In grade school, your teachers may have forced you to do trifle, shallow revisions. In many ways, this is a waste of time and map color, but if you think that marking up your story gleefully to check for grammatical errors or “Proving-It!” (which works about...40% of the time), then so be it.

## So You Want To Be A Poet, eh?

by Incandescence

Prospective Poets,

Let me give you an idea of where you are and what you're up against. A picture of what's ahead, if you will. You have an interest in poetry, a desire to learn more about it, to write it. You're at the stage where you're learning the basic elements of poetry: line breaks, imagery, voice, construction. The ABCs.

Some time, if you're patient long enough and work long enough and if you're lucky (and yes, luck comes into it) eventually the elements will all come together for you. You'll read a poem one day and suddenly everything will "click", the "light goes on", you'll see what poetry is about.

One day you'll read a poem you've read so often you could quote it by heart. You'll pick it up, read it again, and suddenly it will be brand new. As if you'd never read it before. The "light goes on." You will suddenly see what the poet had been trying to get across to you all along. When that happens, two things will happen almost immediately.

The first is, you'll realize that every poem you've written up to that point is fatally flawed. Dreadful, in fact. Not to me or anyone at the YWS, not to your friends and family,

people who've liked and encouraged your work all this time, but to you.

The second is, you'll realize how awfully far you still have to go. How incredibly long the journey ahead is. It never ends, in fact. A lot of people get discouraged at this point.

If you're one of the few who decide to stick with it, here's a few more of the many many many discouraging things you're going to have to face.

You're going to discover what kind of poet you are. This is not necessarily a joyous discovery. I have talked about the time I discovered what kind of poet I was. I'd always wanted to be a Larkin or an Auden. As it turned out, my voice is much softer, much more sentimental, than I'd ever intended. It was such a shock to me I almost stopped writing altogether.

You'll discover what your limitations are. This is definitely not a joyous discovery. You'll realize there are some poems you simply can't write. Not now, not ever. They're beyond your range, beyond your capabilities.

What's it all mean? It means at some point, the sooner the better, you're going to have to decide what it is you want from poetry.

Want to get a few poems published in some

magazines? No problem. You don't even have to study for that one. There are a lot of editors out there who don't know much about poetry, either. You might even get a chap-book or two published.

Want to get a book or two published by a legitimate poetry press? BOA Editions? Houghton-Mifflin? Mmmm. Difficult but not impossible. The field's a bit crowded, though. For that one you're going to have to work, and work hard, recognize your limitations as you hit them and work with them until you overcome them.

Mainly, I stay with it because I don't have any choice. I can't not write. I can't not be around poets and poetry. I might as well try and not breathe. (And here's a major clue: If this isn't your reason too you may as well give up right now.)

I get to work at what I love, in "real-life", on the YWS, here in my classroom, the internet in general. I get to hang around with really great people and I get to see really good young poets blossom right before my eyes, before the rest of the world discovers them.

But all any of the members of YWS and teachers can do, is point you in the right direction, drop some hints, tell you the most obvious pitfalls to avoid. Whether or not you choose to believe or



*" I get to see  
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discovers them.."*

accept it is up to you. If you want easy applause and acceptance you can get that at a dozen other literary boards and newsgroups.

If you want to learn something about the ABCs of poetry. You've come to the right place. And if not here, there are other good teachers around and that's a fact. But you're going to have to learn to accept rejection, criticism and some blunt talking. Think that's tough? There's years of it ahead of you. Years! Now. Did someone say they had a poem to post?

# Harry Potter VII: Everyone Dies, So How To Deal With It?

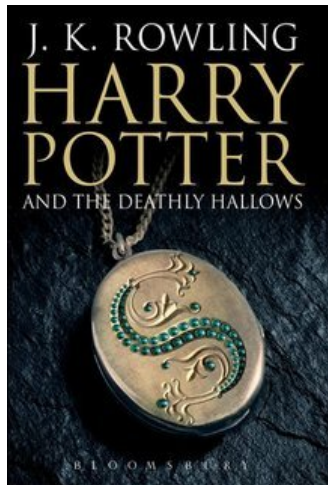
by Tyd

Hello there YWS! With the biggest book of our lifetime, and probably for generations to come, Harry Potter 7 will soon be zooming to long-awaited outstretched hands and we will finally find out the ending to a series that we, as readers and writers of fanfic, have grown up with over our teenager years. Of course, adults and younger children read the books too and have been following them for just as long as we have, but will they as older and younger viewers, feel the same heartache that we emotion-crazed teenagers feel?

We've always come to expect that the last book of Harry Potter will contain lots of deaths and tragedies, not only expect it but we also know it, due to the fantastic genius that is JKR who has said so herself. There will be deaths on both the good side and the bad side, but how are you going to cope, when let's say, your favourite character dies? You've probably gone over in your head that you will just turn the page and be brave, but will you really?

I remember reading Half-Blood prince and when learning that Dumbledore dies, it was and still is, a real shock. Not to mention that it was Severus Snape who killed him. And I can remember clearly, re-reading the same page over and over again wondering whether he did actually kill him. And I sat back, the book held loosely in my hands, feeling quite deflated.

Now Dumbledore isn't my favourite character and Book 7 being the last and final book in the series, my favourite character this time round has a bigger chance of being killed off, right? (For the record, my favourite has to be Hermione- mostly inspired by Emma Watson) So, I've decided to put some thoughts together of how you can deal with the anxiety of losing one of your favourite characters that you have grown up with over the last ten years or so.



1) Once you have finished the book, take a moment to let it all sink in. Remember, this is probably going to be the last time you see your character in a story, so you want to make the moment count. When he or she dies, you need to let it sink in. You need to tell yourself that your character has died, otherwise you will have this huge emotional gap inside of you- where you know your character has died, but you haven't really taken it into account.

2) Crying- Okay, most people will laugh at me for writing this, but when reading Harry Potter 7, it is okay to cry. Some people, including myself, will feel reluctant to cry because they are surrounded by family and friends when reading and it would be quite embarrassing. But really, crying is a great way to let go of something. It helps your body come to terms with what has happened and allows you to express the way you feel, without it being kept bundled up inside of you.

3) Take your time- I know, I shouldn't be telling fans to take their time when reading the book they have been waiting for at least a good two years, but take your time. Reading Harry Potter 7 may seem like a race to know what happens and what is going on, but think of

it this way: You will never, ever read a Harry Potter series like this again. JKR has said so herself that there will be no prequel of Harry Potter so take your time reading it. If you read it too fast, you won't be able to let it all sink in.

4) Forums- Message boards are a great way to talk about how you feel with other similar fans. Especially after reading Harry Potter 7, I'm sure there are going to be thousands of fans out there who will share the same emotions and feelings as you, and talking about them is a great way to let go of them. You can also find comfort in what other people say, so interacting and talking about the death of a character is great, staying in your room all day reliving the moments to yourself is not good.

5) Re-reading- Once it's all over, you're going to feel empty. You're going to feel like it is all over and that you have nothing to live for anymore. I remember after finishing Half-Blood Prince that I felt like I had nothing to look forward to anymore, at least not until another two years or so. But one of the nicest things was that I could re-read the book. And believe me, re-reading the book is so much better. At first read, you are inclined to read really fast and not take things in as you would if you took your time, so I suggest re-reading, maybe a week or so after you first read it.

So, there are your five tips to dealing with the heartache. I'd also suggest that your mom and dad take away all pills and sharp objects, in case you feel like suicidal. I hope that isn't that case. If it is, please re-read what I've said until it has sunk in!

I also think there is going to be a number of hotlines set-up to help teenagers deal with the loss of a character, so you should try looking for those if you feel this article didn't really help.



# Reviews & Recommendations

## Summertime Reads

by Firestarter

Summer and literature go together perfectly – think Shakespeare's sonnets. Reading time is increased dramatically during the summer for many people, and I remember my summer holidays were spent delving in and forgetting myself in many books. Because it is essentially youth that I always think of when summer comes along – it reminds me of innocence of joy and freedom. So when I think of summertime reads it is expected that I lean towards those books that take me back to those days without responsibility. The *Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky is one of those books. I find it hard to ever talk about how good this book is without mentioning the more famous *Catcher in the Rye*; however, Chbosky's book is on par with Salinger's. It is the one of the few books I have read that I could ever properly empathise with as a confused adolescent. Set in the form of letters written to an anonymous friend, we are shown the tales of young Charlie, different, shy and unpopular, as he makes his way in high school. Another book in this vein is *Stargirl* by Jenny Spinelli. Similarly, this is reminiscent of childhood, of the struggles and the joys. I highly recommend it to a young

reader. It is the story of an unconventional girl that breaks the ordained structure of the typical school, because she is so unusual and she likes being unusual. At some points sad and at others funny, *Stargirl* pulls at exactly the right kind of strings – it destroys the idea of popularity, and I congratulate it for doing so. A must read for any school sufferer at the least, something everybody can escape from in the sunny months.

Summer also reminds me of the outside, of flowers and trees and flowing grass and sunny meadows. A book that always seems to encapsulate this well is *Stardust* by Neil Gaiman. Tristran escapes into the magical world of Faerie to find a star for the girl he loves. Written in the typically atypical style of Gaiman, *Stardust* evokes memories of sun-kissed meadows and sunny lands. At its heart it is a simple adventure story, but there is more to it than that. Gaiman always includes many depths and layers to his novels and this is no exception. There is one another part of nature that will always make me think of summer. The sea, with its waves and its sunny reflections, ranks high on my list for summertime. So



<http://www.durhamtownship.com/portfolio/archives/002413.php>

it is inevitable that tales of seafaring is up there too. *Master and Commander* by Patrick O'Brian and *Mr. Midshipman Hornblower* by CS Forester are two prime examples, both the first chronological titles in their respective series. Patrick O'Brian is the master of authenticity, and his stories bring about a real taste of the Age of Sail. Famously made into a brilliant film, *Master and Commander* is a book that is at first hard to get into but by the end leaves you wishing for more. It's a good thing there are 19 other books to get through afterwards, as you'll be scrambling for more stories of Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin sailing the seas. CS Forester's creation *Hornblower* is no less a great series, but it errs more towards traditional adventure rather than historical correctness. Both

are terrific for lying back on the beach and staring out at the ocean and wishing you were sailing with them.

Finally, who could forget Harry Potter? The seventh and final book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, for those who have been hiding beneath a rock on one of the moons of Jupiter, comes to stores on the twenty-first of July, smack in the middle of the summer months. With so many things to explain and conclude, it is almost like an episode of *LOST*. Let's hope Rowling will pull her socks up and deliver a book that deserves the hype.

These are just a few titles you could read this coming summer. Whatever you do, leave some time for a good book! Lie in the sun and enjoy. When you get older you'll realise how much you miss all the free time.

## More Recommendations

### Procrastinating on Summer Reading

by Crysi and Meshugenah

A Separate Peace, The Poisonwood Bible, Sophie's World... Between lounging in the sun and sleeping in until the late afternoon, who has time to do summer reading assignments?

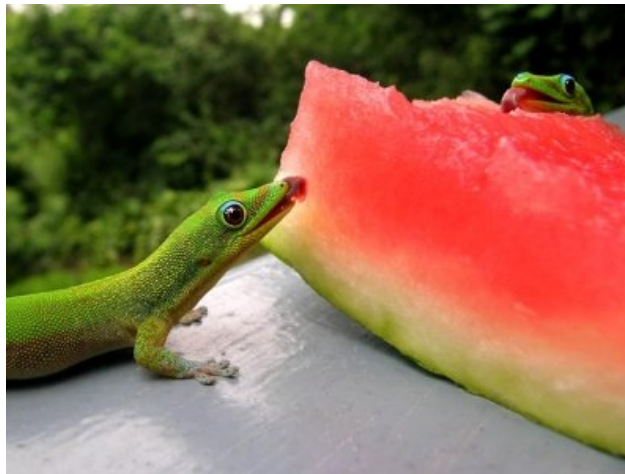
Why do Teachers give us the assignments a few weeks before the end of the school year, anyway? Everyone knows we're not going to even start looking for the book until August. Heck, teachers are lucky if we even crack the book before the first test! We're far more likely to "refer to our friends Cliff and Spark," as my AP Language and Composition teacher used to say.

Of course, this procrastination is not without consequences, although it can prove very entertaining to those not under the burden of the assignment (like family, friends not in those classes, and those rare over-achieving-valedictorian types). Especially those "rare over-achieving-valedictorian types." And of course, being the marvelous AP students we are, we're friends with them. Nothing like peer pressure to make anyone not want to read the book -- I mean, honestly. If you know the only character you like is going to die ahead of time, why bother? The pool looks more inviting by the minute (unless the story involved the drowning of said character).

Students under stress (duress?) have been known to invent very interesting positions in which to read the book. One such position is upside-down on the couch, with the head hanging over the

cushion and the legs over the back of the couch. This causes a rush of blood to the head, which, the student hopes, will increase productivity and give the ability to read at approximately 10,000 words per minute. Many students can be found in this position about a week before the start of school. This position is accompanied by many whines and groans and checking of the clock (and calculating how many pages are left).

Another such position, found in more



<http://www.zampanosbits.com/>

critical cases, is the universal rock-in-the-corner. The book can be either opened or closed, but the main point is that the student rocks back and forth in the corner, generally muttering such gibberish as, "No more Dickens..." or, "Which is real, the book or my life?" Occasional sobs may be heard. The outbreaks of this case increase dramatically the night before the test.

My favorite position would have to be the "I'm at camp and there's only a week left until school starts" frantic reading. This is especially effective if the camp is in the middle of nowhere, or communication of any kind is forbidden.

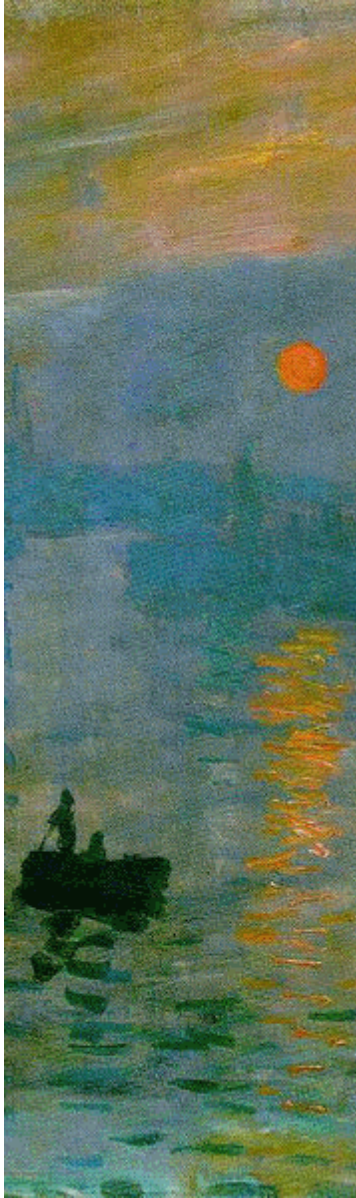
Then there's always the "connection test." To put it simply, it's the test of how many people a student knows and can call to find the answers to accompanying worksheets. The philosophy seems to be that if every student read just a few pages of the book, and if one knows enough people, one can simply go through the list of phone numbers and gain all the answers before class starts. It also tests friendships: those who don't have a lot of connections hope they're good enough friends with those who do.

so the answers may be passed on as a sign of good will. This is also called a very creative "cheating ring" -- very popular with the AP Biology and AP US History students, who would call it an "improvised study group" as opposed to going to "our good friends Cliff and Spark."

Of course, the obvious answer to the summer reading problem may be to get the book early on and try reading a few pages every day. This ensures that the

book will be finished before the first day of school and prevents stress. The other "obvious" answer would be to read the darn book as soon as the assignment's given -- but where's the fun in that? Plus, the poor fools who take that route tend to forget the book entirely by the end of summer and has to re-read it entirely. And really, who wants to suffer through The Poisonwood Bible once, let alone twice?

But honestly, who wants to actually be productive and efficient? I'd rather sit by the pool and sip my iced tea, thank you very much.



"Impression, Sunrise" by  
Claude Monet (1872)

## May 2007 Contest Results

In May 2007, users were asked to respond to Claude Monet's impressionist painting, "Impression, Sunrise" for the monthly contest. Indeed, the painting is the inspiration for the Impressionist art movement in the late 1800s.

Entries did not need to follow any specified form. Members were instead asked to simply respond to the

artwork.

Judging were write me, Poor Imp, Jennafina and Claudette. It was a tough decision all around as all of the entries were excellent. However, we are proud to now announce the winners.

First prize goes to Trident for the flash fiction piece, "The Harbor." Second prize goes to Sam for the short

story, "[DORIAN'S Gray]." Third prize goes to Kylan for the flash fiction piece, "Burnt Sky."

For more information, check out the "May 2007 Contest Results" thread in the "Monthly Contests" subforum of "Contests." Thanks to all who participated and to the judges!

## Changes In May

A lot of changes were made to the Young Writers Society throughout the month of May. What follows is a partial listing of what was added or changed.

**New Design:** If you're using the default template, you'll notice a total redesign. All the main links have been moved to the top, which is now a very nice-looking,

graphical banner. With the new design, it should be easier to navigate around YWS.

**Knowledge Base:** Though still somewhat bare, the YWS Knowledge Base was added in May. Look for it in the Resources section, and if you have something to add to it, then go ahead!

**Young Writers Market:** Although this is still somewhat bare as well, YWS now boasts a Young Writers Market. Look here for publishing opportunities.

**Online Resources:** A list of sites on the Web to order help you with your writing, or just cool places to check out. If you got a homepage, feel free to add it!

## The Young Writers Literary Journal

You may have heard that the Young Writers Society is soon planning to publish its own Literary Journal. These are not mere rumors.

On January 31, 2008, YWS will be publishing its own Literary Journal. At this time, many details have not yet been worked out, including even the name! However, it is likely that the journal will be sold on a site

like Lulu.com

The Journal will consist of 10 short stories / novellas, and will also contain 5 to 10 poems. It may also contain artwork, and a Reviews section. However, things may change as the staff for the Journal begins putting it together this Fall.

Submissions for the Journal will be accepted beginning

this Fall, at which time guidelines will be issued. If your work is accepted, you will receive a free copy of the Journal.

Regarding cost, it is anticipated that one copy of the Journal will cost between \$15 and \$20. Although like everything else, that is not final.

So get ready! It is coming!



## Poetry

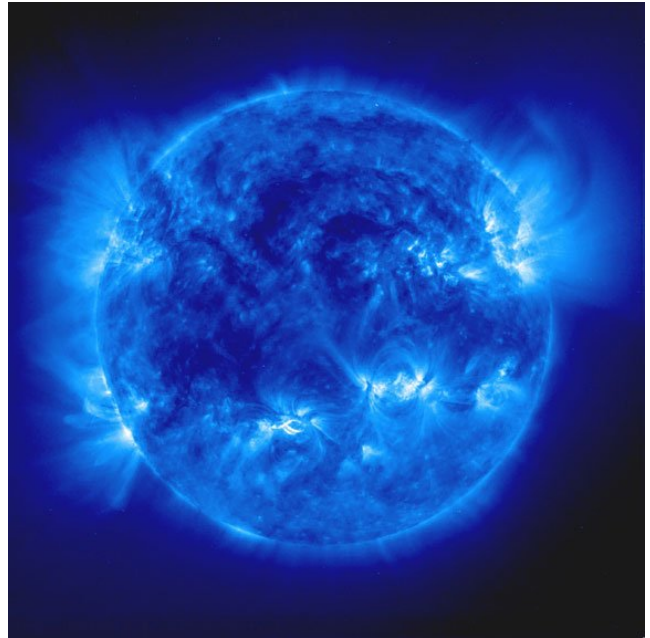
### The Sun by mariahneu

A luminous beacon of hope for the meek,  
The light end of the tunnel, sinners seek,  
The world's clock strikes noon, burning shirtless backs,  
Of unfortunate slaves carrying baskets and sacks.

War-hungry leaders seeking darkness, not light,  
The world's everlasting flame, forever burning bright,  
Farmers cry out and pray for plentiful crops,  
A loud silence of many, the world's clock stops.

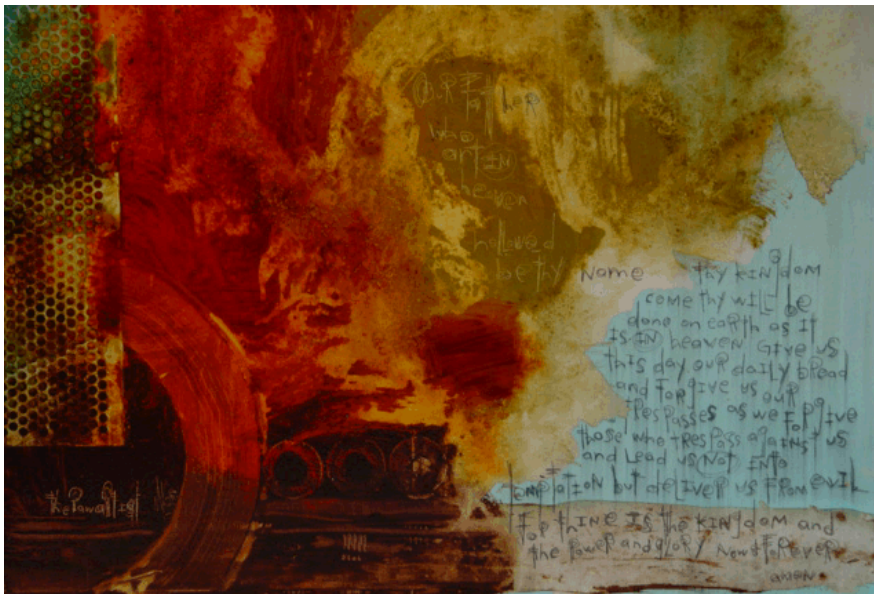
Amidst chaos and destruction, the beacon is lost,  
The end of the Olympics, the world's discus tossed,  
Darkness falls upon the arrogant world below,  
In revenge, the beacon, extinct, drops its halo.

The world stops turning, as the beacon expires,  
Gloom falls upon bustling cities and great empires,  
Silence and blindness, not a cry nor a tear,  
Sooner than you think, Judgment Day draws near.



### (Not) My Prayer by Ofour

I sit and kneel and  
Pray with arms held in  
Reverence. Church-learned  
Creeds spew forth unbidden  
Hiding real, beseeching  
Angry words. Only after is  
There time for me to speak  
Without the clouds of  
Pre-formed apologies  
Hiding sorrow in recital.  
Then I pray, for me,  
Others, happiness and  
Yet know my faith to  
Be false and blind.  
My prayer, possession  
Emphasised, is silence  
In the brain, just a  
Pause, wait for that  
Eternal, mystical reply  
Which cannot be heard  
But is there just the  
Same.



The Lord's Prayer by TheRawArtist  
<http://www.therawartistgallery.com/>



## Heard In The Forums

### Fiction Discussion: Finishing Stories

Firestarter: Just keep writing. I make it sound easy, but it's not. Writing isn't easy. You have to keep plugging at it. If you gave up a sport after five seconds because you couldn't play very well, you'd never be very good. It's the same with writing. Just keep going. Force your way through. Finish. Edit. Repeat.

Claudette: Shut off your internal editor and crap radar. Just write it. Keep in mind that no matter what you put on the paper it can be changed, and made better, later.

Jcobessed: If you start to dislike it, push your way through it, it'll be worth it to be able to say 'Yeah, I finished!' Even if the end product isn't going to be published. A lot of really good writers first books weren't publishable. Writing takes practice, don't expect perfectionism to come easy.

Jessicarabbit: I find that it really helps to take a break and work on something else. For example, I usually have at least three stories kicking around in my head at a time, so when I get frustrated with what I'm working

on, I grab another notebook and scribble down a few ideas for another story. It helps me to look at things from a different point-of-view, and gives me a goal, because I won't let myself start this new story until I finish the one I'm working on, which drives me bonkers, but motivates me.

Roaming Shadow: I make pages and pages of notes and possible scenes, figuring out as much as I can before I even sit down. I work a lot of things out ahead of time.

### Poetry Discussion: Emo Poetry vs. Good Poetry

Sabradan: Emo poems are what I like to call TTAP. Typical Teenage Angst Poetry. Not good. Good poetry is much harder to describe, so well, I'll just say its...not TTAP.

Cadmium: Emo poetry is too preoccupied with being "emo". While the point of poetry is to present emotion, it has to be done subtly and in a way that makes the reader feel. Emo poetry is too busy going on about how life sucks to even notice the reader.

Whence: Emo poems make the reader laugh. Actual poems make the reader share the emotion of the writer, at least to some extent. Emo poetry is pretentious, pathetic, and laughable. And I loathe it with a passion.

Incandescence: I don't think "emo" is a valid class of poetry.

Cadmium (2): Emo poetry is a class of poetry, sort of in the way that the cafeteria bagels can be considered food. The only difference is that the bagels are more memorable.

Thriving Fire: In emo poetry, the 'feelings' (and I use the word loosely) that the poet feels are blown up, taken out of context, until its so extreme that nobody (except the poet him/herself) can feel what is trying to be said.

Claudette: The emo-ness comes from the poorly written quality of it. I think, though, even if you can relate to it, if it is badly written, I dislike it more than relate to it but...that is me.

I sis: I think something can technically be called "emo" because it's about teenage heartbreak or suicide and still be a good poem.

### Official Polls: Goodnight...

Emooly: \*tucks her can opener into bed, kissing it softly\* Goodnight can opener, I loooove you!

Matt Bellamy: Can opener!

Lilith: What do you mean? I always say goodnight to my can opener.

Little Tin Fish: Can opener of course! \*huggles\* it gives me

baked beans...

Achitaka: It is so the can opener. Ah, can opener where would I be without you.

Firestarter: Pat. It's always Pat.

Write me: Moon is definitely ftw!!

# Humo(u)r

## Satire: How To Become A Mod

by Griffinkeeper

Hello everyone, this is Griffinkeeper from Big Brother. Over the past few weeks, we've been getting all sorts of questions about the Mod Squad: how can I become a mod, what do I need to do? What is that smell? The answer to the last one is simple: you don't want to know. The others I will gladly answer now.

To become a mod is a very difficult thing indeed. The first thing that happens is that we perform a background check on you. From there, we use a loophole in a homeland security bill to grab your personal information.

Having finished stage one, we begin stage two by covertly observing you. If you do anything unusual, it is carefully noted. In particular, we want to see how well you are able to delete threads in real life, as this is a good indicator of how well you'll do as a moderator.

Finally, we perform a medical scan. Nate uses his contacts with the aliens to abduct prospective candidates from their beds. After which, the candidates are given an intense medical examination which we won't go into detail about here. Suffice to say that this is the most important examination.

After all this, candidates are contacted to take a five hundred point exam. The content of the exam is constantly changed. Sometimes it just covers YWS history, but other tests that have been given were on second order differential equations. You never know what Nate will put on it.

After all this, members of the current mod squad will then vote to see if you are worthy. If they agree, then you are as good as in.

While this may be discouraging to some people, this process is necessary to guarantee that members of Big Brother are at the highest quality possible.

## Modern Language Association

by Incandescence

(A DUDE is typing on his laptop.)

"As I have proven, there is a huge body of evidence why George Washington was the best president ever. The cherry tree thing, the Revolutionary War, wooden teeth -- it all points to one thing: a legendary influence on the history of our United States of America. In conclusion, Abraham Lincoln, eat your heart out."

(He hits the "print" button.)

(Two black-clad AGENTS with rifles and night-vision goggles CRASH through the skylight on ropes.)

AGENT 1: FREEZE! MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION!

DUDE: Jesus!

AGENT 2: STEP AWAY FROM THE PRINTER!

DUDE: What the heck are you doing in my apartment?

AGENT 1: You know what you did.

DUDE: I didn't even know I had a skylight!

(Agent 2 swipes the page out of the printer.)

AGENT 2: This isn't cited correctly. It isn't in correct MLA format.

DUDE: There's glass all over my floor.

AGENT 1: Hey! Eyes FRONT!

AGENT 2: You know what improper citing does? Do you have any idea what it does to America?

DUDE: Nothing?

AGENT 1: THIS NEEDS TO BE EDITED RIGHT NOW.

DUDE: Don't all caps me, dude.

AGENT 2: You need to comply right now. It's in the rules.

DUDE: What rule?

AGENT 2: CODE M-1 PAGE 63 IN HACKER.

AGENT 1: CODE M-1, SUCKER! HACKER WROTE ABOUT IT! ON THE GROUND!

DUDE: What--

(Agent 1 shoots the dude in the neck with a tranquilizer dart.)

AGENT 1: Yippee-ki-yay!

AGENT 2: Aww yeah! Cite it!

AGENT 1: Die Hard! Dir. John McTiernan! Perf. Bruce Willis! Film! 20th Century Fox, 1988!

(They high-five.)

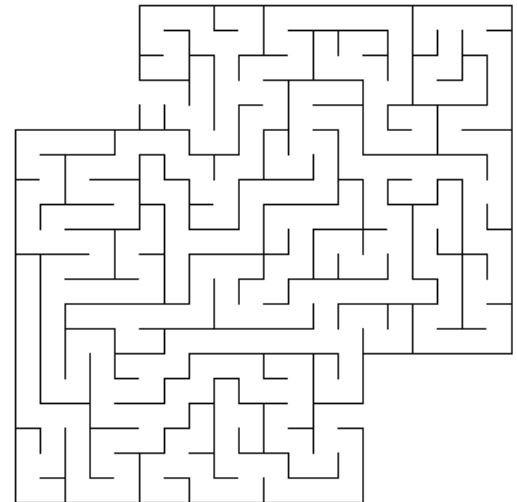
# Humo(u)r

## Literary Terms Crossword Puzzle

N X D P S M Q C J K E S Y R D  
 Z O E C O A O R C G C Y Y E Q  
 Y D I T I N T A E N N M M F L  
 H G I T F A B I O B A B Y M F  
 S F O L A H L I R U N O R E R  
 A K I L S C T L P E O L E T B  
 R C G A A C I V E B S Q G A S  
 T X L X I N J F Z G N P A P K  
 J F T D P W A W I T O E M H T  
 H Y P E R B O L E N C R I O P  
 W N O I S U L L A E O W Y R A  
 S I M I L E L E X H U S W W K  
 V Z C J Z J W U L I F M R L A  
 D W H Y I P K B Z X P E R E D  
 O S F K K L F R U V Q A B E P

- 1) ALLEGORY
- 2) ALLUSION
- 3) ANALOGY
- 4) CONFLICT
- 5) CONSONANCE
- 6) DICTION
- 7) FLASHBACK
- 8) HYPERBOLE
- 9) IMAGERY
- 10) METAPHOR
- 11) MOTIF
- 12) PERSONIFICATION
- 13) SATIRE
- 14) SIMILE
- 15) SYMBOL

## Maze

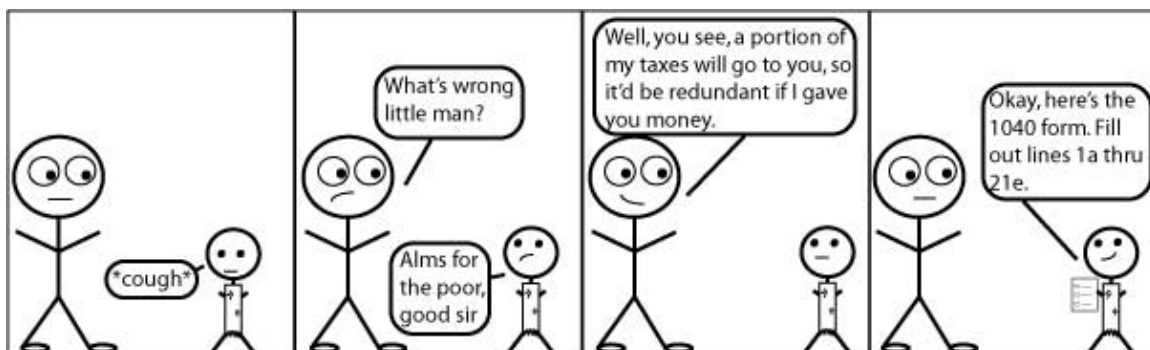


## Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1		25	20					4			7	21					9		16			3		18	

"I D 'T W A T T A C I I M M R T  
 4 20 10 6 16 3 1 6 16 16 10 1 25 5 4 26 2 26 4 21 21 10 9 16  
 A L I T Y T R M Y W R ; I W A T  
 1 7 4 16 18 16 5 9 10 8 15 5 21 18 3 10 9 12 4 3 1 6 16  
 T A C I I T T R T  
 16 10 1 25 5 4 26 2 26 4 16 16 5 9 10 8 15 5 6 10 16  
 D Y I . " - W D Y A L L  
 20 18 4 6 15 3 10 10 20 18 1 7 7 26 6

## Sticks by Nate



Young Writers Society  
<http://www.youngwriterssociety.com>

E-mail  
[webmaster@youngwriterssociety.com](mailto:webmaster@youngwriterssociety.com)

*"We are a species that needs and wants to understand who we are. Sheep lice do not seem to share this longing, which is one reason why they write so little."*

- Anne Lamont

## Squills Staff

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Nate

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Lilly03

Editors:

Firestarter

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Griffinkeeper

Incandescence

Firestarter

Meshugenah

## Book Club News

The Book Club is proud to be hosting its first on-going event, a Harry Potter read-along, inspired by Meep.

The summer dates for the event are: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* discussion starts the 4th of June.

*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* starts the 25th of June.

*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* starts the 16th of July.

The book of the month for

June will be *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment* by James Patterson. Please see the Book Club forum for more information.

## About The Young Writers Society

Created in November 2004, the Young Writers Society (YWS) is the largest dedicated site for young writers.

As part of the site's ongoing

efforts to promote writing as a pastime, dozens of forums for all types of writing from poetry to screenplays are available.

Since the site started, YWS

has morphed from a simple forum without its own domain name to a full fledged website that makes other young writer websites look extremely puny by comparison!