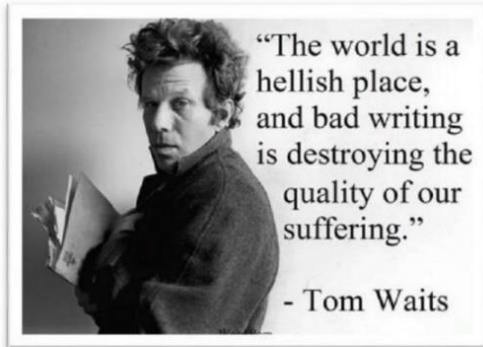


Creative Writing Workshop



- Fiction
- Memoir
- Non-fiction
- Poetry
- Journaling



- The Street Lit Authors Club -

1:00 Saturday afternoons
At the ARCH in Conference Room A
(Coffee & snacks, too!) www.StreetLit.Org

"Whether your purpose for writing is artistic expression, communication with friends and family, the healing of the inner life, or achieving public recognition for your art – the foundation is the same: the claiming of yourself as an artist/writer and the strengthening of your writing voice through practice, study, and helpful response from other writers."

~ From Pat Schneider's *Writing Alone and with Others* ~

Pat Schneider's Five Essential Creative Writing Affirmations:

1. Everyone has a strong, unique voice.
 2. Everyone is born with creative genius.
 3. Writing as an art form belongs to all people, regardless of economic class or educational level.
 4. The teaching of craft can be done without damage to a writer's original voice or artistic self-esteem.
 5. *A writer is someone who writes.*
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General Operating Principles of the Street Lit Authors Club:

- ☺ All writing is treated as fiction. This means that when we discuss our work, even if it is written from an *I* standpoint, we refer to that *I* as the *narrator*, the *character*, or the *speaker*.
- ☺ No one has to read if they don't want to.
- ☺ When someone is reading their work, listen respectfully, quietly, and attentively, please. *Oohs* and *aahs*, laughter, etc., are normal. Chit chat, phone calls, loud noises, or interruptions are not.
- ☺ The author is best served by *listening to comments* rather than explaining their work. After you've read a piece, just listen, take notes, and absorb.
- ☺ A listener can pass, or just say "I like it," "Come back to me, please?" or "Good job," etc. No one should feel "on the spot" if they need an extra moment to process or ponder what they've heard.
- ☺ Feedback should aim to stress what is strong- what stays with you- what you like. Specifics help an author more than generalization.
- ☺ Keep your comments brief and on the topic of the writing itself. We're aiming to give the author our initial impressions of the work, not explore themes or voice our opinions on the content unless it's relevant to the effect of the writing.
- ☺ Try not to interrupt or initiate conversation during comments.
- ☺ After the initial round of feedback, the author has the option to ask for what did *not* work as well in a piece, or solicit suggestions for revisions.
- ☺ Questions may be asked and answered after comments are finished, and *if there is time*, the table can open up for "looser" conversation relating to the reading.
- ☺ Every meeting is different – we may hold something like a class, do group activities, or take the time for a quiet writing space; we may only have time to read and comment, or we may talk about our creative processes or other aspects of the writing experience. It's all good, and even if there is an agenda planned for the day, it's meant to be flexible according to the needs of the group.

If you like, I'd be thrilled to post your work on the Street Lit Blog. We can take some time to polish it up as much as you like, and put it out there.

The email address is streetlit.austin@gmail.com, or you can use the contact forms on the www.streetlit.org website.