

Of Special Interest

YWS' second birthday is on November 14th.

Welcome Snoink and Poor Imp as the two newest additions to Big Brother!

YWS stands for Young Writers Society!

Inside

Griffinkeeper provides some satirical advice on writing angst and drama on page 2.

Incandescence talks about capitalization, line breaks, and why ee cummings was interested by not enlightening on page 3.

October Flash Fiction Contest winners and November's contest on page 4.

YWS' birthday smash activities information on page 4.

And more...!



General Announcements

Squills E-Zine

Like the new format of the newsletter? Get used to it. Don't like it? Well, get used to it. Right now, we're looking hard for more submissions, so contact Nate if you got something!

Featured Member

Big Brother would like to congratulate Myth and Incandescence for winning the bi-weekly points contests.

To be the featured member, you could have a high point count, do some extraordinary posts, or bribe Griffinkeeper into submission.

YWS' Second Birthday

YWS was born out of the jumbled mess of Nate's mind on November 14th sometime around 7 pm. Thus, starting November 14th and continuing for a week after that, we'll have contests,

prizes, some activities, and some new features for everyone to enjoy!

Tamora Pierce

Tamora Pierce recently gave the Young Writers Society an interview. If you haven't read it yet, then you need to mosey on over to the YWS homepage. At the top, underneath the date, you'll find a link to the interview. Got ideas for future authors? Just contact Nate.

Editor's Note

by Nate

It's another edition of the Young Writer's Society newsletter, but this time around, I felt like doing something different, as you can plainly see.

I hope to keep going with the current format, but it's really only going to work if people submit articles for it. I can't promise that each submission will get published, but unless there's a huge volume, there's a big chance that it will.

If you are going to submit something, though, there are a couple rules to follow. Number one is to keep it under 500 words, and the shorter, the better. In fact, if it's only 100 words long, there's a very good chance it will be published.

Also, grammar check! It does not take long to read over what you wrote, and it will save me a lot of time.

If you want to submit an article, simply either PM it to me (Nate) or send it to

webmaster@youngwriterssociety.com.

I am also looking for a lot of people to help out. At the moment, I am primarily looking for staff editors; that is, other people to do the grammar checking. However, the Squills e-zine also needs some dedicated columnists (ask Abby, book reviews, etc.), and even a graphics designed or two. Again, if you're interested simply PM me or shoot me an e-mail.



"Day time TV is perhaps one of the most unappreciated methods of putting drama and angst into your stories."

Writing Angst and Drama

by Griffinkeeper

Angst is perhaps the hardest thing to write for an author, since it requires a lot of personal experience and heartbreak to write. Fortunately, we writers have a tool that allows us to do this with ease: day time TV.

Day time TV is perhaps one of the most unappreciated methods of putting drama and angst into your stories. What can be more dramatic than "My daughter is a stripper for my brother?" TV is also good for characters, especially Japanese anime. Japanese anime is a gold mine for the angst writer.

Of course, this tool is impractical for most young writers. We're in school most of the day! So, for you school yard writers, here is a tip: get a boy/girl friend.

It doesn't really matter who it is, in fact, the poorer the

quality the better when it comes to writing angst. All the pain and suffering you go through will make you rich once you publish that book full of your account of said pain and suffering. Make sure to be dramatic and angsty yourself; this will give you better material for your story. It is a general rule that you should write off personal experience, even when you say you aren't.

Other good ideas for your research is to betray your friends, take up drugs, and have sex with anything that moves. It could easily drive your writing up to the next level.

Confusion and tragedy should be a huge part of your story, so it is only naturally that you should confuse your reader. To emphasize the confusion your character is experiencing, disregard all

the common rules of grammar. This is important because nothing should get between you and expressing yourself. To further the confusion, use flowing imagery that describes the tiniest of details in depth, so as to show off how much work you've put into it.

To finish off this little guide I have one final suggestion for your writing: suicide. People love it when suicidal characters make the extra leap. After reading through your story, people may find suicide as a relief. Other people are sadists who want to see your characters die painfully, despite your dramatic portrayal of their sorrows throughout the entire book. It should be pointed out that those sadists are often critiquers. Don't pay any attention to them; they just get in the way between you and your personal expression.

Who And What Is Big Brother?

Back in January 2005, when the Young Writers Society was scarcely two months old, the moderator squad began talking about a possible name.

Several suggestions came up. There was "Spooks," "YWS Watchdogs," and "The Administration." However, faith, one of the first

moderators, proposed something along the lines of 1984 by George Orwell. So, the name of Big Brother flowed from that idea.

So Big Brother has been the name for the moderator squad since January 2005. In that time, there have been many moderators that have come and gone, such

as Korin (left four days after the site opened), faith (still on from time to time), and WinterGrimm (left).

The current members are: *Areida*, *Chevy*, *Crysi*, *ElectricBlueMonkey*, *Griffinkeeper*, *Matt Bellamy*, *Meshugenah*, *Phoenix*, *Poor Imp* and *Snoink*.

Linebreaks and Capitaliz(s)ation

by Incandescence

ee cummings didn't invent it, but he certainly made it popular. I'm talking about using lower case in poems and experimenting -- and that's all it is and ever was, experimenting -- with different line breaks and clever tricks with punctuation.

What the hordes of bad poets who have since followed cummings' lead don't seem to realize is that, in hindsight and with the perspective of distance, the cummings experiments are generally regarded as having failed miserably. How so? Well, for instance, how many people do you know who can recite from memory a single one of cummings' sonnets, some of the most beautiful in the English language?

There must be, somewhere, an example of poetry that's

demonstrably improved by strictly using lower case, but I haven't seen it yet, and I've been searching for a long time. What I have seen, countless times, in classrooms and here on The YWS, are poems that have been very much improved -- if nothing else, for readability's sake -- by the addition of proper capitals and punctuation. Try it for yourself. I'm not making up this stuff.

As for tricks with punctuation, let's look at what is probably one of the most famous examples of all. It's a poem about a mouse, from ee cummings' book, *is 5*, first published in 1926. There's a line in the poem which reads

gr(oo)ving the room's
Silence)this like

and back in 1926 -- and ever since, it seems -- this particular poem has been held up as proof that cummings' experiments were successful. "Look," say the devotees, "The two 'o's in parentheses are the mouse's eyes peeping out!" And yes, that's precisely what cummings intended. And yes, it is clever, and yes, it is amusing. The first time. Perhaps even the twenty-first time. But there comes a point when it is no longer effective or amusing or clever. It becomes, as most of cummings' work does in the long run, merely annoying.

And that's a shame, because beneath the flim-flam and visual three card monte, there was a real poet lurking there. How many of cummings' sonnets did you say you could recite by heart?



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Why Pat Buchanan?

One of the most common questions that always comes up is, "Who is Pat Buchanan?" He's almost always an option in the official polls.

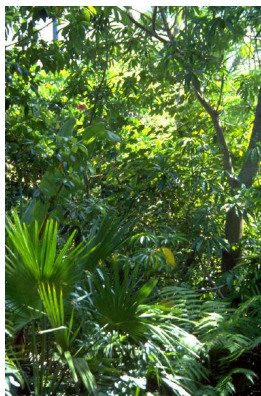
For many of those who were only ten years old or younger by the end of the 1990s and have nothing but vague memories of the 2000 U.S. Presidential election,

it's a good question.

For a long time, Pat Buchanan was one of those perennial Presidential candidates. In 1992 and 1996, he ran as a Republican, and got trounced in the primaries both times. Tired from being trounced, he ran as the Reform Party candidate in 2000.

Then in 2000, there was a lot of confusion in Florida because some people couldn't figure out how to vote for their guy. It was a joke at the time that people who meant to vote for Al Gore, accidentally voted for Pat Buchanan.

So why Pat Buchanan?
Because it's funny!



October Flash Fiction Contest

In October, the Young Writers Society held a flash fiction contest. For it, your piece had to be less than 500 words and Halloween-related in some way.

Since points are reset every two weeks now, it no longer makes any sense to give away points as a prize (although, it never really did make sense).

So instead, first prize is now a notebook with either Bobo's or Galatea's YWS logo on it. Second prize is a bumper stick with Bobo's YWS shield.

Firestarter, Areida, and Meshugenah read through all the entries, and it took them some time to settle on the top three because so many were deserving of the

top three. But finally, here they are!

First Place: "The Scarecrows' March" by Kel

Second Place: "Halloween Friday" by backgroundbob

Third Place: "Satisfaction" by Phorcys

Congratulations to all who participated!

November's Six Word Story Contest

Of all of his works, Ernest Hemingway called the following story his absolute best:

For sale: Baby shoes, never worn.

It's simple and it's very short, but it says a lot.

Many writers since have taken a crack at besting

Hemingway in the six word story arena, but none have quite managed.

So, it's time for everyone at the Young Writers Society to take a crack! All contest entries should be just six words long, and should be posted in the "Monthly Contests" subforum (under contests on the community page), and in the "Six Word

Stories" thread that you'll find there. One entry per person!

First place is a YWS t-shirt. Second place is a YWS mug. Third place is a lovely pat on the back!

Good luck! Since this only involves a minute of your time, you have no excuse not to participate!

YWS Birthday Smash

The Young Writers Society turns 2 on November 14th. This means a week long fest of activities going from the 14th to the 21st!

YWS Birthday Forum

Look for a specific forum just for the Birthday smash on the Community page. There'll be activities, and plenty of stuff to talk about.

Presents!

More of Bobo's templates will be added soon, along with more templates for your blog.

Also, Nate is working on one very big surprise. A word of caution: not everyone will care because of the nature of the surprise. It's not a

new addition, and it doesn't involve changing anything. But a large number of people are going to like it.

YWS Awards

Not really awards, but more like, "Who is most likely to become an astronaut?" More info coming soon!

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

E-mail
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

Information On User Levels

Administrator

A site admin handles the duties of ensuring that the Young Writers Society runs well day in and day out.

Moderator

These are people that ensure

all discussions are civil, that all topics are in the right place, and that YWS is an orderly place.

Mentor

Always out there answering questions and handling low-level moderator duties.

Greeters

Exactly what the title suggests! They greet new users and welcome them to YWS.

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!