



Boroondara Writers Inc

Encourage, Support, Improve

A0061053C

May 2024

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, 25 May, 1 pm.

Greetings!

At the next meeting in May, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting at 12.30 pm. If you would like to be on the Committee, please come along then. The work involved is very minimal. You basically just turn up a little earlier to the workshop and say 'yes' or 'no' to various suggestions. If that's not for you, the door will be closed, so please wait patiently for admittance.

Next, we need your vote on a title for the Anthology. It's online so [visit the poll](#) and lodge your selection. Yes, it's running off my website but that's only because that was the cheapest and easiest option.

In keeping with the title theme, I thought I'd provide some advice, links and reading material dedicated to the challenges and importance of selecting titles for your work. Keep on writing!

Sarah Craze

Are you on Facebook? Why not
[join our private group!](#)
Chat and share your thoughts
with other members in
between meetings.

MAY OPTIONAL THEME

Need inspiration?

Pets

Interpret the theme or image as loosely as you like

DATES FOR 2024

25 May, 29 June, 27 July, 31 August, 28 September, 26 October, 30 November

Meeting Room 1

Ground floor, Hawthorn Library

1 - 4.30pm

Competitions and Courses

[Please note that we do not endorse the following opportunities, we simply pass on information]

WESLEY MICHAEL WRIGHT PRIZE

DATE: 24 JUNE

If you are an alumnus of the University of Melbourne, this prize is awarded for an original verse or poetry. It supports those who have published the poem in the 12 months prior to the closing date in print or digital book or journal form. Worth \$5,100. Visit the website.

FINISH YOUR NOVEL WITH CONOR KOSTICK

DATE: 26 JUNE – 28 AUGUST

Do you need that extra push to finish your novel? Would you benefit from help with writing technique and close analysis of your work-in-progress? This course uses discussions of key novel-writing techniques and group-based feedback on your work to help you complete it.

Location: Online

Fees involved, [Visit the website](#)

NEW TERM OF COURSES AT WRITERS VICTORIA

COMMENCING IN MAY

For specific support for your writing work, mid-May sees the start of new classes from Writers Victoria. These include: The Art of the Start (fine-tuning that crucial opening chapter); Observation and Voice in Fiction; Autobiographical Poetry; and Thriving with Imposter Syndrome with BWI friend Liel Bridgford. [Visit the website](#) for more information.

INSIDE PUBLISHING: MASTERCLASS FOR CHILDREN'S AUTHORS

19-21 JULY

A delightful opportunity to pack up your woolies and head to Castlemaine for this Masterclass and retreat for emerging Children's Authors. Hosted by Northern Books, the Class puts you and your work in front of successful children's authors Andy Griffiths, Jen Storer and a panel of publishers. [Visit the website](#) for more information.

All about Titles

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Coming up with a good title is really hard, you're not alone! Try not to leave it until right at the end; note down some ideas as you're writing.
- Browse similar genres to see what other authors have called their books or stories. Book-selling sites are useful for this purpose. They also help you work out if other books have the same title.
- For fiction, try and keep it concise, 3-5 words. This makes it easier to remember and fit better on a book cover.
- Connect it with your story and its target audience. Try to make it informative and easy to say.
- Test out titles on your friends and family (or writers group!) and say it out aloud to check how it rolls of the tongue.

NON-FICTION BOOKS AND MEMOIRS

The title rules are different for non-fiction books and different again for memoirs (except for the bit where it's really hard):

Non-fiction:

- Include the subject matter in the title or identify the problem your book will solve in it. This makes it easier for the book to be classified by everything from libraries to search engines.
- If you've got a punchy short title (*The Fatal Shore*, *Dark Emu*, *My Place*, *Girt*) then put the subject matter in the subtitle. If it's classified properly people can find it and be more likely to buy it.

Memoirs:

- You get to be more creative here and subtitles are optional but still useful. But you need to define your whole life in only a few words. Yikes. You can try using an evocative word: *Becoming*, *Untamed*, *Unfinished Woman*, *Excitable Boy*, *Reckoning*, are prominent examples.
- You can try finishing a sentence, “This is my life as...” *Working Class Boy*, *Trauma Cleaner*, *My Life as a Jew*, *The Happiest Man on Earth*, *The Happiest Refugee* are examples here.

ALL ABOUT TITLES: POETRY

Poem titles are also ... really hard. With poems, think of the title as part of the poem’s universe. Try:

- Using the first line of the poem to serve as the title
- A title that piques curiosity and prompts people to find out more
- Using the title to let the reader know the context for the poem and where they are in time and space, *Autumn in New York*, for example.
- Giving the title a whole different context than the poem, essentially creating a plot twist: e.g.

The calm,
Cool face of the river
Asked me for a kiss.

Sounds lovely. But the title is *Suicide’s Note*, by Langston Hughes. More on poem titles try [Elyse Hart](#).

ALL ABOUT TITLES: SHORT STORIES & FICTION

Much of what you’ve read so far applies to titles for short stories and fiction pieces too. With this writing:

- Make it memorable. Keep it short but try and get it to tell a little story of its own (*The Fault in our Stars*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Devil wears Prada*) that prompts the reader to ask a question.
- Make it interesting and give it a bit of a zing. E.g. don’t call it “A Trip to the Zoo”; try “The Lion stole my Heart” or something that prompts the reader to read on.
- Don’t give too much away. Don’t spoil the major plot point. But make sure it connects to the story somehow.
- Work within your genre. If it’s a love story, don’t call it “Mystery on Smith Street”. Readers don’t like to feel tricked into thinking a story is about something it’s not.
- The main character’s name can work (i.e. if they’re a ‘chosen one’ type) but make sure it’s an interesting/uncommon name (e.g. *Coraline*, *Matilda*, *Lolita*, *Anna Karenina*, *Don Quixote*, *David Copperfield*) but if not, add a detail, e.g. the *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*.
- Settings, key items, dialogue or major themes can work: *Game of Thrones*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Pride and Prejudice*.

TITLE HELP AND RESOURCES

Masterclass: [How to come up with the best book title](#)

Will a publisher [change everything about my manuscript](#), even the title? Short answer: probably.

The [publisher will change the title anyway](#). Told you! The comments are interesting on this one.

[Copyright and trademark](#) information for Australian writers.

If all else fails, try an [AI Book Title Generator](#).