

# TEXT EDUCATION

By: Celeste D'Luna

**H**ello again my darlings. Celeste D'Luna welcomes you again to my fabulous library to offer you advice on writing. Please join me as I water the large ferns near the window while we talk.

This issue, we will talk about coming up with ideas for writing or brainstorming. While some of us are lucky enough to be born with amazing stories, crying to be told, many of us have to search deep within to find the words that want out. Being a writer is not just about being a creative soul. Writing takes concentration, my dears, concentration and discipline.

For me, making time to write is like making time to exercise. When I think to myself, "Darling Celeste, to wear fabulous clothes you must get down on the floor and sweat," I am repulsed. I do not want to even think of it. But, if I just schedule a time to do it and just get started, before I know it, my body feels strong. I need the stretch and pull to feel well. Writing is the same. If you think and think about how to write, you will put it off and find yourself at an afternoon matinee. If you schedule a time to write and just make yourself do it, something will click in your brain and you will suddenly find yourself craving more time to do it.

One way to get that rush, my darlings, is to set a free writing goal everyday. Tell yourself you will sit down with paper and pen and write for 15 minutes without stopping. You must never take the pen from the paper during that time. Set an alarm if you need to so you may forget about the clock. You must not edit or correct spelling. If you cannot think of something to write down, just write, "I cannot think of anything to write." During free writing, I have found my mind taking tangents to memories I thought I had long forgotten. Some of them are even worthy of inspiring whole stories, while others are not quite appropriate for younger audiences. Try this for at least a week. You will most definitely be pleased with the results.

Another way to get your creative juices flowing, my dears, is to use writing prompts. I know you naughty ones have turned up your noses at this idea before thinking, "I am an artist. I do not need someone to tell me what to write." Well, Celeste tells you to "get over yourself, darling."

Using a writing prompt is a way to get your brain out of the ugly rut you create by writing from your own perspective all of the time. If you love koala bears and only write about holding, loving, or being a koala bear, you are limiting the potential for your writing to grow. But, you say to Celeste, "I am an expert of koala bears. It is what I know." And Celeste says to you, "Then write about being a eucalyptus leaf as it is being eaten by a koala bear, or a car dealership run entirely by koala bears." As writer's we must be able to examine the world from different perspectives, not just our own. (Read Russell Edson's *The Wounded Breakfast* at this link: <http://www.webdelsol.com/LITARTS/edson/> and his poem *With Sincerest Regrets* at <http://sacredtoilet.blogspot.com/2007/12/with-sincerest-regrets-by-russell-edson.html> for an example of writing about something familiar from a different perspective.)

We must be observers of the mundane and describe these things in rich ways so that the reader may feel, see, hear, smell, and taste where our story or poem takes place. Using a writing prompt provides practice for doing this without the pressure of coming up with a good idea to write about. Ironically, my dears, you may find that using writing prompts results in some of the best writing you've ever done for just that reason.

For writing prompts, try the following sites:

**<http://www.writersdigest.com/WritingPrompts/>**  
**<http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/writingexercises/tp/writingprompts.htm>**

Or just Google: “writing prompts” or “story starters”

Please excuse me, my darlings, Celeste must attend to other things. I have some furniture that needs to be re-arranged and the lovely young moving man has arrived to provide his services. Ah, his muscular body does light the fire of my imagination.

So go now and set a free writing goal for yourself and try a writing prompt. See where your mind takes you when you let it wander. As for me, I might write a provocative scene involving a handsome man and a certain, hot-blooded columnist.