

TAYLOR'S TIPS for a productive writing career...



Dear Fellow Writer,

A calendar on my wall has a notation on June 20th: *First Day of Summer*. Another calendar claims summer began on June 21st. It's more a feeling than an actual date, a time when we mentally power down, lay ourselves on a beach towel and veg out. Some of us eat watermelon and spit the seeds into a bucket, get butter all over our face when we munch down on corn on the cob, or wipe spicy sauce from our chins when we barbecue chicken and ribs.

Yes, summer is a great time to kick back, relax, and enjoy the longer days. But it doesn't mean you should put a cover on your keyboard.

ENROLL IN THE SUMMERTIME EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Here's how it works. For every challenge you take, you give yourself a reward. And there's a special surprise for some of you at the end.

Challenges

1. Draft a 1,000 to 1,200 word personal essay on a topic that interests you.
2. Revise your work, showing it to your writers group for input and suggestions.
3. Locate three markets that are right for your work.
4. Submit your manuscript via an online website (be sure to find out who is accepting email submissions and format them according to the guidelines).

5. Found a market that accepts only queries? Submit one query letter, tailored specifically to the market that is right for your work.
6. Begin your novel or nonfiction book by writing all thoughts in a notebook or on 3 x 5 cards. Keep adding to it each time a thought occurs to you.
7. Begin an outline for your nonfiction book by grouping like ideas together.
8. Form a “skeleton” for your novel of the characters, plot, tension, and story arc.
9. Write a 2-3 sentence “pitch” of your book idea. (For practice, take a book you have read and in 2-3 captivating sentences describe that book.)
10. Join a writers group or attend your group meetings. Bring writing to read and share.

Or think up challenges of your own related to writing. The sky is the limit.

Rewards

1. Read a good book.
2. Build sand castles at the park with the kids or grandkids.
3. Walk along a wooded trail teeming with wildflowers.
4. Sip coffee with a good friend while chatting up a storm.
5. Swim at the local pool.
6. Sunbathe with nothing on your mind but daydreams.
7. Sit in a lawn chair and watch a fireworks display.
8. Take a ride in the woods by horseback.
9. Water ski on a glassy lake.
10. Buy cheap tickets at the ballpark, sit in the outfield and enjoy the show.

Does something else appeal to you? Maybe walking the dog on a quiet morning, bringing your hubby coffee in bed and lounging until noon, or attending an afternoon matinee with popcorn and Good and Plenty? You decide what floats your boat.

Now here’s the fun part. ENROLL in the program by sending me a quick reply that says, “enroll me.” Then all you have to do is keep track of how many challenges you take. In October I’ll be asking those who have enrolled for their lists.

We’re going to do this for the THREE months of July, August and September. The top THREE achievers will receive a special gift (it’s a surprise, but you’ll like it).

Now go forward writers and make your summertime living easy, fun and rewarding! And don’t forget to enroll today.

What’s Happening...

July 17th to July 21st – I’m traveling to Wisconsin to take my mother on a mini vacation. We’re going to check into a hotel less than 10 miles from her apartment for three carefree nights. We’ll have a fabulous fish fry at our favorite restaurant, play Bingo at a local casino, and eat hot buttered popcorn when we go out to the movies. Mom turns 80 in less than a year and, though I

can't be with her as often as I would like, this is one reward that I can give the two of us with memories that will last a long, long time.

July 25th or so – Stay tuned for some intriguing info. The next newsletter, Just Call Me Gumby, will delve into the world of pitching.

Follow your dreams...

B.J.

Author of :

“The Complete Guide to Writers Groups That Work”

Available on Amazon.com or <http://www.buybooksontheweb.com/product.aspx?ISBN=0-7414-4099-7>

*Check out my website at www.bjtayloronline.com

P.S. Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends. If they'd like to be added to my list, they can email me at newsletter@bjtayloronline.com. You can also opt out of Taylor's Tips at any time. Just send me an email with “remove” in the subject line.