

Spring into Writing 2019

Planner/Workbook

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Any typos in this booklet, real or imagined, are fictional.

Thank You!

To everyone who made this event possible. That includes, you!
Attach picture of yourself here:

To the Smart Dummies Team:

Danette Byatt, Heidi Yates, Leila A. Nabih, Lynette Oxley, Phyllis Cherry, Sarah LuAnn Perkins and Sussu Leclerc!

Patrons of My Blog:

Heidi Yates, Darlene Frybarger, Paul Weiner, Geralyn Hess-Underwood, Suzanne Davis, Amy Cornelius, Teresa Robeson, Brittany Handiboe, Rosalind Lord, Theresa Upshur, Dane Sislen, David McMullin, Sarah Bothorpe, Peanut Butter Prose, Keerti Sharma and my Anon donators.

And everyone who shares and participates in Smart Dummies and/or Spring into Writing THANK YOU!

Critique Group Guide

Adapted from Leila Nabih's Guide

When Starting:

Introduce Yourself and include your writing style, illustration level, target audience, genre and other works (published or unpublished). Let people know what you hope to achieve and a synopsis of your manuscript (50 words or less).

Assign an Administrator to the Group. This person keeps everyone accountable. This is also to make sure everyone gets their work seen, and keeps the peace. It's helpful if they've had critique group experience.

Determine the Critique Schedule and decide what you will critique and how you will share your work.

Remember:

- A good critique is constructive.
- The purpose of a critique group is to receive not only praise, but vital feedback.
- You don't have to take everyone's opinion.
- Don't try to change other people's story. This is not your work.
- If you can't say something nice, then say nothing.
- If someone is being rude, they should get one warning. The administrator should remove them if they pursue bad behavior!
- You can leave a group if you don't feel like you fit in.

This is an experience that's supposed to be instructive and fun!

Your Goals

Take a minute and write down some goals for this month.

Achieving your MAIN GOAL is how you win
Spring into Writing*.

What is your MAIN GOAL for this event?

What are your writing plans for this month?

What are you writing about this month?

Write down 3 things you can do to avoid writing this month:

1.

2.

3.

What do you hope your daily caffeine intake will be?

What is your favorite treat?

How much of that treat will you have this month?

Pants or no pants? Defend your decision.

*You can change your MAIN GOAL to anything at any time
4 during the event. Even if the event is over. It's all about fun here!

All About You

Write a little bit about yourself!

What's your favorite thing to write about?

What's your favorite type of book?

What place or thing would you like to explore?

Where is the best place to hide in your neighborhood?

If you could have one super power what would it be and why?

What scares you the most?

How hard would it be to zombie proof your house?

What's the most interesting thing in or just outside of your home?

Character Knowledge

Answer these questions as though you were your Main Character.

What do you like most about yourself?

What would you like to change?

Describe your plan for achieving your goals.

What do you want the most right now?

Why don't you have what you want?

Why do you want this?

What will happen when you achieve your goal(s)?

Idea Generators

Name 2 things that are diametrically opposed and 1 social situation. Imagine these diametrically opposed things as people and how they might interact in the social situation.

Found Stories/Poems: Read a magazine, online article or short story. Highlight (or write down) all the words or phrases you love. Use these to create your own story or poem.

Alternatively: Write down your favorite phrases/words from written works on small strips of paper and keep them in a jar. When your jar is full pull out any number of these and try to work them all into one story or poem.

Pick a general subject that you love. Do an internet search and type “Top 10” and then your general subject (eg: Top 10 Jobs, Top 10 Dogs, Top 10 Bugs). Write down a page of short facts about your subject.

Write down titles of (at least 10) favorite books on a piece of paper. Draw the names one by one and write down their genre, age group, etc. until you have all slots filled (Use one book to fill each slot). Then write a story that includes all of these things. If you really like your story change things after the first draft to better suit your writing!

Genre:
Age Group:
Setting:
What the MC Wants:
MC’s flaw:
One Obstacle:
Two Objects:
Type of Companion:
Something You Liked About the Antagonist:
A Feeling You Got From The Ending:

A Game

This works best with 3 or more people. Give everyone a sheet of lined paper. Have each one of them write down each of these things on their paper. The first person fills out the character name at the top and then folds over the sheet of paper so the name is hidden, but “descriptive characteristic” can still be seen. They then pass the paper to the right. That person fills out the next line, then passes the sheet to their right. The game stops when the entire page is filled out. Each player reads the story idea out loud.

This game could be done with everyone in a room, but could also be done online.

Name:

Descriptive Characteristic:

Goal:

Why they want the goal:

How they tried to get to their goal:

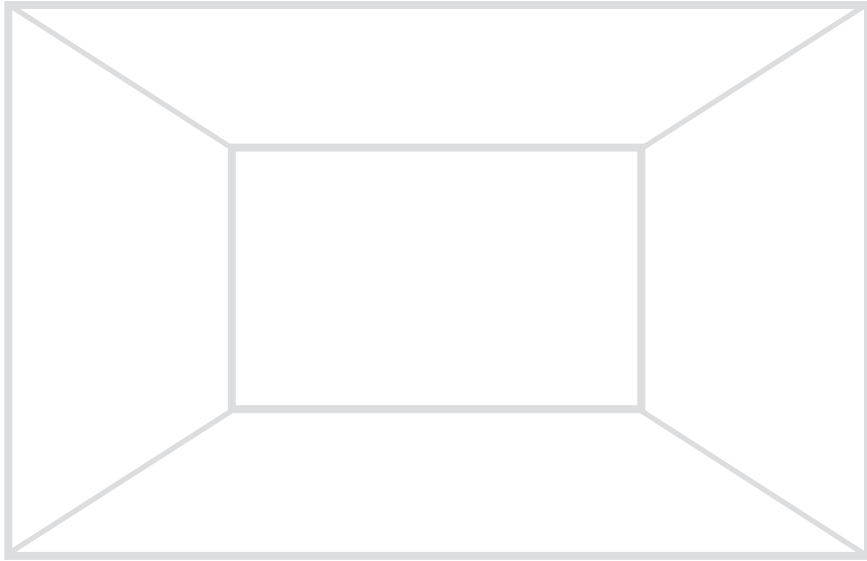
What got in the way?

How did the story end?

How they felt about what happened:

Where it All Happens

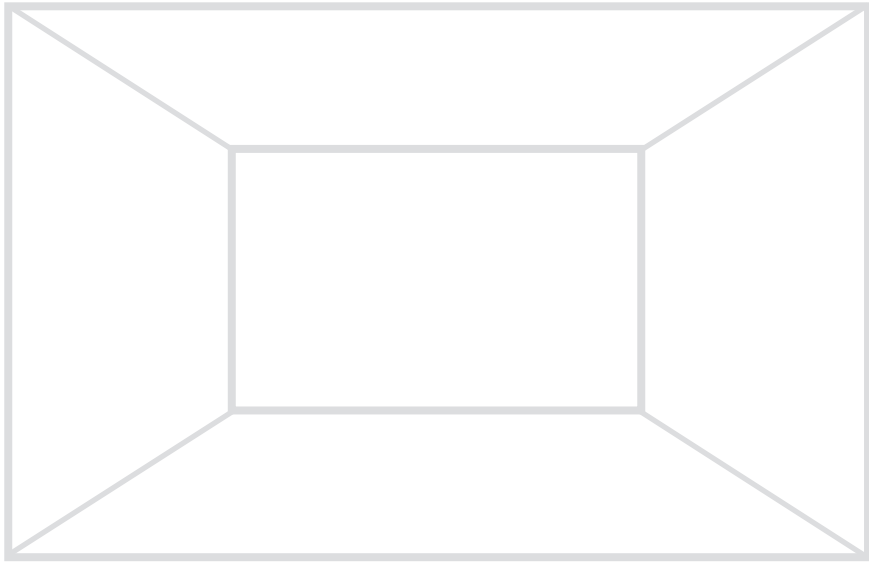
Use this outline to imagine one of the rooms in your book. You can cut up old magazines or print out furniture from an internet image search to paste here. Don't have access to either? Write down the word of each of your objects and describe them in the area around the room.



Paste objects below that are too big to fit into the last page and draw lines to where they belong. Also you can use that space to describe your furniture items individually.

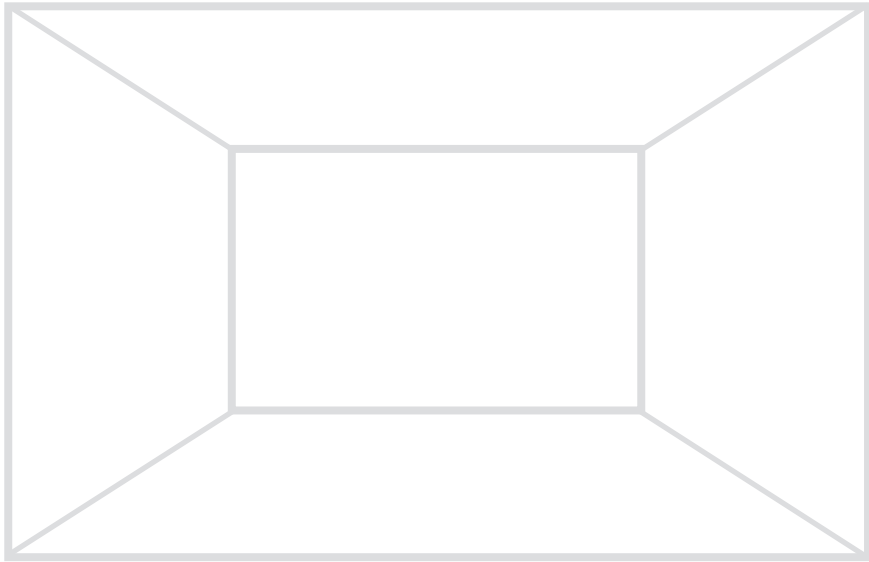
Where it All Happens

No, you aren't seeing double. Here is 1/2 extra spreads for an extra scene!



Where it All Happens

Here is a third scene in case you need it!



The Stick Person

Find clothes in magazines or print images online online to dress your stick people. You can also draw on these people or write words to get a better idea of your characters looks. (like red hair, blue dress, or cat person).

More space here if you need it! If you need more people or rooms to work with then go to my website here:

<https://www.daniduck.com/spring-into-writing/> and download extra templates, but you can most likely draw these yourself!



The Stick Person

Here is a second person you can clothe.



The Stick Person

Here is a third character if you need them!



Your Pitch and Other Bad Ideas

Describe your current story in 50 words or less:

Why should people want to read your book?

Your main character is abducted. Who is running the show now?

What would your character do if they suddenly found themselves in the past/future?

How would your story change if there was a kitten involved? If there is a kitten, then replace that kitten with a dog.

Which Agents/Editors might like your work?

100 Writing Prompts

1. What's the worst thing that could be under your bed?
2. Who is behind the curtain?
3. What's a strange way that people might meet?
4. Describe something uninteresting in an interesting way.
5. Why is your MC's friend or S.O. angry at them?
6. How is gender important to your character?
7. Which obscure event needs its own story?
8. Write a scene that creates tension between two characters.
9. Make up a fake history about about people you know.
10. What's something a kid might get wrong?
11. Take a weird fact and put it into a story.
12. What's something that everyone should know?
13. Show a character being passionate about something trivial.
14. Does your character find marriage appealing? Explain.
15. Which insect is the most fascinating?
16. Why is the basement door open?
17. What's something exciting that could happen after marriage?
18. List some things you could do if you were much taller.
19. Which animal/bug would you remove from the planet?
20. Who would you love to know more about and why?
21. What's the scariest thing that could happen?
22. Where could you find the best stuff?
23. Describe the worst holiday ever.
24. How do you feel about snow?
25. Write passionately about something of which you don't like.
26. How long is long?
27. What's one thing everyone needs in their closet?
28. Describe living in your favorite era.
29. Which is best: Cats, dogs or bunnies?
30. Which celebrity had the biggest influence on your life?
31. What's something you don't think about often, but should?
32. Write a story based on the theme from your favorite song.
33. Which stories do you like most and why?
34. Describe your life if you weren't a writer.
35. What might your life be like if you could fly?
36. How would you spend your time if you were a ghost?
37. What's the most important part of the morning?
38. Where would you go if you could breathe underwater?
39. Explain how to boil egg without using the words water or egg.
40. What is a secret you wish you had been told?
41. Where is the best place to end up after a walk?
42. Tell the story of your birth from your perspective.
43. How many dogs does it take to screw in a light bulb?
44. Where did you last find your keys? Tell the key's perspective.
45. What if the world were flat?
46. Which fictional place would you like to visit most?
47. Describe the sweetest thing someone could give you.
48. Make an unpleasant task seem pleasant.
49. What do you want to be when you grow up?
50. Rewrite your favorite story.
51. Which animal would you like to be?
52. How would you live your life if you were 1/2" tall?
53. What's most important to you?
54. Would you rather live in the woods or on the beach?
55. What would you do if you woke up 200 years ago?
56. Which animal's/insect's home would you like to live in?
57. Who is the most interesting person you know?
58. Would you want to be a princess or prince?
59. What's a topic that makes you really angry?
60. Which period of time would you most like to visit?
61. Describe a dream you had recently in detail.
62. What's something you love seeing someone else make?
63. Which non-domesticated animal would you like as a pet?
64. Find the most unlikable character and make them likable.
65. What kind of advice do you hate getting?
66. What's something that everyone should know more about?
67. Are there any sports that you wish you played?
68. What are the best qualities in a romantic partner?
69. Explain a scientific fact as though it were to a child.

Lined writing area for page 30.

Lined writing area for page 31.

Lined writing area on page 32.

Lined writing area on page 33.

March/April

Sunday 31

Monday April 1

CAMP NANOWRIMO all month long.

#LGBTQwrimo all month on Twitter.

Tuesday 2

Wednesday 3

Thursday 4

Friday 5

Saturday 6

Notes:

April

Sunday 7

Monday 8

Tuesday 9

Wednesday 10

Thursday 11

Friday 12

Saturday 13

Notes:

April

Sunday 14

Monday 15

Tuesday 16

Wednesday 17

Thursday 18

Friday 19

Saturday 20

Notes:

April

Sunday 21

Monday 22

Tuesday 23

Wednesday 24

Thursday 25

Friday 26

Saturday 27

Notes:

April/May

Sunday April 28

Monday 29

Tuesday 30

Wednesday May 1

First day of Spring into Writing!

NaNoPiBoWriWee Starts.

National Picture Book Writing Week (NaPiBoWriWee)
with Paula Yoo May 1-7)

Thursday 2

Friday 3

Saturday 4

Notes:

May

Sunday 5

Monday 6

Tuesday 7

Wednesday 8

Thursday 9

Friday 10

Saturday 11

Notes:

May

Sunday 12

Monday 13

Tuesday 14

Wednesday 15

Thursday 16

Friday 17

Saturday 18

Notes:

May

Sunday 19

Monday 20

Tuesday 21

Wednesday 22

Thursday 23

Friday 24

Saturday 25

Notes:

May/June

Sunday 26

Monday 27

Tuesday 28

Wednesday 29

Thursday 30

Friday 31

Saturday June 1

Notes:

June

Sunday 2

Monday 3

Tuesday 4

Wednesday 5

Thursday 6

Friday 7

Saturday 8

Notes:

June

Sunday 9

Monday 10

Tuesday 11

Wednesday 12

Thursday 13

Friday 14

Saturday 15

Notes:

June

Sunday 16

Monday 17

Tuesday 18

Wednesday 19

Thursday 20

Friday 21

Saturday 22

Notes:

June

Sunday 23

Monday 24

Tuesday 25

Wednesday 26

Thursday 27

Friday 28

Saturday 29

Notes:

July

Sunday 30

Monday July 1

Tuesday 2

Wednesday 3

Thursday 4

Friday 5

Saturday 6

Notes:

July

Sunday 7

Monday 8

Tuesday 9

Wednesday 10

Thursday 11

Friday 12

Saturday 13

Notes:

July

Sunday 14

Monday 15

Tuesday 16

Wednesday 17

Thursday 18

Friday 19

Saturday 20

Notes:

July

Sunday 21

Monday 22

Tuesday 23

Wednesday 24

Thursday 25

Friday 26

Saturday 27

Notes:

July/August

Sunday 28

Monday 29

Tuesday 30

Wednesday 31

Thursday August 1

Pre-Smart Dummies Starts!

Friday 2

Saturday 3

Notes:

August

Sunday 4

Monday 5

Tuesday 6

Wednesday 7

Thursday 8

Friday 9

Saturday 10

Notes:

August

Sunday 11

Monday 12

Tuesday 13

Wednesday 14

Thursday 15

Friday 16

Saturday 17

Notes:

August

Sunday 18

Monday 19

Tuesday 20

Wednesday 21

Thursday 22

Friday 23

Saturday 24

Notes:

August

Sunday 25

Monday 26

Tuesday 27

Wednesday 28

Thursday 29

Friday 30

Saturday 31

Notes:

September

Sunday 1

Monday 2

Tuesday 3

Wednesday 4

Thursday 5

Friday 6

Saturday 7

Notes:

September

Sunday 8

Monday 9

Tuesday 10

Wednesday 11

Thursday 12

Friday 13

Saturday 14

Notes:

September

Sunday 15

Monday 16

Tuesday 17

Wednesday 18

Thursday 19

Friday 20

Saturday 21

Notes:

September

Sunday 22

Monday 23

Tuesday 14

Wednesday 25

Thursday 26

Friday 27

Saturday 28

Notes:

September/October

Sunday 29

Monday 30

Tuesday October 1

Wednesday 2

Thursday 3

Friday 4

Saturday 5

Notes:

Glossary of Terms:

Protagonist: Your main character.

Antagonist: The person working against your main character.

MC: Main Character

POV: Point of View

Found Stories/Poems: Putting together words or short phrases from another person's work (or multiple works) in a new way to make it your own.

Dani Duck: The host of Spring into Writing and Smart Dummies. Dani could not figure out more things to define. If anything is confusing just bug Dani incessantly.

Draw a face below that shows how you feel about this book:

Thank you for being a part of Spring into Writing in 2019!

Please do not edit any part of this booklet, or distribute it in full or part, for any reason without written permission by Dani Duck. This booklet is meant only for use for Spring into Writing and is free to those wanting to have fun while writing for this event.