**3704 FICTION WRITING PROMPTS**

1. Write about a supposedly true ghost story you’ve been told.
2. Write about an urban legend with which you’re familiar.
3. Write about an experience of illness or mortality.
4. Write about the conflicts in a marriage.
5. Write about some memorable experience you’ve had with animals, either domestic or wild.
6. Write about a job you’ve had.
7. Write about an admonitory tale you’ve been told. (Cf. urban legends)
8. What are you nostalgic about?
9. Write about an entertaining true story you know.
10. Write about your family origins.
11. Write about a place you think of as home.
12. Write about food that you connect with your upbringing.
13. What literature have you read that “allows readers to tap into emotions and experiences they may not have felt or understood before?”
14. Write about suffering that you or someone you know has experienced.
15. What have you noticed in the world today? What’s caught your attention?
16. Write about a piece of music that’s significant to you.
17. Have you ever felt caught between cultures? How so?
18. Write about difficulties that religion might have caused in your life or the life of someone you know.
19. Write about “a time in your childhood or early adolescence when something happened that really changed your view of the world.”
20. Write about an epiphany you’ve had, i.e., a sudden revelation of the truth.
21. Write about your experience of sex roles.
22. Write about a time you “crossed the boundary from uncomplicated childhood” and moved into some difficulty or complexity.
23. Make a list of controversies that interest you.
24. Write about a natural or historic landmark.
25. Write about a place where you feel history.
26. Make “a list of ten specific experiences you have had as an adult that reveal something about who you are.”
27. What are some interesting places you’ve visited? Why were they interesting and memorable?
28. Write about drugs that you or your acquaintances have been affected by.
29. Write about a crime that interests you.
30. Write about a symbol that’s important or meaningful to you.
31. Iversen says, “Many writers of nonfiction novels…say all that truly matters is a good story and how that story leads us to a greater understanding of the human spirit. Emotional drama and narrative technique must both be in service to one final goal: a story that moves the reader to a broader knowledge of ourselves and the world around us.” What nonfiction, fiction, poetry, or film has done this for you?
32. What historical events or famous disasters interest you?
33. What are some of your favorite films? Why?
34. What sorts of fiction did you read as a child?
35. Make a list of your favorite writers and books. Why are they your favorites?
36. Who are a few of your favorite fictional characters? Why? What fictional characters do you relate to or try to emulate? Why?
37. Write about a person you used to be.
38. Write about the several (possibly conflicting) selves that compose you now.
39. What do you want to remember always?
40. What do you wish you could forget?
41. What are some settings at Virginia Tech or in the Blacksburg area that are interesting enough to be used in fiction?
42. Write about images that haunt you and obsessions that grip you.
43. Write about a person you know who could be made into an interesting fictional character.
44. Freewrite to instrumental music.
45. What makes you angry? What are you afraid of? What do you want? What hurts? What really changed you? Who really changed you?
46. Write about your preconceived notions of a place versus the reality that you found there.
47. Write an internal dialogue between two conflicting selves at war inside you/two conflicting voices in your head.
48. Write about a time when you felt most proud of yourself. Maybe you achieved something that took a lot of effort/time, maybe you helped someone overcome something (or maybe you overcame something yourself), maybe you did a really good deed. Make sure it’s about a time when you were proud of yourself, not someone else. It’s about you, feel free to brag! (Jeremy Becker)
49. Write about a time you assumed something based on someone’s appearance OR people made assumptions about you based on your appearance.
50. Write about something you wear or own that presents some aspect of your inner self. (Burroway p. 117)
51. Write about a time you felt hatred.
52. Write about a time you experience or observed an injustice and dreamed of revenge.
53. Make a list of things you’d wish you’d done in the past.
54. Make a list of things you hope to do in the future.
55. Write about a time you felt out of place or felt you didn’t belong.
56. Write about extreme weather you’ve experienced (cf. Didion’s “The Santa Ana” or Jack London’s “To Build a Fire”) or write about a time you were in a potentially dangerous physical or social environment. (Cf. Iceland, Cindy on the Rehoboth boardwalk)
57. Write about a time you tried to persuade someone to do something or a time someone tried to persuade you to do something (Cf. Hemingway’s “Hills like White Elephants”)
58. Make a list of types that you belong to. (Cf. Burroway p. 128)
59. Aristotle talks about “consistent inconsistencies.” In what ways are you inconsistent? (Cf. Jekyll and Hyde; Burroway 133)
60. Write about the black sheep in your family.