



Boroondara Writers Inc

Encourage, Support, Improve

A0061053C

July 2024

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, 27 July, 1 pm.

Greetings!

At the last meeting, we selected cover art for our Anthology. Thanks to Aurelia and Lee for submitting their designs. Standby for the release of the cover once I've completed some fancy titles and what not.

If you're in need of new books, stop by the Ashburton Community Centre on Saturday 13 July for their annual [Bookfest](#). I'm speaking there about my new book on Ashburton at 11 am but don't let that stop you.

At the last meeting, we had a fascinating discussion about pantsing vs plotting. Further to it, in this issue let's talk about story structure options with further reading links included. We also have our usual writing competitions and events. Stay warm and keep writing!

Sarah Craze

Are you on Facebook? Why not [join our private group](#)!

Chat and share your thoughts with other members in between meetings.

Stories ideas

A visit

You may interpret any way you see fit!.

DATES FOR 2024

27 July, 31 August, 28 September, 26 October, 30 November

Meeting Room 1

Ground floor, Hawthorn Library

1 - 4.30pm

Competitions, Courses and Events

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

2024 E M FLETCHER WRITING COMPETITION

15 JULY

This is very short notice but if you have a family history or genealogy story around (1,500-2,000 words) Family History ACT (Australian Capital Territory) are offering a \$1,000 first prize. It is open to all Australian residents for a \$30 entry fee. [Visit the website.](#)

ALBURY CITY SHORT STORY AWARD

25 JULY

Brought to you by Write Around the Murray, this short story competition is open Australia wide for short stories up to 3,000 words. Any topic is fine and a \$10 entry fee applies. They also have a writers festival in September. [Visit the website.](#)

APOLLO BAY WORDFEST

26 – 28 JULY

Apollo Bay Wordfest is spoken words, debated words, workshopped words, and Warm Winter Words. Hopefully next to a really warm heater. With special guest, Shankari Chandran, winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award for *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*, the festival hosts panel discussions with other accomplished writers.

Location: Apollo Bay

Fees involved, [Visit the website](#)

FLYING ISLANDS POETRY COMMUNITY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION

CLOSES: 31 JULY

If you're looking to publish some of your poetry collection, this one is for you. You will need between 60 – 90 pages of poetry to qualify. There is a \$1,000 cash prize. [Visit the website.](#)

THE BEST AUSTRALIAN YARN

CLOSES: 12 AUGUST

The Best Australian Yarn celebrates the art of storytelling by giving writers across the country a platform to share their short stories. Submit your best short story for your chance to win a life-changing \$50,000 major prize! [Visit the website.](#)

WOORILLA POETRY PRIZE

CLOSES: 30 SEPTEMBER

A \$3,000 prize for the winner and a \$20 entry fee, there appears to be no guide or limitations on what you can submit. You do get your work published in the Woorilla Poetry Collection of Poems. [Visit the website.](#)

All about Story Structure

HOW CAN I STRUCTURE THE STORY?

The whole “pantsing” (write as it comes to you) vs “plotting” (plan out every detail and write to the plan) debate often overlooks the common element of story structure. Story structure is the order in which plot events are told to the reader or audience. If you're “pantsing”, you may just write it all out, pull it apart and structure it later. If you're “plotting”, you structure first and then write. Either way, you're going to need some structure for people to understand what you're talking about.

In a **Classic Story Structure**, the writer starts with **exposition** establishing the protagonist's normal life and culminating in the **inciting incident** that drives the story forward. Next, the protagonist begins pursuing their goal with tests along the way, known as **rising action**. The **climax** occurs when the protagonist achieves their goal (or so they think). **Falling action** follows as the hero deals with the consequences of achieving their goal. Finally, in the **resolution**, the plot, character arcs and themes are tied together.

Variations of this structure include:

- **The Hero's Journey:** a 12 step structure popular for youth fiction, fantasy and adventure stories. Think Harry Potter, The Hunger Games, the Star Wars films, and the Hobbit. Check out [Reedsy](#), [Masterclass](#), [Savannah Gilbo](#) for help.
- **The Three Act Structure:** Divides the story into three parts, Setup, Confrontation, and Resolution. Popular with screenwriting it is also often used for narrative fiction and memoir, e.g. Pride and Prejudice, The Wizard of Oz. See [Mary Adkins](#), [Activity sheet](#), [Writer's Edit](#) for more on this style.
- **Freytag's Pyramid:** A five-point dramatic structure used for tragedy and sometimes horror (i.e. "everyone dies in the end"). Popular with Shakespeare, it's not often used anymore as people like to see their protagonist overcome their obstacles. See [Reedsy](#), [TheWritePractice](#)
- **Dan Harmon's Story Circle:** inspired by the Hero's Journey, this approach focuses on the protagonist's character arc. It's popular with screenwriters and TV writers. See [Boords](#), [Kindlepreneur](#) for more.
- **Fichtean Curve:** This one bypasses the exposition and begins with rising action, followed by a series of fast-paced obstacles. Back story and character development are revealed through moments of high drama. Popular for mystery and erotic fiction. See [Dabble Writer](#), [Scribophile](#) on this one.
- **Save the Cat:** A variation of the three-act structure, this proscriptive structure captures the moment the audience starts to like the protagonist. It even has its own [website with examples](#).
- **Seven Point Story Structure:** In this structure, Dan Wells encouraged writers to start at the end (the resolution) and work their way back to the starting point. The idea is that with the ending already established, the protagonist can begin in a state that contrasts with the finale. See [Masterclass](#), [Living Writer](#).

No matter how you write, I hope this gives you some ideas on structure.

