

Ten Writing Exercises for the Creative Writer

(and for those of us who'd maybe one day like to be)

1. What is your worst fear? Write a paragraph about a character who shares that fear. Next write a paragraph about a character who finds that fear trivial.
2. Create a character who has invented his own past as differing from the character's actual background. Relate (via the character) the invented past in first person. For a challenge, go back and write the invented past a second time in third person.
3. Start a story that begins with the first line: "This is his story."
4. Create a character who feels (or who literally is) invisible. Write a paragraph about how this character attempts to communicate with others.
5. Write from the first person perspective of a character who is the opposite gender.
6. Start a story by writing the title first.
7. Look back on a familiar landscape (childhood home, school, etc.) and write five separate, one paragraph pieces on it. Each piece should focus on a different sense (sight, sound, touch, taste, and scent).
8. Write a scene about a character's former life – or future life. Or, create a dialogue between a character and his or her former/future self.
9. Take a familiar fable, fairy tale or myth and rewrite it in your own style while using animals in place of the characters in the original. Or, write a letter from an animal to a person or corporation.
10. Write a scene told from the first person perspective of someone who has died.

All Writing Exercises are taken directly from, or modified versions of, the Writing Prompt Practice sections in the following:

Denman, Margaret-Love and Barbara Shoup. *Story Matters*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006. Print.